

Message

**Testing
or
Tempting**



Neal Parker

Testing or Tempting

■ Definition of Testing

- To take measures to check the quality, performance or reliability of something, especially before putting it into widespread use or practice.

■ Definition of Tempting

- To appeal to or attract someone, even if wrong or inadvisable.

Testing or Tempting

■ I Corinthians 10:1-13

- Tells us that the temptations we experience are common to man and that God will not allow us to be tempted (tested) more than we are able but will also provide us with a way to escape that test or temptation.



Example of Testing

■ Genesis 22:1-5, 8-12

- Hebrew word translated “tempted” is the word *nacah*, and it means “to test, try, prove, tempt, assay, put to the proof or test.”
- God did not intend Abraham to complete the sacrifice of Isaac. However, Abraham did not know that and was willing to carry out God’s orders, knowing that if God did require this, He was able to raise Isaac up from the dead (Hebrews 11:17-19).



Testing or Tempting

- **Both God and Satan perform tests on you and me. These road tests reveal how the rubber meets the road in our Christian lives.**
- **But the two tests have two completely different goals. Can you tell the difference?**



Testing or Tempting

- One word (*dokimazo*) has as its goal *a test for the purpose of approval.*
- Another word (*peirazo*) has as its goal, generally speaking, *a test to show its weakness or point of failure.*
- Whenever Satan “tests” us, the word is always *peirazo* — that is, the goal of his test is to entice us to sin. Hence the test often gets appropriately translated as “temptation.”



Testing or Tempting

■ James 1:1-4, 12-18

1. Trials should produce growth.
2. The fruit we produce depends upon our outlook.
3. Joy comes after, not before or during the trial.



Trials Should Produce Growth

■ John 15:1-5, 8-10

– “...Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.”

- “. . . these tests or trials are not meant to make us fall, they are meant to make us soar. They are not meant to defeat us; they are meant to be defeated. They are not meant to make us weaker; they are meant to make us stronger. Therefore we should not bemoan them; we should rejoice in them.**

- William Barclay

The Fruit We Produce Depends Upon Our Outlook

■ II Corinthians 4:16-17

- “...For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparisons.”
- The outward man does indeed suffer wear and tear, but every day the inward man receives fresh strength. These little troubles (which are really so transitory) are winning for us a permanent, glorious and solid reward out of all proportion to our pain. (II Corinthians 4:16-17, Phillips Translation)

Testing or Tempting

■ I Corinthians 3:11-15

- God's tests have our "approval", as their goal.

■ Deuteronomy 8:1-6

- "...that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not..."
- Example of Testing – Job
 - Job 13:15
- Example of Tempting – Jesus Christ
 - Matthew 4:1-11



Life Application: Testing or Tempting

■ Matthew 6:9-13

- “...lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

■ I Peter 4:12-19 / II Peter 2:9

- We should not be surprised “...with the fiery ordeal for our testing...that we shall receive the unfading crown of glory.”

