

MAY 2024

vol. 9 #3

*focus
today*

A DEVOTIONAL

...living godly daily!

FOREWORD

Every day we get the privilege to see, is a priceless and one-time gift. We are offered blank cheques and limitless opportunities to gain maximally or lose regrettably. Life comes with daily pressures that sufficiently drain the vital potentials from us. Painfully still, amidst the exhaustions that characterizes our routine, we get to miss out of a priority which counts the most, depriving ourselves of that which our lives base on. Since there could never be a better source of replenishing strength and lifelong satisfaction outside drawing from Life Himself, learning to focus on Him every day remains wisest for us.

On a collection of inspired words that bless my heart daily, strengthening my focus on Christ Jesus, I urge you, fellow pilgrims, to keep up the focus. Our redemption is so much closer now than when we first believed; if we ever needed to stay focused, it is now. May our faiths, like glowing splints, continue to blossom and grow deeper into Him. May our hearts continue to seek Him. May our eyes continue to fix on Him. May our lives continue to express Him.

E. A. Faith

INTRODUCTION

We give praise to the God of heaven and earth, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and giver of the Holy Spirit, Who by His grace has made us to be partakers of great heavenly blessings.

This month, we'll have our focus on the life and victory of the Christian with trials and temptations.

It is my pleasure to have you on this page, and in this month, praying that the Lord bless you, and make your daily walk with Him godlier than before. God bless you!

Deep appreciation goes to all who have been so present for the Lord's use in this view; editing team, sharing, praying, and so on. God's blessing again.

Another Beloved,

Adeyemi Michael Adetunji

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All Scriptures quoted from The Holy Bible, New King James Version, unless otherwise stated.

TESTING GOD (1)

Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

Psalm 78:18 (GNB)

LESSON: *Hallowed be the name of the Lord. Thus far the Father has helped us. A new month, yes, it is. And a new May Day, celebrating the days of works. This is as a Sabbath to the Lord. The Lord rested, celebrated Himself on a May Day, a day to rest from works. But, He is still working, working salvation in all the earth. Seeking men who will not be of their own will but of His. In this month, we are embarking to climb a thorny tree bark. May grace be shown.*

“They deliberately put God to the test by demanding the food they wanted.”

This was the action of the released children of Israel. They had never worked but demanded the May Day's pay. They had never put the plough but wanted to eat the cucumbers. They had not gone to the quarry or the mine yet they possessed all the treasures of the world on their isolated trip to the milk and honey land.

The Israelites tested God, serially, severally and severely. They deliberately put God to test. They did not just ask for food, they were specific about the food. It is like going to a king's house and telling him, 'I don't want this food, give me this one'. These people were still strangers to God, they have not even known His ways yet. They acted so terribly to Him. They tested the Lord. They even tempted Him sore.

Prayer: O Lord, have mercy on me, in the ways I have tempted You, in Jesus' name.

FOCUS TODAY

How do you test God? When you pray but your heart is sure it won't be answered or that God can't do it, unless He is God. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 1Kings 10-11; Luke 21:20-38

REJOICE (1)

Thursday, May 2, 2024.

James 1:2 (NLT)

LESSON: *We have edged into the month that the May Prayers should not be lacking. I so enjoy those prayers of David. They are the best to recite whenever you are in any moment that can be called blessed. The Psalm 20 is a prayer that takes a man into the realm of kings. That is the desire of many had the cross be desired as wells. There is no crown without the cross. The cross leads the way to the crown.*

The way of the cross is therefore not an easy one. No man will ever so desire to walk that path. So many would have wanted to become Christians but when they reason the way they had tempted and trampled some Christians underfoot, they fear the same would come to them. But that is not enough to run. There would be strong delight to face more as soon as one have the Holy Spirit.

“Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.”

Here's a straight exhortation from brother James. He was not saying temptations or trials or troubles won't come, or that Christians should flee from them. He said instead, when they come, rejoice that they come because you are Christians. They come because they want to press you, and pressing or pruning makes the vine the best.

Prayer: I receive grace to rejoice even in trials, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

Troubles, trials, temptations; these all come to prune you to the best flavor and taste. Don't forget the popular: no cross, no crown. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 1Kings 12-13; Luke 22:1-20

PURIFIED

Friday, May 3, 2024.

Zechariah 13:9

LESSON: *We were just rejoicing that the cross had been gotten by a brother so dear than for trial to strike so fast. The dear brother, as in quote 'dear' was a former leader of a religious gang. And you know, like any other person, they fear the same judgment as they had done to others coming upon them after salvation. It came, and it didn't come small, it was so big that he had to run and hide and just to escape even to the sea.*

This is the true story of brother Saul. The same as Saul of Tarsus, the lawyer, the one that learned from Gamaliel. Saul was a notorious Jew, he was from the tribe of Benjamin though. Many do believe that Saul faced all the persecutions and trials because of his sins, but no! You don't get punished for a sin that has been forgiven, though it can be remembered or referenced to.

*"I will bring the one-third through the fire,
Will refine them as silver is refined,
And test them as gold is tested.
They will call on My name,
And I will answer them.
I will say, 'This is My people';
And each one will say, 'The Lord is my God.'"*

This is the happening that comes to every believer, whether a notorious sinner before or a good one. There shall be the pruning, it is meant to purify.

