

Pastor-teacher Don Hargrove

Faith Bible Church

<http://www.fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

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DAILY DOCTRINE: Testing, the Ten Tests of the Exodus Generation:

Test #6, Hardship Test and the Need for Biblical Prayer

<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/10-tests-6.pdf>

1. Review:

- a. Test #1: **Fear test** at the Red Sea as the Israelites were caught between the Pharaoh's army and the Red Sea. The issue: Will the believer trust the Lord when he faces danger? Exodus 14:11-12.
- b. Test #2: **Bitterness test** at the waters of Marah, Exod. 15:23-26. The issue: Will the believer remove the bitter things of life through a relationship with God?
- c. Test #3: **Grumbling-at-the-details-of-life test, Exod. 16**. The issue: Will the believer appreciate the blessings God has provided, or will he grip and complain about uncomfortable details of life?
- d. Test #4: **Temporal provision test, Exod. 17:1-7**. The issue: trusting God when during times of privation (no water test). The "no water" tests of life can be extremely stressful, especially for the believer who has an entitlement attitude. If you are following the Lord and are facing privation of some sort, rest in the fact that God not only brought you to this place, He will provide.
- e. Test #5: **Faith-obedience to truth test (also "worship test"), Exod. 32**. The issue: the Israelites were to wait for their leader, Moses, to return with God's Word. Failure to be faithful to Truth led to syncretistic worship of the golden calf.

2. The 6th test: Hardship test. The issue: Will the believer rebel against the Lord and the plan of God during tough times?
 - a. Text: **Numbers 11:1-2** Now the people became like those who complain of adversity in the hearing of the LORD; and when the LORD heard *it*, His anger was kindled, and the fire of the LORD burned among them and consumed *some* of the outskirts of the camp. ² The people therefore cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the LORD, and the fire died out.
 - b. Every believer—no exceptions!- must go through difficulties in life. Hardships are required for refinement of the faith and spiritual growth. It is the only way to really develop virtue in the life of the believer. The believer must be tested regarding Truth. The issue: Will he continue to make Truth a priority during difficulties or will he opt for complaining and compromise? The believer needs to make his relationship with God through Bible doctrine top priority. The believer who makes trust in God and the Word of God the issue will always come *out on top*.
3. As we move closer to a study of prayer in our Gethsemane study, this is a good time to see the dynamics of prayer as employed by Moses during these testing years in the wilderness.
 - a. Prayer was Moses' response to Pharaoh's army at the Red Sea, Exod. 14:1-31.
 - b. Prayer was Moses' response at the bitter waters, Exod. 15:22-27.
 - c. Prayer was Moses' response at the lack of water test, Exod. 17:1-7.
 - d. Prayer was Moses' response to hardships-in-the-desert test, Num. 11:1-3.
 - e. Prayer was Moses' response to lack of meat, Num. 11:4-35.
 - f. Prayer was Moses' response to the size of the enemy, Num. 14.
 - g. Prayer was Moses' response to the Korah rebellion, Num. 16:1-35.
4. What did the Lord Jesus Christ instruct the disciples to do in their hour of the arrogance in Gethsemane? Pray! When the believer moves into biblical prayer, he removes the distractions of life and puts his life in context of the relationship between himself and God. It is no wonder that Jesus let Peter get the last word in their exchange: Christ knew that Peter was too arrogant to listen. Peter needed to get with God in prayer. Christ told Peter to go pray. What did Christ do in Gethsemane as He faced His test?
5. At Moses' final failure what did he do (sins of commission) and what did he not do (sins of omission)? He struck the Rock. He did not pray to God. He failed to look to God for help through prayer and moved into pride. No matter who you are: pride is always followed by a fall of some kind. Earlier Moses in his humility interceded for the Israelites and was even willing to die for them. Later, he became arrogant and his attitude changed as reflected in "you rebels!" This resulted in Moses being excluded from the promised land, Num. 20:11-12.

In the Logos,

Pastor Don