

DAILY DOCTRINE: Testing, the Ten Tests of the Exodus Generation:
Test #5, Faithful-Obedience-to-Truth Test
<http://www.fbcweb.org/Doctrines/10-tests-5.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?
- 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.

2. Test #5: **Faithful-obedience-to-Truth test, Exod. 32:1ff**. The issue: the Israelites were to wait for their leader Moses to return with God's Word. Aaron was the weak leader who gave the people what they *desired* and *demande*d: a golden calf named Yahweh to worship. Failure of this test led to flagrant idolatry. This was a sin that included rebellion against their God-appointed leaders, Moses and Aaron. The result of this failure was the sin unto death for three thousand Israelites. Hardnosed Moses also made the Israelites drink the gold from the calf they manufactured, 32:10. "If you like this gold god so much, then drink it."

3. Principles on the importance of living in fellowship with God and Truth to avoid syncretism.
 - a. Syncretism is when the believer mixes Christianity with the false doctrines of kosmos diabolicus. The syncretistic believer is the believer who may talk about the Lord, but lives with a mixture of kosmic and Bible doctrines. These Israelites made a golden calf and called the golden calf Yahweh, and “praised” it for delivering them from Egypt.
 - b. Had the Israelites been living in active fellowship with God, they would not have fallen into this gross syncretistic idolatry.
 - c. Apart from active fellowship with God and daily growth in the Word of God, the believer will succumb to syncretism. In syncretism the believer deceives himself by spouting out such nomenclatures like Jesus, God, Bible doctrine, and faith-rest, but lives in darkness because of influence of kosmic philosophy—because there really is no interest in Truth as such. Consider the deception of the Osteen-like believers or even doctrinal believers who have become nothing but narcissistic self-serving muckrakers who only listen to doctrine to take care of some “problem” that they likely created due to carnality.
 - d. Active fellowship with God by actively living in His truth (not just confessing) is the only way to break the blindness of carnality and live truly free lives (see John 8:32).
 - e. There is no freedom in carnality or religion. In the state of carnality the believer has no capacity for spiritual love—for others or life. Zero! He is captive to his sin nature. The OSHGEN has no capacity for spiritual love for God, others, or Truth!
 - f. Only in Truth does the believer have the freedom to live in the supernatural power of God. There is nothing like Truth. There is no greater issue in life. Because of Truth, I can maintain fellowship with God and have the right biblical attitude to life (with all of its tests and blessings). It is the fellowship in Truth that gives me the capacity to grow in my love and appreciation for my wife, my family, my friends, and life itself. In carnality (rejection of Truth and fellowship with God) there is no capacity for spiritual love for family, friends, life, or Truth as such).
 - g. Spiritual freedom is the most wonderful thing in life. It leads to a life of love of God, of others, and life itself.
 - h. In carnality there is no capacity to truly love God or life. Carnality unchecked always leads to idolatry. The believer may not manufacture a golden calf, but his heart will be filled with all kinds of things instead of Truth, though He may continue to use the name of Yahweh in his pursuit of those things.
 - i. I am amazed at the privileges I have of being able to study Truth full time (almost), to grow in my love for my wife year after year, and to continue to grow in love for others and for life itself. This is all possible because of the grace of God. However, had I not made decisions to accept God’s grace and follow Truth in regard loving my wife and Bible doctrine, it would be much different. In fellowship, life is wonderful. Carnality sucks! If I had not by non-meritorious volition decided to follow Truth in key areas in my life, I would not give a hoot about Bible doctrine, logic, or philosophy. Without Truth, I would not be able to live free and truly enjoy my wife and my friends. I too, would be busy making my golden calves in a frantic search for happiness. Without God’s grace I would not give a hoot about Truth.
 - j. When you are out of fellowship, you do not have the freedom or capacity for the spiritual perspective or love. Unless you recover through confession of sin, you will head toward some type of idolatry—it will be the thing that you think you need more than anything else to be happy. And it will not be God.

In the Logos,

Pastor Don