

Testing In The Christian Life

Hebrews 4:15 *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

Scripture reading 1 Peter 1:1-9

1, ¶ Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

2, Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

3, ¶ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy **hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

4, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

5, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

6, ¶ Wherein ye greatly rejoice, **though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:**

7, **That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:**

8, Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

9, Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

All pastors know that sooner or later every Christian will face some kind of a crisis. The fact is that there will be more than one, and each one is designed to give the believer an opportunity to glorify God. The main issue in every crisis test is this:

- a. Do I believe in God's Word?
- b. Will I claim God's Word or will I fall apart?
- c. Will I get upset?
- d. Will I be afraid?
- e. Will I become destabilized in some manner?
- f. Will I live in panic palace?
- g. Will I claim the promises that are pertinent to the situation?

We call these crises's testing; they are a test of our momentum in our life of faith. **But what we must never forget is that THE TEST OF OUR MOMENTUM IS PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF GOD.**

“That the trial of your faith, **being much more precious than of gold that perisheth,** though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:”

The Principle of Momentum Testing. There are 8 principles of Momentum testing,

1. Momentum testing is designed for two reasons.

- a. To provide the believer with the opportunity to apply doctrine he has learned. You apply different doctrines to different situations, and some doctrines have a quite different application in our unseen worship with God.
- b. To accelerate the believer's momentum.

2. No believer attains maturity apart from momentum testing.

Just as there are 8 principles of Momentum testing, there are also 8 categories of tests. The first three tests are general categories of testing that occur in all stages of spiritual growth. The remaining 5 are administered after the believer enters spiritual autonomy and advances to the three stages of spiritual maturity. **Because of the importance of this “Characteristic of Faith”, this message will take two weeks.** Today we are going to look at the general momentum test that every believer will experience all his life. These test are repetitive, and are common to us all.

- 3. **Spiritual growth results from perception of Bible doctrine.** But spiritual growth is accelerated from the application of Bible doctrine to the categories of testing.
- 4. All suffering is divided into two categories: suffering for testing and blessing, and suffering for discipline and punishment.
- 5. **No believer can fulfill the plan of God and glorify the Lord apart from momentum testing.**
- 6. Therefore, *some of the testing in the divine dynasphere is suffering, and some of it is prosperity.* There are **eight general categories of testing**, four of which are for the purpose of application and acceleration of spiritual growth for the believer in spiritual autonomy.
- 7. All categories of testing in the divine dynasphere are designed for blessing. Therefore, whether adversity or prosperity, the divine dynasphere is for your good.
- 8. Human volition plays an important part in testing. For the believer must make the right decision based on his application of Bible doctrine, and his residence in the divine dynasphere.

Categories of Testing.

The first three tests listed are not specifically categorized as momentum tests as given to the believer in spiritual autonomy advancing to spiritual maturity. *They are general categories of testing which occur in all stages of spiritual growth.*

1. The Old Sin Nature Test

The old sin nature is the inside source of temptation. No one ever sins apart from human consent. Volition is your authority in your soul. Volition is the guardian of the soul from the temptations thrown up by the old sin nature. If the volition says yes to the temptation, then the momentum testing old sin nature controls the soul rather than the Holy Spirit. Gal 5 teaches this inner struggle. Human volition then is the source of all sin regardless of how the temptation came about. There are two results of sinning, the old sin nature controls the soul and the believer enters the cosmic system.

Therefore, the believer is either spiritual living inside the divine dynasphere, or carnal, living inside the cosmic system. Most temptations come from within, from the old sin nature, **but some come from without, from someone else’s old sin nature.** For the believer living in the divine dynasphere, all suffering is designed for blessing. Therefore, suffering for blessing becomes momentum test.

This is the easiest test to pass; yet this is where most believers spend the majority of their lives. The believer uses the recovery drill, confession, to get out of the cosmic system; then he uses the application drill to endure suffering for blessing.

	RECOVERY DRILL	APPLICATION DRILL
Issue:	Sin	Grace function
Category:	Self-induced misery	Suffering for blessing
Status quo:	Arrogance	Humility/Objectivity
Solution:	Confession	3 stages of the faith-rest drill