Prayer: I receive grace, grace to overcome in pruning, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

Pruning, purification is not a result of punishment for sins committed while in the world, it is the form of testing for the throne, for the crown, to be fully fit for the Lord's use.

#focustoday

Bible in One Year: 1Kings 14-15; Luke 22:21-46

REJOICE (II)

Saturday, May 4, 2024.

1Peter 1:6

LESSON: *A second time in the month of May, the resting and testing month, rejoice! Rejoice over what in particular? Rejoice that you are a soul that delights God. If you know so well how special you must be to heaven, how heaven rejoiced at your coming and how great plans and throne have been set and prepared for you, perhaps you will rejoice even more. And not just rejoice, you will stay stainless.*

“In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials...”

The second rejoicing is from the apostle of apostles, the first leader of the church after Christ left, Peter. Peter gave the statement in his first epistle to the church, for a little while now, these trials are just for now, rejoice greatly. It was an admonishment, as well as an encouragement to do more as the church had already caught a glimpse of that revelation.

These people whom he directed the message to have faced strong and strange trials, but till now, there is great rejoicing over them. It can be certain that even heaven rejoiced over them. This is the platform of Christianity. The gold passes through the furnace, and there is that strong heat, though great, but at the end, it is almost the most precious of all its kind.

Confession: I rejoice in the grace of my Lord, the grace given to be called a son of God. Alleluia!

FOCUS TODAY

The greater the trial, the stronger the tried, and the greater the rejoicing both in heaven and on earth. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 1Kings 16-18; Luke 22:47-71

TESTING GOD (II)

Sunday, May 5, 2024.

Psalm 78:56

LESSON: *When we came into the month, we learned the first lesson of this topic. It was then a call to let us know how much or how well we fall to testing the Lord. Testing sometimes is different from tempting. When one is tested, it shows his ability to obtain a reward, but when there is temptation, it shows a need to disgrace the tempted. But in no case should we want to test God to show His already omnipotent or omniscient ability.*

*“Yet they tested and provoked the Most High God,
And did not keep His testimonies...”*

Yea, you see, this was the odd works of the tempter in the lives of the Israelites then. We did a lot of studying on the works of the tempter last month and that he could even come boldly to tempt the Lord Jesus. He also brought a thought to God to break Job. But because it would be to His glory, God allowed it.

The children of Israel are no less to our generation. In fact, our generation may be found worse than they were. They were this people that the Lord called stiff-necked. The necks of the cows and bulls become stiffened after they have been burdened with yokes. But these ones (Israelites in the wilderness) were different. They became stiffened in the yokes of freedom and satisfaction. Instead of the cross they took the yokes of sin.

Prayer: O Lord, help me not to test You for any reason, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

*Many today prefer to be burdened and take up the yokes of sin instead of the Cross.
#focustoday*

Bible in One Year: 1Kings 19-20; Luke 23:1-25

MANY TRIBULATIONS

Monday, May 6, 2024.

Acts 14:22

LESSON: *There is no other argument but to know the essence of praying a prayer. Know well what you pray for, lest like the Israelites you test or tempt God. This note we should not always forget. Nonetheless, we have the church who is meant to pass through this –pruning and purifying and pressing and testing and tempting– to watch. How is the church in you fairing in these?*

*“...strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying,
“We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”*

The goal of the apostles and the older in-faith Christians was to encourage the ones who just came in. Those who have held on to their faith were able to exhort and share their experiences of how God have been saving them, and even when there was no saving.

When was this kind shared in our faith circles? When did you hear it last said that you must through many trials, temptations, tests, persecutions enter into the kingdom of God? You would see almost no shadow in the next service or time of worship. Many would flee and go to the places where the good words and the world would be told them. The truth remains, no cross-no crown. And the cross is never a sweet experience. This does not mean a Christian have to be wretched or in sickness, it only means, there would be testing of faith at various times.

Prayer: O Lord, give me grace to bear my cross in truth, in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

No cross, no crown. Let no one deceive you, there is no cross that is sweet, none, except it is not Jesus'. It is called, the testing of faith. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 1Kings 21-22; Luke 23:26-56

THE UTMOST TRIAL

Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

Job 34:36

LESSON: *What! What is this? An utmost trial? Yes, that's it! That was what a man, even men faced. We could ask that you share the utmost you have faced as a Christian, perhaps we publish it, as it could encourage the saints. Check in at the {email}, let's hear your testimony. This man lived in Uz, an ancient place that was almost older than the times of Abraham, may be or may be not. His name, Job.*

The origin of his trial was from the tempter. He came to God in the spirit just as other princes who had been sent to see things through came to God. And the devil gave a thought to the complete analysis of this man's life, believing that if God strikes him, he (Job) would deny God. But he didn't. He held on to his faith. This is the same pursuit any Christian should have, to hold on.

“Oh, that Job were tried to the utmost, because his answers are like those of wicked men!”

See what the Scripture according to the life of Job recorded about him. The summary of his trial was in just this verse. Oh, that Job were tried. Job entered the worst phase of life's testing, he was tested with all. All that he had, he lost, including his health. Yet, he did not curse God. He said, I know that my Redeemer lives.

Confession: I know that my Redeemer lives. Amen!

FOCUS TODAY

When the utmost of tests comes, will you remember to having a Redeemer? #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 2Kings 1-3; Luke 24:1-35

MANY TEARS AND TRIALS

Wednesday, May 8, 2024.

