



THE LORD'S FLOCK GROWTH DIGEST

PASTORAL GROWTH SERIES

Part 2. Seven Examples of Testings

Sis. Maria Theresa M. Rodriguez, Elder-Head Servant
January 24, 2018

Testing of Character and the Fruit of the Holy Spirit

- Rom. 5.1

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access in this grace in which we stand, and we boast in the hope of glory of God. Not only that, we boast of our afflictions, knowing that afflictions produce endurance, and endurance produces character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

- God tests us in His character for us to bear the fruit of Jesus, the Holy Spirit.

Testing of Patience to Refine our Faith

- 1 Pet. 1:6-7

"In this you rejoice although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

- True gold is tested by fire. We become true gold if we have been tested by fire many times.
- There is pure gold in us that God wants to purify us to test our faith and form our character.
- If our plans didn't happen, be joyful and expect something good.
- Satan will try to steal that joy in your heart

Testing of Obedience to God

Where does God want us to go in each particular time? Can we not leave what we have planned to do or is doing to share time to listen to someone in need? Sometimes we hold on too much to our "Isaac" (idols, one and only beloved son, wife or relationships, business and work. Who or what is our "Isaac: that we can't even sacrifice for what God wants us to do? These are just little sacrifices!

God uses many of these trials to teach us to let go of things or relationships that will hinder us in advancing the Kingdom of God. God is lifting our fingers off from

the "Isaac" we hold on so much. Sometimes, God removes these from us.

- The best lessons are the most painful ones.
- Whether we are rich or poor, we can get over our situations.
- God is allowing us to undergo as many testing so that we can become the person He made us to be.
- Material things can be taken away, but character can't be removed from us.

Testing of Consciousness of God

-1 Pet. 2:19

For whenever anyone bears the pain of unjust suffering, because of consciousness of God, that is a grace.

- Grace is God drawing sinners closer to Him
- He will shield us from the assaults or troubles of the world, but He will not shield us if we create our own problem. Avoid creating one!
- God uses or allows trials so that we will be drawn closer to Him.
- If we are tested, the devil will attempt to get us out of our relationship with God.
- You will shout to the whole world that you have suffered for me. God will never leave us. He remains faithful yesterday, today and forever.
- God owns everything! We need not beg Him if we are doing something for his glory.

Testing of Love for God, Our Priorities and Desires

-Rev. 2:2-5

I know your works, your labor and your endurance and that you cannot tolerate the wicked you have tested, those who called themselves apostles but discovered that they are impostors. Moreover, you have endurance and have suffered for my name and you have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: you have lost the love you had at first. Realize how far you have fallen. Repent and do the works you did at first. Otherwise I will come to you and remove your lampstand at its place, unless you repent.

Thru repentance we turn away from sinful lives and do the work in advancing the Kingdom of God. Thus, His Word remains in us as light to our path. It is out of deep gratitude that we share His love and mercy to others. It is not an easy task to do for we will have to encounter oppositions or persecutions. God did not

offer us repentance to be bystanders and enjoy the peace. He asks us to work hard to share His compassionate heart and His Word throughout the world.

With all the Trials and Testings–

- **Love GOD and others.**
- **Always be kind and good to everyone.**
- **Trust HIM. Have FAITH and obey HIS Word.**
- **Remain patient and joyful as we wait for HIS perfect timing to TRANSFORM us and to HEED to our PRAYERS**
- **Put GOD first, above all!**

Transcriber/Writer: Sis. Irene L.Cruz

Editor: Sis. Maria Vera Tuplano

Printing Sponsor: Sis. Maria Vera Tuplano