- a. The old sin nature originated from human volition. Man with his own volition invented the old sin nature. Adam's old sin nature is the basis for perpetuating the old sin nature because he was not deceived, but knew what he was doing when he sinned. The woman first created the old sin nature when she sinned, but hers was a sin of ignorance.
- b. So Adam's original sin is imputed to mankind at birth. This results in immediate spiritual death. At the same time God imputes human life to the soul. In this way, God is able to save those who never reach the age of accountability.
- c. Our personal sins are not imputed to us, but to Christ.
- d. Man's twenty-three contaminated chromosomes which fertilize the female ovum, which is uncontaminated by the old sin nature, pass on the old sin nature to each member of the human race. The exception is Christ, who received the twenty-three male chromosomes from the Holy Spirit, so that He was born without a sin nature, and no original sin could be imputed to Him.
- e. The old sin nature is the inside source of temptation. No one ever sins apart from human consent. Volition is your authority in your soul.
- f. Volition is the guardian of the soul from the temptations thrown up by the old sin nature. If the volition says yes to the temptation, then the momentum testing old sin nature controls the soul rather than the Holy Spirit. Gal 5 teaches this inner struggle. Human volition then is the source of all sin regardless of how the temptation came about.
- g. Neither ignorance or inanity is an excuse for either sin or crime. You still wanted to do it and you did it, so you are liable for judgment.
- h. **There are two results of sinning.**
 - (1) The old sin nature controls the soul.
 - (2) The believer enters the cosmic system.
- i. Therefore, the believer is either spiritual, living inside the divine dynasphere, or carnal, living inside the cosmic system.
- j. Most temptations come from within, from the old sin nature, but some come from without, from someone else's old sin nature.
- k. For the believer living in the divine dynasphere, all suffering is designed for blessing.
- l. Therefore, suffering for blessing becomes momentum test.
- m. For the believer living in the cosmic system, all suffering is punitive.
- n. Suffering in the cosmic system is designed to give the believer enough objectivity to rebound. The first self-sustaining function of your priesthood is rebound; the second is operation Z at gate 4 of the divine dynasphere.
- o. The believer uses the recovery drill, rebound, to get out of the cosmic system; then he uses the application drill to endure suffering for blessing.

Finally, on this first test, there are seven points to remember.

- (1) No believer can sin when he is residing inside the divine dynasphere.
- (2) When human volition decides to sin, the believer ejects from the divine dynasphere, commits the sin and becomes involved in the cosmic system. Inside the divine dynasphere the believer can resist temptation through the application of doctrine.
- (3) In the cosmic system the believer only has one option, to escape through the use of rebound.
- (4) No believer ever sins apart from the use of his own free will.
- (5) In cosmic one the believer grieves the Holy Spirit; in cosmic two the believer quenches the Holy Spirit.
- (6) Only volition as the guardian of the soul can protect the believer from the pressure of temptation.
- (7) There are two applications of Bible doctrine in this gate: resistance of temptation and recovery from sinfulness. **You are either resisting or recovering.**

THE BELIEVER IS TESTED LIKE ABRAHAM

A. The Preparation for Testing.

1. In **Heb 11:17**, doctrine resident in the soul is the issue.
2. God's delays are a part of progress.
3. God waits to give the believer his escrow blessings, **Isa 30:1-18**.
4. *The hardest thing for God to do is to give us something with no strings attached.*
5. But grace is the only way that God can give. **Most believers are somewhat legalistic, which hinders God.**
6. However, once the believer seizes and holds the high ground of maturity, God gives him his escrow blessings and is glorified by so doing.
7. The metabolization of doctrine and spiritual momentum is the basis for divine testing of the believer's spiritual progress. *You are tested **before you reach maturity by momentum testing, and after you reach maturity by evidence testing.*** The greatest test is after you have reached maturity.
8. **The daily and consistent intake of doctrine is the preparation for all testing.** Abraham's testing was based on the Abrahamic covenant, which he knew better than anyone else, including us.

B. The Principle of Waiting on the Lord.

1. Waiting on the Lord is the maximum application of Bible doctrine.
2. The principle of waiting on the Lord is to perpetuate the application of faith-rest into hopeless situations and maximum pressures.
3. Waiting on the Lord is the build-up of resident doctrine and its constant application to life, Ps 37:7, 34; **Isa 40:28-31**.

*28, Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, **fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.***

29, He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

30, Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

*31, **But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.***

C. The importance of Abraham's escrow blessings is taught in **Gen 17**.

D. The development of Abraham's testing, **Gen 11:30, 16:1**, began with the barrenness of Sarah's womb. They believed doctrine more than the sexual inabilities of their own bodies, **2 Pet 1:12-21**.

E. The Reversionistic Traps Laid for Abraham.

1. Family distractions.

- a. Gen 11:31-32, his father.
- b. Gen 13:6, Lot his nephew.
- c. Gen 15-21, Sarah, because of her mental attitude sins.

2. Geographical desires: Gen 12:10-20, Egypt; Gen 20:1-18, Gerar.

3. Self-centeredness.

- a. **Gen 15:1-6**, he argues with God.
- b. **Gen 16:2**, he obeys his wife.
- c. **Gen 17:18**, he rationalizes about his firstborn, Ishmael.

F. The Triumph of Abraham, **Rom 4:17-21**