

Why Tests Are Necessary?

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There were a few times in my life that I sweated taking a test. One was in Ancient and Medieval History under Dr. Muncy. He would cover about 500 years of history, discussing matters of politics, science, wars, cultural matters, religions and the like, and then ask us three questions where we had to give examples from all these areas within a particular time frame. I did not do well synthesizing all this data on an essay exam. New Testament Greek was another class where I struggled. And then there was the time I spent in Hollard studying Dutch (Nederlansche Taal) under the tutelage of Mevrouw Frieda. The only class I ever dropped out of.

But looking back every one of these tests contributed to my education.

Then there are the other kinds of tests. Losing my mother at 15. Finding myself in the darkness of Haiti and whether I would make more than one trip. Some difficult times in marriage and raising children. Some challenges with unhappy church members, many who left the church. And now the current test of Covid 19 and its effects on us personally and as a church.

Here is the prayer of the tested: “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” (Psa.139:23-24) What is it that God is looking for when He tests us and why are tests necessary?

Testing of Our Ministry

1 Cor.3:10 By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, 13 their work will be **shown for what it is**, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will **test the quality of each person’s work**. 14 If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. 15 If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

Testing of Our Faith

James 1: 2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the **testing of your faith** produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and

complete, not lacking anything. 12 Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, **having stood the test**, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him

Rom.16:10 Greet Apelles, whose fidelity to Christ has **stood the test**.

Testing of Our Obedience

2 Cor.2: 8 I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him. 9 Another reason I wrote you was to see if you would **stand the test and be obedient in everything**.

Testing of Our Sincere Love

2 Cor.8: 1 And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. 5 And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. 6 So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. 7 But since you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you —see that you also excel in this grace of giving. 8 I am not commanding you, but I want **to test the sincerity of your love** by comparing it with the earnestness of others.