

# GOD TESTS HIS CHILDREN

By Ps James Phiri

## INTRODUCTION

God tests His children for one reason: to develop character through obedience.

There is a difference between a Test and Temptation.

## WHAT IS TEMPTATION?

Temptation is enticement to sin. God does not tempt or entice His people to sin. We are enticed by our own desires.

**James 1:13- 15**

**Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted of God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.**

The spiritual womb where sin is conceived is our Emotional realm in the soul. Desire is an emotion.

It is conceived through thinking and meditating about it. You see yourself doing it before you actually do it.

Once it is conceived, it gives birth to sin: in other words, you do it. As you continue doing it, you get used to it (that is, it grows on you). And then it brings death.

**DEATH: separation; curses, sickness, lack, poverty, failure, etc.**

## EXAMPLES OF TEMPTATIONS

1. You can be enticed to have sex. You desire it, you think about it, eventually, you do it before you are married.
2. You can be enticed to sleep with someone else except your spouse. The procedure is the same. Eventually, you decide to leave your marriage.
3. You can be tempted not to tithe. You think and reason about it, and then you do it.
4. You can be enticed to eat while in fasting.
5. You can be tempted to lie, steal, cheat, gossip, hate, and so on.
6. Jesus had a desire, he was tempted. But He did not conceive it, therefore He did not do it.

Anything that you desire to do against the will of God is a temptation. It all stems out of your desires. **You want it and you can't have it, so you find ungodly ways to have it, like desiring to preach in your church but not getting the chance. So, you start hating and gossiping. Our desires are always the problem.**

**Examples of Temptation in the Bible:** David sleeping with Bathsheba; Solomon enticed to worship his wives' gods; Amnon loving Tamar his sister. King Saul consulting the dead for advice.

## **WHAT ARE TESTS FROM GOD?**

### **Deuteronomy 8:2**

**Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey His commands.**

Tests comes from God to build our character. Also, for Him to know if we are able to trust Him. Trials and tests are aimed at producing godly character.

### **James 1:2-5**

**My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But when patience has its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.**

Patience is a character trait of a Christian. When God tests us, His aim is not that we fail the test. His aim is that we continue trusting Him and be patient because in due time He will reward us.

God wants to prove that when He brings you to your Canaan, will you still obey Him.

The 40 years was for God to know that the Israelite would still obey Him in Canaan. The greatest challenges you will face in life as a Christian, is trusting God when you have everything that you need.

This is the reason Jesus said, it is easy for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than a rich person to enter into the Kingdom of God.

In trials, God wants you to keep your faith in Him. He wants you to be steadfast in trusting Him and be patient.

And then He says in **James 1:5**, **'If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God.'** So, while God test us, He wants us to ask Him for wisdom to handle the trials. And He gives it without finding fault with you.

## **EXAMPLES OF TRIALS**

1. God can test you by giving.
2. God can ask you to fast when you feel you are not ready.
3. God can ask you to love someone who hates you and be kind to that person.
4. He can ask you to tell someone about Christ when you are afraid.
5. He can ask you to pray for a sick person when you think you don't know how.
6. He can even ask you to go and preach the gospel where there is danger.

## **EXAMPLES IN THE BIBLE:**

1. Abraham was asked to give his son.
2. Moses was asked to deliver Israel.
3. Gideon was asked to go to war with 300 soldiers.
4. Peter was asked to walk on water.
5. Paul was asked to preach the gospel in dangerous places.

**THE SOLUTION FOR TEMPTATION AND TRIALS IS THE WORD OF GOD:**

**James 1:19-22 (read)**

The solution is: **conceiving the word (meditating) not your desires; giving birth to the word (do the word) not sin; and it will bring forth life.**