Acts 20:18–19

LESSON: *Come to see, come see, the man called Job. Oh, I wish our generation witnessed the trials of Job. Oh that we see the trials of the true prophets and priests in the Scriptures. Oh that we can understand the tribulations of the early Christians. Oh that we would be revealed to the already and coming great tribulation that the church will soon face. Maybe we would gear up, take our girdles tightly and rightly.*

“And when they had come to him, he said to them: “You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews...”

This is just a part of his explanation of trials to the church at Ephesus. Paul gave a summary of the things he faced from the Jews themselves.

The same, Moses faced. The same persecution Jesus faced. The same things the early Christians faced. Not from the world now, but from the church itself. The world's persecutions are there, the ones that Satan buffets too are there, how come then from the church again? When the people begin to give themselves to the use of the tempter, this happens. And this makes the tempted or the tried to break, because the place that was supposed to be for retreat and revival has now become another slaughter house.

Confession: I possess victory over trials and temptations of any kind, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

There could be tests and trying even from the church, do not break at this. It wasn't the Romans (world) that killed Jesus, it was the Jews (though written) #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 2Kings 4-6; Luke 24:36-53

THE SWEET MARA

Thursday, May 9, 2024.

Exodus 15:25

LESSON: *There is danger in becoming a tool or in corporate word, the tools in the hand of the tempter. It is dangerous and considers greater and stricter punishments. But there could be none if the person was never in the fold, but later becomes a sheep, like Saul of Tarsus turned Paul of Jesus. Many have allowed themselves to be used by the tempter, either against God or against His church. The Christians sometimes would be facing their greatest trials from the church and not from the world.*

Howbeit that we do not give in to wrath, malice, anger and the slightest form of the mind debasing. These are the positions the enemy hides to carry out his enterprises. See here a time when the children of Israel tempted God, and God though answered, but it could then be a trap.

“So he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them...”

At the end of this miracle, there was no death. Yes, none, because the people had just left Egypt and this was their first complain after the crossing. So, it could have been that it was because of them been fatigued. But in the similar one that came after, when they asked for meat, they died like fowls plagued by a flu.

Prayer: O Lord my God, save from tempting You with anything. Help me to pray aright, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

When we complain, and then there comes an answer, beware that it is not a death trap. Rejoice and pray for grace instead of complaining. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 2Kings 7-9; John 1:1-28

THE TEST OF FIRE

Friday, May 10, 2024.

1Peter 1:7

LESSON: *The most dangerous test that one can pass through... What could that be? Job's trial came as a result of the tempter. There are others that would come from God Himself, but not to destruction or to that type of loss. Sometimes there could even be losses, but He sure would have provided grace to make the person not to fall away. The enemy, Satan was ignorant of the fact of grace. Just a little measure of grace could have been released upon Job, and he held on to his faith.*

So, we know and are sure that grace saves, grace is strength in times of weaknesses. And, the supposed greatest form of testing would be the test of fire. The same that purifies and also burns.

“...that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ...”

Peter in his continued exhortation to the church said that their faith becomes genuine and more precious than gold that perishes. When they go (we) through trials, should be found to stand. As we have in many parts of the world, capital punishment, a knife or ax to the neck, and the expression comes, not even as a question, 'Deny Jesus!' What would you do or say? We pray grace.

Prayer: O Lord, give me grace to stand my test of faith, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

This testing that comes with fire, one can only overcome or be victorious when there is the grace that never fails. Pray for grace, because no strength can prevail therein.

#focustoday

Bible in One Year: 2Kings 10-12; John 1:29-51

THE PHARAOH TEST

Saturday, May 11, 2024.

Genesis 42:15–16

LESSON: *This can be tough! Ugh, that moment when you know that a man is going to test you, the other test I mean, which is temptation. In such instance, one would just be confused as to which area it was going to come or which it was going to go. The testing of a man can be extreme because the tester knows not the ability of the tested. And in most cases, the tester wouldn't want the tested to win, so he ends up tempting him to disgrace and failure.*

“In this manner you shall be tested: By the life of Pharaoh, you shall not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here. Send one of you, and let him bring your brother; and you shall be kept in prison, that your words may be tested to see whether there is any truth in you; or else, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies!”

These were the words of the deputy of Pharaoh unto some foreigners who came to buy grains for their hungry family. Joseph who had now become great was not recognized by his brothers who were the foreigners. Joseph placed them under the yoke of Pharaoh. The man who was the most politically and possibly a spiritually powerful being on earth then. How does one pass the testing of the Pharaoh?

Prayer: I overcome, I prevail over every test of darkness against my life, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

Here are two tips, one from the Lord Jesus and the other from Peter: don't reason your answer, the Lord shall speak for you, and prepare your heart to answer anything concerning your faith. (Luke 21:14, 1Peter 3:15) #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 2Kings 13-14; John 2

TESTING GOD (III)

Sunday, May 12, 2024.

Matthew 22:18

LESSON: *This trend of having to tempt God is an act of rebellion. A rebellion formed by the enemy, Lucifer. He has from old been seeking ways of exalting himself, but the truth of exaltation is only by humility. That was played out by Jesus, Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah and many others who yielded their all to obey the Lord and carry out His orders. And the ancient truth of the word of God also stands sure, he that exalts himself shall be abased, put down, brought down, put to hell.*

“But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, “Why do you test Me, you hypocrites?”

