

## **WARNING...THIS IS ONLY A TEST!!!!**

It appears that many of US have been going through some test this week.

Actually, Ever since we had our deliverance, the enemy has been mad.

- ⇒ We've been physically sick
- ⇒ We've have been **emotionally** wrecked...numerous times
- ⇒ We've had **emergency** in our finances, our relationships...
- ⇒ We've had **death**... in our families and church family!!!!
- ⇒ We've battled addictions, We've had **court** hearings, We've had **arrests**....
- ⇒ Natural disasters...
- ⇒ Mass **murders**...

So I have just come to tell you .... That.....

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### **James 1:2-3 - Trials and Temptations**

<sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> whenever you face trials of many kinds,

<sup>3</sup> **because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.**

- Is any-one persevering?
- **WEBSTER** (1) To persist in a state (2) to undertake in spite of oppositions.
- **Continue in a course of action** even in the face of difficulty
- Or with little or no prospect **of success.**

### **Abraham Tested By God**

#### **Genesis 22:1-3 -**

22 Some-time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!"

"Here I am," he replied.

<sup>2</sup> Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you."

<sup>3</sup> Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey.

- ⇒ I have had a lot of test...but none like Abraham
- ⇒ Abraham had to offer his son to the Lord... through sacrifice
- ⇒ Abraham entered it **knowing** that **it was only a test**

### **GOD'S STRANGE PLAN FOR JOSHUA'S TEST**

**Joshua 6:3** - <sup>3</sup> March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days.

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- ⇒ Joshua was being **tested for six days** to see if he would **remain consistent and faithful**.
- ⇒ Joshua realized that it was **"ONLY A TEST"**
- ⇒ Therefore **he knew** that **he couldn't give up**...that soon
- ⇒ He would **possess** the city
- ⇒ **What are you wanting to claim????**

### **GOD'S TEST WAS NOT FOR ALL-JUST THE STRONG**

#### **Judges 7:1-9 - Gideon Defeats the Midianites**

**7** Early in the morning, Jerub-Baal (that is, Gideon) and all his men camped at the spring of Harod. The camp of Midian was north of them in the valley near the hill of Moreh.

<sup>2</sup>The Lord said to Gideon, **"You have too many men.** I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, 'My own strength has saved me.'

<sup>3</sup>Now announce to the army, **'Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead.'** So twenty-two thousand men left, while ten thousand remained.

<sup>4</sup>But the Lord said to Gideon, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the water, and I will thin them out for you there. If I say, 'This one shall go with you,' he shall go; but if I say, 'This one shall not go with you,' he shall not go."

<sup>5</sup>So Gideon took the men down to the water. There the Lord told him, **"Separate those who lap the water with their tongues as a dog laps from those who kneel down to drink."**

<sup>6</sup>**Three hundred** of them drank from cupped hands, lapping like dogs. All the rest got down on their knees to drink.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord said to Gideon, “With the three hundred men that lapped I will save you and give the Midianites into your hands. Let all the others go home.”

<sup>8</sup> So Gideon sent the rest of the Israelites home but kept the three hundred, who took over the provisions and trumpets of the others.

Now the camp of Midian lay below him in the valley.

<sup>9</sup> During that night the Lord said to Gideon, “Get up, go down against the camp, because I am going to give it into your hands.”

⇒ Gideon was being tested, in his faith.

⇒ He had 32,000 men

⇒ Then he went down to 10,000

⇒ Then to 300

⇒ His faith had to become strong

⇒ HE realized, *‘THIS WAS ONLY A TEST’*

### **GOD’S TEST MAY COST YOU SOMETHING**

**1 Kings 17:13** - <sup>13</sup> Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son.

### **GOD’S TEST MAY SEEM TO BE A LOT OF WORK WITH NO BLESSING IN SIGHT**

**2 Kings 4:3** - <sup>3</sup> Elisha said, “Go around and ask all your neighbors for empty jars. Don’t ask for just a few.

### **CLOSING:**

**1 Peter 1:7** - These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

*Our test always has the potential of giving praise unto God and glorifying Him.*