

Pastor-teacher Don Hargrove

Faith Bible Church

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

September, 1, 2011

DAILY DOCTRINE: Ten Tests: #1

<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/10-tests.1.pdf>



1. Introduction: Testing is an essential part of the Christian life. We must be tested for several reasons, chief of which is to develop spiritual virtue. Apart from testing the believer cannot develop the spiritual virtue required to enter into the promised life (supergrace life). The Christian is *specifically* warned not to repeat the same mistakes in times of testing as did the Israelites. With this in mind we begin a series on the ten tests of the Israelites along with their issues and solutions.

1 Corinthians 10:11 Now these things happened to them [Exodus generation] as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

2. Test #1: the mental attitude of fear:

Exodus 14:10 And as Pharaoh drew near, the sons of Israel looked, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they became very frightened;

3. Manifestation of failure to pass the test of fear: attack God, His wisdom, and His plan: e.g., “Why does God allow this to happen? It would be so much better if not for the plan of God! God, I can’t believe *You* are allowing this to happen!” When fear enters the soul and is not cast out by faith-rest, the believer becomes divorced from reality: he thinks God is out to get him. There is generally a rebellion against divine appointed leadership.

Exodus 14:11-12 . . . so the sons of Israel cried out to the LORD. ¹¹ Then they said to Moses, "Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? Why have you dealt with us in this way, bringing us out of Egypt? ¹² "Is this not the word that we spoke to you in Egypt, saying, 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians '? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness."

4. In times of testing the believer gets the unique opportunity to really examine his relationship with God and the doctrine in his soul. Every test will draw you closer to God or drive you away from Him. Consider how the testing drove the disciples away from the Lord in our current studies in the Garden of Gethsemane.
5. In times of testing the believer will either move into greater divine viewpoint by intake and application of Bible doctrine, or he will slide deeper into the mire of human viewpoint. This is what the test is all about: are you going to trust God or your own machinations?
6. The issue in all fear testing is the Word of God. Understanding and applying the Word of God is far more important than simply crying out to the Lord for help without doctrine. Consider how the Lord rebuked Moses (or at least admonishes him to resolute application of Bible doctrine) when Moses cried out to the Lord for help. Moses was to apply the Word to the situation, not just cry out to the Lord. The lesson here is instead of just praying and asking for divine help, apply the appropriate doctrines:

Exodus 14:13 But Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the LORD which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. ¹⁴ "The LORD will fight for you while you keep silent." ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to Moses, "**Why are you crying out to Me?** Tell the sons of Israel to go forward.

7. The issue is *logically* applying the promises of God to the situation, like:

Hebrews 13:5 Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," ⁶ so that we confidently say, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?"

Logical unpacking of these verses:

- 1) God will never desert you. The idea in the Greek and Hebrew is of withdrawing a hand that sustains. God will never relax His grip on your life and everything in it.
- 2) God will never forsake you. This refers to relationship. He is always there—not matter what!
- 3) God is your Helper. This includes two previous promises. Every believer has the opportunity to move into the supergrace life. Because God is our Helper, we can really enjoy life.
- 4) "I will not be afraid." Understanding that God's hand and presence is always there means you are not afraid.
- 5) "Content." The believer by applying the WOG to the situation is able to go from fear to contentment in times of adverse testing—precisely because He is living in the power of the Word of God.

In the Logos,

Pastor Don