See here, how the people of Israel, having tempted God sore with their stiff-necked behavior in the wilderness and then their fornication and idolatry in their Milky Promised Land, they eventually tempted Him (God), having come in flesh again. The word for them was wicked. They had wickedness, the gross type.

It happened that this same response Jesus gave to the devil when he tempted Him (Jesus) concerning bowing to him. Jesus told him, you shall not tempt the Lord your God. Now, these people allowed wickedness to take hold of them that Jesus had to speak up against their wickedness. Why do you tempt Me (God)?

Prayer: O Lord, help me not to tempt You, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

Many today tempt God, testing Him through His ministers sometimes, do not take part in this wickedness. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 2Kings 15-16; John 3:1-18

TRIED WORDS

Monday, May 13, 2024.

Psalm 12:6

LESSON: *That which has been from the beginning, here we have it still today. The rebellion of the tempter. So, he did to a third of the host, boasted of how he would reign and become great, but he forgot the law, the exalted shall be abased. Because the Law of God, the Law of the Spirit does not fail, it cannot fail. God has made us become vessels to place His word into. This is the essence of the purification we have gotten. The word of God is true.*

*“The words of the Lord are pure words,
Like silver tried in a furnace of earth,
Purified seven times.”*

That word of God has been from the beginning. The words of men do not last. The words of men begin at birth and end in death. Even in rewarding or in judgment, man's words shall fail, but God's word shall stand. See what the Psalmist narrated of the word of God.

The word of God is pure. And whatever is pure surely will have power, because power is a result of fire. Yea, the word of God has been tried like silver in the fire. The word of God itself is fire. The word of God, no man can try. Nobody can try the word of God. This is the basis of man's judgment and rewarding at the end. No one can defend or abuse it, none.

Prayer: May Your word O Lord, purify my soul, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

The word of God is true, tried and powerful; there is no one who can test it to win it, none. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 2Kings 17-18; John 3:19-38

ENDURING PERSECUTIONS

Tuesday, May 14, 2024.

2Thessalonians 1:4

LESSON: *There are many men everywhere wanting a bit of the freedom we have, to express their faith. Well, I speak of thousands bound up in places where persecutions are great. Persecutions could even meet one in his own family house. There was this sister I met in college, she was formerly of another religion, her life was a testimony. She got converted when she was attempting an entry into college. But wasn't admitted then. For another four years before her eventual admission, she lived as though in hell in her own parent's home.*

“...so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure.”

I tell you vividly, there are many men everywhere wanting our kind of liberty of expression of the faith, but aren't getting. They are not fearful of bearing the name of Christ, but these ones don't know what tomorrow will hold for them. They are everyday persecuted.

So was the church at Thessalonica. Their salvation and stand have been known by all far away. They have a faith that cannot be broken. They held on to what they have gained and never letting go even in the face of death. This is true faith, that no temptation can overcome. If you are in this phase, the church is proud of you, we can pray that may heaven also be proud and strengthen you.

Prayer: O Lord, strengthen us, give unto us grace and victory, in times of persecutions, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

Temptations, trials and persecutions are the greatest tests of faith; following them are the reward of the crown. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 2Kings 19-21; John 4:1-30

TEST TO DIE

Wednesday, May 15, 2024.

Isaiah 48:10

LESSON: *We learnt few day ago the power of the tried word of God. The word of God having been from the beginning has never failed and will never fail. Why? The word of God is pure, so pure that the trying of it is beyond when a man tries silver or gold in the fire. Whatever has passed through fire, (though the higher the flame) the more powerful it becomes. It then depends though on which type of matter to be passed into the fire. There are some who are woods, they shall burn eternally.*

*“Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver;
I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.”*

This was the reflection of God's own anger. Though the entire prophecy of the chapter was for good. But this verse alone stands so tall to tell us a deep lesson. The lesson of God testing man through the furnace, through fire. God tests men, God tries men, but the lives (submission level) of the men would tell the outcome.

The word of the Lord spoken by Isaiah said, I have refined you, but not as the silver is refined. I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. Oh heaven! This means, the Lord did not have the intention of making these ones become refined for good, but to die. This is the same with those who would not accept the salvation of God for humanity.

Prayer: O Lord my God, give me grace to be victorious in my tests, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

The trying of the Lord is that man be refined, but when sin is set in a man, instead of refining, there is burning. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 2Kings 22-23; John 4:31-54

MAY 2024

We wish to hear from you,

Life's Trials

FOCUS TODAY

A Devotional

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HAVE A BLESSED RIDE, GOD BLESS YOU!

WHO?

Thursday, May 16, 2024.

Luke 22:28

LESSON: *The trying of the Lord is either for refining or for burning. You should know that it is the Lord's desire that every man be eternally saved. It is also His desire and He delight so much of it that none should perish. See that He even placed His name as salvation. Some would find it hard to accept the forgiveness of sins, they can even claim they have not sinned. It happens that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord is saved.*

This is confirmed as John said that even to those who believe on His name are called the sons of God, they are birthed or begotten in the Spirit and by the Spirit (John 1:12).

Our question up there is 'who?' Who what? What is the 'Who' going to do, and who would the 'Who' be? Let us see what our text says to the test.

“But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials.”

These who, would you consider who they are? They were the disciples. Those who can or could be called disciples of the Lord. No Iscariot, not Demas, not those burning in their desires for the world, not those who refuse to accept God's existence, not alone Jesus Christ as salvation of the world. You can be that Who bro; you can be sis. Repent and be converted today, now!

