



Temptation, Prove, Test or trial

“Tempt” is one of the phrases in the bible if not fully studied out, it can lead to some confusion. Many read certain verses and think it is God tempting them, and they never draw an obvious distinction in that kind of tempting from the other.

The word “tempt” has come to mean an invitation of evil to many people today. This is a wrong conclusion. This very word was also translated “prove” as we see in Exodus 20:20.

First, let’s define “tempt”. This word when accurately used in line with the true nature of God means tried, tested or proved. Nothing is negative about testing as done by God.

I have overseen the testing role which involves writing tests while serving in a position of Assistant Dean of Education at Charis Bible College, Colorado. While, doing that the goal of testing is not to fail people, but to reinforce learning and certain concepts. Testing with a goal to cause one to fail would not be a godly approach.

With that, I believe there are **two types or kinds of testings**.

- a) One is the positive one as done by God what is accurately referred to as proving.
- b) The second one is the negative one as done by Satan—to kill, steal, and destroy and is referred to as tempting hence the name “Tempter” (1 Thessalonians 3:5).

Genesis 22:1 And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

- a) It says that God tempted Abraham. If we do not understand the word tempt, to many, it looks like an evil that God would tempt a man to kill his own son.

- b) This very word was also translated “prove” as we see in Exodus 20:20.

When God proves us, He does not do so with evil or with something ungodly because that would be totally against His nature.

- c) **The Lord proved/tested Abraham so he (Abraham) could know what was in his heart.**
The Lord already knew what was in his heart as an All-knowing God.
 - i) While God knew what was in Abraham’s heart, the test was for Abraham’s benefit, allowing him to grow in faith and trust in God. I can’t find another passage about God proving where it was not for the person’s benefit. We can also be assured that God does not try, prove or test us using evil.

James 1:13-14 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

- a) This passage of scripture teaches that God does not tempt us with evil.
- b) It does not say that He does not tempt us at all.

Why does He prove us?

Deuteronomy 8:2 And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

- a) This verse makes it clear that the Lord led the children of Israel in the wilderness for 40 years to humble them, prove them, “to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no”.
- b) The Lord is all-knowing, and He knew what was in their hearts but led them and proved (tested) them 40 years in the wilderness for them to know what was truly in their hearts.

- c) In most cases, if not all, God's kind of testing and proving is not for Himself but for us to see what is in our own heart so we can humble ourselves and also know what we would have done in a certain situation.
 - i) How do you know you trust Him if you never had an opportunity? It's easy to do lip service. Sometimes our hearts are not in sync with our words. As the old saying goes, You don't know what is a toothpaste tube until you squeeze it. If I never had a problem, How do you know if God would or could solve it?
 - o Am I saying that God brings things in our lives to cause us to trust Him? No, I'm not. He doesn't have to do that. We live in a fallen world that will do that, anyway. God works in our lives to bring us to a place of total dependency on Him.
 - o When we take a test, it helps us know what we got out of the study or lesson. It enforces what we have learned. It's a lot more to our benefit than anyone else's if the testing is done with the right approach.

"Tempt, trial, and test" in the New Covenant

The Word tempt in the New Testament has two Greek words of which one of those Words is predominantly used in reference to God's kind of tempting or testing.

1 Peter 1:6 "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

- a) There are two Greek words for "trial or test, temptations, prove." These words are "Purosis" and "Dokimazo."

A. Trial – Greek = "Purosis"

- a) This type of "Trial" is to break you and is used in context with Satan (James 1:13). They are called trials because the devil is "trying."

- i) This temptation is the Greek word Purosis—which is one that is used when the test, trial or temptation is evil, harmful or from the enemy.
 - o James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:
 - o 2 Corinthians 8:2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.
 - o 1 Peter 4:12 "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial, which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:"
- b) All trials and tests are from Satan and are designed to steal, kill, and destroy, nothing more, nothing less. He tempts or tests us with evil.

B. Trial - "Dokimazo" Same root "Dokimion"

- a) The way this word is used is in relation to God's kind of temptation, test or trial. This kind of test means and is designed to approve, promote, recognize as genuine, and examine.
 - i) God's heart and intent is never to hurt, harm, steal, kill, and destroy. He does not use sickness, disease, failure, misery, loss or death to test us. These are not good things and they violate James 1:13. God tests us with good, not evil.
- b) James 1:2-3 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations (Greek: "Pirasmos") Knowing this, that the trying (Greek: Dokimion or "Dokimanzo") of your faith worketh patience.
 - i) Strong's Definition for the word "Dokimion or "Dokimanzo" means to test or approve for trustworthiness.

- ii) Thayer's Definition: to test, examine, prove, scrutinise (to see whether a thing is genuine or not), as metals to recognise as genuine after examination, to approve, deem worthy.
- c) 1 Timothy 3:10 And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.
- i) This proving is not saying to have evil done to the deacons, nor is it saying that we should harm or hurt them. This is the same "Dokimanzo" which means to test or approve not with evil or hurting implication.
- d) 1 Thessalonians 2:4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.
- i) The word "trieth" here is "Dokimanzo" which means to approve.
 - ii) **Thayer Definition** for "Dokimanzo"
 - o to test, examine, prove, scrutinize (to see whether a thing is genuine or not), as metals.
 - o to recognize as genuine after examination, to approve, deem worthy

"What Satan throws at us, God takes it and uses it against him. When the devil sends you a "purosis", God will turn it into "Dokimanzo" — Pastor Rick McFarland.