

TESTING

We are to love the Lord with our whole heart, mind, strength (Matthew 22:37), but we are also told in scripture how deceitful our hearts can be; so much so, that even when we examine ourselves, we can easily fool ourselves.

Jeremiah 17:9

“The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?”

1 Corinthians 4:4-5

“For I am conscious of nothing against myself, yet I am not by this acquitted; but the one who examines me is the Lord.

Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, {but wait} until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of {men's} hearts; and then each man's praise will come to him from God.”

The Lord Himself will test us.

Deuteronomy 8:2

“And you shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.”

Sometimes the test is to see if we will be faithful, obedient to what the Lord directs. Passing qualifies us for the fulfillment of what He has promised to bring about (Luke 16:10). If we go through the fiery ordeals faithfully, we will be blessed (1 Peter 4:12-14). Abram was tested and passed:

Genesis 22:12

“And 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.’”

God also expects us to spiritually appraise all things (1 Corinthians 2:15) to discern between good and evil. We need to know from what spirit things are said or done, so the spirits must be tested.

1Thessalonians 5:21

“But examine everything {carefully} hold fast to that which is good;”

1 John 4:1

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”