Prayer: O Lord, help me to be counted as a true disciple, in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

You are who you decide to be, either as gold or as wood in the furnace; as fuel for God's light or as the darkness to be quenched. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 2Kings 24-25; John 5:1-24

THE TRIAL OF ABRAHAM (1)

Friday, May 17, 2024.

Genesis 22:12

LESSON: *We have seen many trials in our lives and outside our lives. Sometimes you encounter some person's lives, hearing their experiences or what they are still passing through and your ungratefulness would turn into praises. There is that happening that would melt your heart and you would say, ah, I am not serious and I am not grateful to God. What kind of test can melt you actually? Some people would boast that they can forgive anything. Oh...*

Let there be no prayer that some things happen. Because, only grace makes men forgive. Try a happening to men, even ministers, you would hear the statement, 'We will meet in court'. In no time, Christians have dragged themselves to the law court, where unbelievers would be their judges. What trial can bend you?

“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.”

This was a man who have been delayed in childbearing. Eventually he had to use his way to get a child, and the child was not accepted. Now the Lord's miracle happened, he had the promised son in his cent years. And he had pursued the other child away. That was the same time God tested him, asking to sacrifice the only begotten and remaining son.

Prayer: I receive victory over my trials in Jesus' name.

FOCUS TODAY

If God told you, without a prior warning, after sealing a breakthrough, 'you will die today, even now', will you curse God? Would it not be, 'Lord but why, see all my riches, why did you now give me if you won't allow me to enjoy from them?' #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 1Chronicles 1-3; John 5:25-47

THE TRIAL OF ABRAHAM (II)

Saturday, May 18, 2024.

Hebrews 11:17

LESSON: *The testing of man shows the entirety of him, to be either darkness or light. Abraham was tested vigorously. First of it, he was not given a child. Eventually after falling for the tempter's temptation, he was forgiven though, but not accepted. So then in time, he was given the child of promise. Now the child was asked for (to be sacrificed), while he was still growing. The other child had been sent away to die in the wilderness. Where to? What to? Is this God really?*

“By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son...”

This is the testimony we say of Abraham today. Abraham was bearing a reference that tallies with the way God explained Jesus. Abraham was already or almost or willing to be offered and offer his only begotten son to God. So, the Lord was moved, He (God) gave His only begotten Son (Himself) also.

The trial of Abraham is a trial any believer would call madness. If the Lord tells you, sell all you have, what will you say? 'No o! That was because the early believers do not know that the Lord was not coming back immediately'. The defense would be numerous. The answers won't be straight. If our wealth cannot be dismissed, is it the only begotten child that would now be given.

Prayer: Father, help me never to say 'NO' to You, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

The man heard the words, sell all you have and give to the poor, he went away sorrowfully. This man might be better than many acclaimed believers today, who profess and teaches and condemns him, but they cannot even give their own tenth. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 1Chronicles 4-6; John 6:1-21

THE HEART TESTER

Sunday, May 19, 2024.

Jeremiah 12:3

LESSON: Truly, we have more hypocrites of the faith today than in Jesus and the Jews' days. Many times, we have heard the teaching of the rich young ruler who came to Jesus and Jesus told him, sell all you have. We then interpret it as, Jesus was testing him. If so, one of the gospels would have said so. Jesus was not, He was telling him the big truth that his kind needs to hear. In truth, the truth hurt him, he went away sorrowfully.

If we are tested, what would be of us. We who argue or debate or defend the 'sell all you have' thing, are we the ones who would not curse God if He tells us to give up our only begotten son or child or heir to Him? This would be worse for those who so deeply believe that a man has not been or never lived if he never has a heir to follow him. What would be of us if we are tested?

*“But You, O Lord, know me;
You have seen me,
And You have tested my heart toward You.
Pull them out like sheep for the slaughter,
And prepare them for the day of slaughter.”*

The prophet was having this conversation with the Lord saying, Lord You have tested me... Would we allow the Lord to test us?

Prayer: O Lord, give me grace to trust in You always, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

He who is tested is trusted. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 1Chronicles 7-9; John 6:22-44

TESTS AND SIGNS

Monday, May 20, 2024.

Luke 11:16

LESSON: *This becomes the defense of man, to parry the requests of the Lord. Here it is, Lord, I need a confirmation. The truth to know if it is God who have the life of us in His hand or we own our lives ourselves should be asked. We are men frail in all our ways. And sometime the testing of the Lord comes so as to put us or push us higher than where we are. But in that vein, many fall back instead, because of the dross in them.*

“Others, testing Him, sought from Him a sign from heaven.”

Therefore, like the Jews we seek signs from the Lord. We want to see. We want to know. We want to hear. We can't just go and give this or that without a confirmation. And then the confirmation comes, it then becomes I need confirmations. So, it's now going to be work for God to even promote man. The student who is being assisted to get promoted would still need the assistance again and again. So does the Proverbs says, if you deliver a fool, you will still need to do it again (Proverbs 19:19).

When we put the Lord to test, or seek signs from Him before believing, the ends of most of these end in misery, destruction. Those who can please God are those whose faith cannot be shaken or have faith to believe. Imagine Noah seeking to see a drop of rain before building the ark. God would have eventually pulled the heavens down on all of creatures then. Maybe he did, but he was still found faithful and full of faith.

