

**It's ALL about
the HEART**

Mark 7: 6

Jesus answered and said to them,
“Well did Isaiah prophesy of you
hypocrites, as it is written:

‘This people honors Me with their
lips, but their heart is far from Me.



Proverbs 3: 5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct your paths.

Proverbs 17: 3

**The
refining pot
is for silver
and
the furnace
for gold,**



**but the Lord
tests the hearts.**

The Hebrew word translated
as “test” in the OT is
bachan.

It means to “examine,
investigate, prove,
scrutinize.”

The Greek word translated
as “test” in the NT is
dokimazo.

It means to “put to the test,
prove, examine, and by
implication, to approve.”

**Why does God
test our hearts?**

Why do we have a heart?

**We have a heart because
God has a heart, a spiritual
heart. It's our spiritual
heart, not our physical
heart, that drives our
behavior.**

Genesis 1: 26

**God said, “Let Us make man
in Our image, according
to Our likeness;**

Acts 13: 22(b)

**... [God] said, 'I have found David
the son of Jesse, a man after My
own heart, who will do all My will.**

Psalms 26: 2 (A Psalm of David)

**Examine me, O Lord, and prove
me; try my mind and my heart.**

Psalms 11: 5 (A Psalm of David)

**The Lord tests the righteous,
but the wicked and the one who
loves violence His soul hates.**

Jeremiah 17: 9-10

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked;

Who can know it?

I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.

Matthew 22: 37-38

Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment.

Luke 6: 45

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Let us consider at least three reasons why God TESTS our hearts.

1. His tests build our faith in Him.

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2. His tests prove our love for Him.

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2. His tests prove our love for Him.

3. His tests strengthen our spiritual resolve to reach our heavenly home.

Deuteronomy 8: 1-3

¹ “Every commandment which I command you today you must be careful to observe, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers.

Deuteronomy 8: 1-3

² And you shall remember that the LORD your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.

Deuteronomy 8: 1-3

³ So He humbled you, allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna which you did not know nor did your fathers know, that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every

Deuteronomy 8: 1-3

word that proceeds from the
mouth of the LORD.

Matthew 4: 2-3

And when Jesus had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”

Matthew 4: 4

But Jesus answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’ ”

Matthew 6: 31-32

Therefore do not worry, saying,
'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall
we drink?' or 'What shall we
wear?' For after all these things
the Gentiles seek. For your
heavenly Father knows that you
need all these things.

Matthew 6: 31-32

**But seek first the kingdom of God
and His righteousness, and all
these things shall be added to you.**

**NO ONE LIKES
TO BE TESTED.**


**BUT BE PREPARED...
GOD'S TESTS COME
AT UNEXPECTED TIMES.**

Genesis 6: 9(b), 13-14(a)

Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God. ... And God said to Noah, “The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of gopherwood;

Hebrews 11: 7

By faith **Noah**, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became the righteousness which is according to faith.

The background of the image is a dark red color filled with numerous small, lighter red hearts of varying sizes, creating a dense, textured pattern.

**GOD'S TESTS WILL
CHALLENGE OUR FAITH**

Genesis 22: 1-2

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested **Abraham**, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then He said, “Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”

Genesis 22: 11-12

But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, **Abraham, Abraham!** So he said, “Here I am.”

And He said, “Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me.”

Hebrews 11: 17-19(a)

By faith **Abraham**, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten *son*, of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead,

**GOD'S TESTS
WILL REVEAL WHAT
WE VALUE MOST
IN OUR LIVES.**

Acts 9: 15-16

But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go, for he (Paul**) is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.”**

Philippians 3: 13-14

Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

**How are we holding up to
the tests we face in life?**

1 John 2: 15-16

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

**Think about where those
mentioned in Hebrews 11
placed their trust?**

Hebrews 11: 35(b)-38(a)

... Others were tortured ... trials of mockings and scourgings ... of chains and imprisonment ... stoned ... sawn in two ... tempted ... slain with the sword ... wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins ... destitute ... afflicted ... tormented — of whom the world was not worthy.

**Recall the words
of the Lord.**

Jeremiah 17: 10

I, the LORD, search the heart, test
the mind, even to give every man
according to his ways, according
to the fruit of his doings.