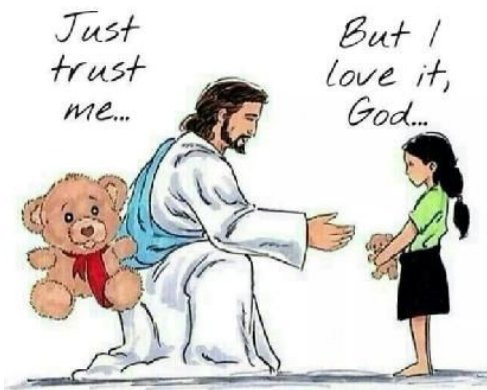


# Week 10 | Test Surviving A Test

[Being tested is a natural part of being human. So it is no surprise that being tested is also a biblical design pattern. Characters in the Bible experience tests throughout the entire story to see if they can live up to God's intended purpose for humanity. Let's look at the narrative pattern of God putting a test before humans to see if they respond with faithfulness or act on their own wisdom in disobedience.



Will all humans undergo this same test? And the answer is simple: yes. We all will be confronted with a similar test, and the choice is up to us. Are we going to live by God's wisdom or our own? Are we going to let our sin rule us, or will we rule over our sin? Will we partner with God to bear his image

in the world, or will we go it on our own? ]

## Who?

Adam & Eve  
Abraham & Sarah

## Adam & Eve

[The tree of knowing good and bad represents a choice for humans. But it's not the choice element alone that makes this an important biblical test; it's the result of those choices. One option is for humans to seize the authority to define good and evil by their own knowledge, while the other is to obey and continue living in intimacy with God and learning God's wisdom and will.]

**Deuteronomy 30:15-20**  
**Romans 6:22-23**

[The scene in the garden of Eden and the choice between our own path or abundant life in God is something that all people must face. God designed humans to be co-creators and co-rulers with him (this is what it means for us to be made in the image of God). The only way to succeed at this vocation is to eat

of God's own life. This means that the opportunity to truly be human in the way God intended is also a test. And the choice is up to us.

Adam and Eve chose to eat of the tree of knowing good and bad, going down a path apart from God's instruction and wisdom. Yes, they were duped into this choice by a deceptive creature, but in the end, the choice was their own. As a result, they were banished from the garden, losing access to the tree of life. But the opportunity to walk with God and rule over creation on his behalf didn't disappear. ]

By disobeying God and choosing the decision based on deception and their own wisdom, they were exiled and separated from God. This began the downfall of man in sin. This is why Jesus had to come to pass the test and become the ultimate sacrifice to atone for all our sins to put us in right standing with God.

And so the test is still before all of us, an opportunity to be united with God as he intended. Sin is a powerful force, and this is no simple test, but there is hope. The test has already been passed on our behalf. Jesus came to do the work that

humanity could not, reuniting us with God and restoring us to our divine purpose and the ideal of the garden.

## **What Lessons Can We Learn from Eve?**

1. Be Grateful
2. Don't Doubt What God Says
3. Focus On The Word
4. Release Control
5. Wholeness Does Not Come From External Things

## **Abraham and Sarah**

God calls a man, Abraham, to father a nation of chosen people. But as part of his covenant with God, Abraham must pass a test and prove that he is willing to submit to God's wisdom instead of his own. Will he pass the test that Adam and Eve failed?

Abraham is first introduced to the reader as one who passes his first test. He is called to leave his land and family and go to a new land. And with no questions asked, Abraham does it! But just as soon as he arrives, he encounters a crisis of food short- age. Will he remain in the land God promised to give him, trusting God to provide for his

family's security, or will he leave the land and try to provide his own safety and security? He chooses the latter option, and even worse, he places his wife in danger in order to save his own life!

Later in the story, both Abraham and Sarah fail another test of faith. God has just repeated the promise that they will have a son and produce a great family and nation (see Genesis 15), but they become impatient and decide to take matters into their own hands.

Because of Abraham and Sarah's sin, God tests Abraham's faithfulness with the ultimate requirement: the life of the miraculous son that God eventually provided for them, Isaac.

"Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."

"Abraham stretched out his hand and took the "eater" to slay his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abra- ham!" And he said,

"Here I am." He said, "Do not stretch out your hand against the lad, and do nothing to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son from me."

"By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this thing and have not withheld your son, your only son, indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed because you have obeyed my voice."

GENESIS 22:1-18

## Sources

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