Prayer: My Father in heaven, help me to be faithful, help me to trust You with all my heart, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

Testing and seeking signs often end in failure at the end. It is like testing your teacher if he knows a topic or is sure of his knowledge. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 1Chronicles 10-12; John 6:45-71

NO WAVING

Tuesday, May 21, 2024.

Psalm 17:3

LESSON: *When testing comes, only those with faith can stand. I don't want us to see this as works, there is a gulf of difference between faith and work. You don't work your faith. Another word for faith in that stance is grace. And everyone is given grace though, but we not misusing or being obedient to it differ. Many say grace differs, I say obedience differs. It is not the grace per say, but the obedience. Who has the higher grace, Saul, anointed king or David a boy forgotten in the bush? But why was David better? His obedience level, or rather faith level which we call grace.*

*“You have tested my heart;
You have visited me in the night;
You have tried me and have found nothing;
I have purposed that my mouth shall not transgress.”*

Don't forget how the Scriptures painted Abraham to be a man of faith. Why? He was obedient, he believed God. There is a grace to scale through every tests and trials and even temptations, but how we respond to that grace matters.

The Scripture directly says that God will not put us to a test that we are not capable of winning, this means, He gives us sufficient grace every time (1Corinthians 10:13). That Scripture up there from the Psalm is saying, since You have tested me and found no wrong in me, even I have purposed not to waver or to fail as Your grace strengthens me. Remain in charge!

Prayer: O Lord, save me by Your grace, and help me to be full of obedience, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

You only fail what you allow yourself to fail, no one can be tempted unless he is drawn to His self-desires, there is enough grace given to overcome every test, temptation, trial and/or persecution. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 1Chronicles 13-15; John 7:1-27

THE TEST OF ETERNAL LIFE

Wednesday, May 22, 2024.

Luke 10:25

LESSON: *Getting to be tested can be one of the worst things that can happen to a man. And getting to test people can be one of the sweet things to do. Who falls prey next would be the line of action of those whom Christ mentioned to have woes. Woe to those who cause offences to come. Why should one just have the nature of wanting to establish offences without any warnings. It is a highly godforsaken sin.*

“And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

This was the encounter of Jesus with that man we have mentioned in previous lessons. This man's story did not end goodly. He went away sorrowfully after been given the law of 'sell all you have'. That can be the deepest test any man could get. The deepest could also be as that of Abraham, offering of the only begotten.

The test of eternal life as our topic mentions comes when one is wanting to confuse himself to whether there is an eternal life or not. It also comes when one is trying to justify some things as to being righteous to be done, because of the drawing of flesh. When one wants to know if (deliberately) having two wives can hinder one from getting to heaven.

Prayer: O Lord, help me not test my grace and gift of eternal life, in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

Testing your eternal life is as abusing grace and trying to justify self to still be having eternal life. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 1Chronicles 16-18; John 7:28-53

FORTY TESTS

Thursday, May 23, 2024.

Psalm 95:9–11

LESSON: *How many tests can a man endure without breaking? This may be answered by the tester though. How many tests will you place on that man before you get satisfied? Men can be that wicked, they can put their own counterparts to tests and the tested would fall several times or would struggle to stand not knowing it had all been a set up. Will you believe that testing an innocent man is tempting God?*

*“When your fathers tested Me;
They tried Me, though they saw My work.
For forty years I was grieved with that generation,
And said, ‘It is a people who go astray in their hearts,
And they do not know My ways.’
So I swore in My wrath,
‘They shall not enter My rest.’”*

See how sore vexed the people of Israel put wrath on God. For forty years they were tempting Him. He was trying to build them, but the longer the worse. They put Him to test, tempted Him many times. They asked for water, butter, watermelon, cucumber, carrot, onion, fish, meat even the ones that were not recorded like we have mentioned. The Lord had to swear, these ones will not enter my rest. That rest there was not referring to eternal life but Canaan. Today, we have many who are still testing Him, it is lamentable to say –these ones shall not enter the eternal rest.

Prayer: Father, help me not to test You. Help me not to tempt my Lord and God, in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

How many tests can a man take before he breaks? How long will you continue to test even God? #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 1Chronicles 19-21; John 8:1-27

THE LORD'S DELIVERANCE

Friday, May 24, 2024.

2Timothy 3:10–11

LESSON: *We cannot so explain the way it vexes God when anyone puts Him to test. But we know that He does not take it with ease. One of the first things that I was pleaded not to do while I just entered college was 'Don't test lecturers. Don't try to ask too great questions.' These can so mean you are trying to embarrass the lecturer even though your heart is clean about it. It can cost more than one bargained for. But in all of the testing, we know that God saves.*

Men place tests, temptations and trials before themselves, allowing the tempter to elate tempers in themselves. If the knowledge of this is known, I think one would not so fall into being tempted or being a tempter. Many godly men have fallen, because someone somewhere heeded the tempters request. If you want to have eternal life, you wouldn't stay a barricade on another's way.

“But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.”

See the many troubles and trials the traveling apostle, as well as other Christian also, they were yet in all delivered. And those who did not get delivered got triumphed! They shall reign with the Lord at the end.

Confession: The Lord is my deliverance and I shall not live in disobedience.

FOCUS TODAY

The Lord delivers His own from divers temptations and trials. He does not leave us to fall and be put to shame. We are either delivered or we triumph. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 1Chronicles 22-24; John 8:28-59

THE FORGETFUL

Saturday, May 25, 2024.

Psalm 106:13–15

LESSON: *Many times, we are forgetful. I have this note in me sometimes when I am feeling weak or discouraged. I just try to tell myself, 'Men forget too quickly'. And this works very well for me. I wish I could stress that 'very' in letters. We forget too much the goodness of God. We forget the ways He heard us while stranded that day on the highway. We forget that we were saved and that a loving Father as He is won't let us be left alone.*

*“They soon forgot His works;
They did not wait for His counsel,
But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness,
And tested God in the desert.
And He gave them their request,
But sent leanness into their soul.”*

This was what happened to the Israelites when they forgot God's works of goodness and grace upon them. Imagine witnessing all the wonders of Egypt yet disbelieved that God had a plan of milk and honey land for them.

They so tempt and test God that He had it decided with heaven that He was going to destroy them. But for the prayers of Moses, Moses stood an intercessor for them and they were saved. When you are caught in that web of unbelief, always remember. Remember that God is good, that He won't let you fall, that it is not His plan to. It is more of our lust, unbelief and yielding to the flesh that allow the tempter in. Thank God for His faithfulness.

Prayer: Lord, help me to always remember Your wonders in time past, the testimonies I have gotten and Your grace upon my life, in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

Remember that God is good, that He won't let you fall, that it is not His plan to. I wish you won't forget that He has helped you home miraculously that past lonely night.

#focustoday

Bible in One Year: 1Chronicles 25-27; John 9:1-23

NO SEPARATION

Sunday, May 26, 2024.

Romans 8:35

LESSON: *We should rather remember the days and ways of His saving grace. We should be encouraged and full of faith even when He promised to us a heir and we are ageing towards the hundreds. We should not become like the patriarchs who disbelieved in the wilderness. They got what was deserving, even lesser than what God wanted to give to them, as God wanted to destroy them so thoroughly. They rubbed it on God's face, give us meat and cucumbers, at least Pharaoh gave us that.*

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”

Here is this popular portion of the Scripture. How popular? Oh, I do not mean it that way, it was one of the pressing verses to me after being saved. I was deeply in love with it. What can separate me from my Jesus?

Many trials would come, many temptations and weariness, even to the faith. Many would abuse you and despise you and even put you down especially when there is a bit of dependence on them. But know this, nothing should separate you, nothing can unless you allow it. You have been saved and sealed unto God in a way that cannot be broken. Remain in His grace and never be broken.

Confession: Nothing shall separate me from the love of my Jesus, I shall not fail in my faith, in Jesus' name.

FOCUS TODAY

There is nothing that can break or separate you from God and His Christ and the Holy Spirit unless you allow it. Stand strong against the waves; you have been strengthened.
#focustoday

Bible in One Year: 1Chronicles 28-29; John 9:24-41

THE TEN TRIALS (1)

Monday, May 27, 2024.

Daniel 1:14

LESSON: *We have studied the {Forty Trials} which was actually explaining how the children of Israel tested and tempted God for forty years, yea, forty years. What a people they were. And for forty years they were comparing God to Pharaoh, saying, do to us the same thing he has been doing for us. How we, because of the pleasures of this world reject the greater treasures of the kingdom to come. To actually get to treasures of the great kingdom, one must live here as though living in the wilderness.*

“So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days.”

For ten days, the four Hebrew boys were tried. Oh, you should be familiar with this story. The story of young or possibly teenage Daniel when he first entered Babylon. There was actually more of the royal blood that went to Babylon as captives, but these ones (Daniel and his three brothers) decide to stay consecrated. They refused the food of the king.

Yea, they refused the good food of the king, of princes. The same that we would have counted as honor and grace. Someone in our generation would have said, 'Wow, while others were put to the villages, I was placed with the kings, enjoying grace.' This kind of testimony is what we hear in our today's gatherings. We won't so hear that testimonies of, I decided to remain consecrated, I touched not the ungodly things.

Prayer: O Lord, give me grace to stay in faith, to remain consecrated, in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

For how long, how long can you stay consecrated? Will you even attempt to be, or will you see the privilege as grace even though it's a heavenly test? #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 2Chronicles 1-3; John 10:1-23

THE TEN TRIALS (II)

Tuesday, May 28, 2024.

Revelation 2:10

LESSON: *Yesterday, we learned from the lives of some Hebrew boys who were taken as captives. Yes, as captives but were treated as kings, as princes to the king. They were decorated and preserved with the best of foods, clothing and shelter. These ones said to themselves, we know the law of our God, we shall not eat the forbidden things that our God despise. Some would say, get to Rome, and live like the Romans. But it shouldn't be all the time. Although, today no food is unclean again, as long as it is blessed in the name of the Lord.*

“Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

Here is another trial of ten days. This one is not like the testing that the Hebrew boys were put to. This was not one of food, but of the life.

There have really been churches, Christians and faithfuls. The Church of Smyrna was sent this message. Tell me, if you were to be in this church, will you stay put or will you defect to another place? These ones passed through the testing of the fire. Tribulation for ten days, it may not so mean ten literally days, but they were to be tested.

Prayer: O Lord, help me to be victorious in my testing of faith, in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

If the test is known to God and/or it is towards any of His children, there is sure grace available to overcome it. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 2Chronicles 4-6; John 10:24-42

HE KNOWS MY WAYS

Wednesday, May 29, 2024.

Job 23:10

LESSON: *Of a truth, if the testing is from God, there would be grace given before it ever was decided. Even if the test is from the tempter, the Lord will not allow His own to fall and be crushed by the enemy. There is always grace. But, the tested could sometimes choose the grave, denying grace and its power to save. Shall we continue in sin and say grace will abound? No, no, no! No way!*

*“But He knows the way that I take;
When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.”*

This is just the truth about the testing of God and those who would not yield to the falling away. The Lord knows the extent of strength of every man, so there is sufficient grace for everyone. Hmm, Job who was an ancient man who possibly never experienced God's Holy Spirit knew that God knows his ways and all he is.

The Lord knows us, He knows you. And all that is you, He made, He is your Maker. Come to rest in Him, in His will. He knows you, I say again, He knows you. Rely on His grace in these times of troubles and trials and rejection. The Lord shall surely deliver before you, know it. Do not compromise. When something is put to the fire to be refined, it either comes out as a refined matter or as ashes from burning.

Prayer: O Lord, help me to trust in You. Help me to submit my all to You, in the name of Jesus.

FOCUS TODAY

After every testing in the fire, there is either a refined newness or ashes; the response to grace given tells the end result or outcome. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 2Chronicles 7-9; John 11:1-29

THE GODLY LIVING

Thursday, May 30, 2024.

2Timothy 3:12

LESSON: *Grace! Grace, the strength that comes in weaknesses. This also is promised. The Lord has given us grace to be strong and to overcome. Here is the matter again, like that Israelites and like any man, we forget. To even remember God's faithfulness whom we do not see is quite far. You would see the way man can change to his friend or fellow who had been so good to him or her for years. But, because of a wrong of one day, all that goodness would be forgotten.*

In no like manner will God treat you, He won't deny or put you down like a friend or family would. But we still forget His faithfulness. We do! What can separate us from God's love? What? The preacher of Romans said nothing can. Not tribulation, temptation, sickness, man, angel, or any circumstance. He was not boasting about the saying, he was already a man who have had his armor on for long and still having it.

“Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”

This came after the message or narration of a future revelation or prophecy, the one we know as Perilous Days or Times. Apostle Paul wrote this epistle which we know as the Second Letter to Timothy explaining to him what he as a pastor should expect. And what we as Christian should be prepared for. All of these perilous events are already here. There is almost nothing that is yet to be fulfilled, save the Antichrist who bares the blasphemy of God.

Confession: *I shall live godly, no matter the circumstance, in the name of Jesus!*

FOCUS TODAY

If you will live Godly and will remain Godly, expect testing, persecutions, tribulations, trial and temptations. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 2Chronicles 10-12; John 11:30-57

ONCE UPON A PHARAOH

Friday, May 31, 2024.

Psalm 105:17–19

LESSON: *The Hebrew children or youths who marched to Babylon in chains ended up becoming rulers over their mighty cities and regions. But Daniel, who was a kind of ringleader did not so quickly accept the offers of this ones until they had come to accept that his God is the only God. In fact, the only time Daniel was said to rule was during the time of a godly king Darius, then was when he ruled, and even then, there was still corruption (Daniel 6).*

Just like Daniel, there was this one man who lived centuries before him. They indeed have similar stories. This one was nevertheless taken alone, he was sold even. He was not sold because of idolatry or because of sin, but because of jealousy of his grace and glory. His brothers sold him to some Arabs (Ishmaelites), who eventually sent him to Egypt in a possibly great exchange rate, because he entered into a royal man's house.

“He sent a man before them— Joseph— who was sold as a slave. They hurt his feet with fetters, he was laid in irons. Until the time that his word came to pass, the word of the Lord tested him.”

You would be shocked to know that all that happened to Joseph was all a test from God. God was testing a man to see if he was fit, though He Himself had given him grace to survive through. Even to allowing the tempter to come in, to test him with fornication, it was all still in the test.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for grace given to me. Help me to overcome every test, in the name of Jesus!

FOCUS TODAY

There was once a boy who knew the Lord, was tested, tempted and tried, but he survived by God's grace. That boy who was imprisoned many days and years unknown in chains later became a Pharaoh, the then world's Prime Minister equivalent. #focustoday

Bible in One Year: 2Chronicles 13-14; John 12:1-26

YOU CAN BE SAVED

Have you burdens?

Have you troubles?

Have you sins and weaknesses *unthinkable*?

Come to the Lord today; He is willing to help you.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

John 3:16-18

Pray:

Lord Jesus, come into my heart and reign as Lord.
I confess my every sin (mention) and forsake them today.
Heal me O Lord, and save me till the end.
Thank You Lord for this grace, in Jesus' name I pray.

Perhaps you need further prayers and counselling, reach us today via any of the followings:

Email: focustodaydevotional@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ourdaillyfocus

Or Call/Text 2348038185888

Shalom!

"In times like these you need the Bible,
In times like these O be not idle;
Be very sure, be very sure
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!"

–Ruth Caye Jones

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God bless you!

A white ceramic mug is centered in the frame, resting on a light-colored wooden surface. The mug features a dark grey speech bubble graphic on its front. Inside the speech bubble, the words "FOCUSTODAY" are printed in a clean, white, sans-serif font. The background is softly blurred, showing a window with light coming through and a dark object, possibly a pen or pencil, on the left. The entire image is enclosed within a thin red border.

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