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Testing: A Testimony to the World

526-B

Series: Testing



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Testing: A Testimony to the World

We come now to the final lesson on testing. We have been dealing with the principle of testing that has been outlined from the beginning to the end of Scripture. It involves so many facets of the Christian's life that as we have pursued it, many of us seem to be amazed that God has been working in our lives and teaching us continually through tests.

As a review, testing is by divine appointment. It is normally and often a commendation from God rather than a condemnation. Being initiated and limited by God, tests are thereby under the control of God.

Why does God test His children? We have dealt with ten reasons. For the sake of time, I won't review them all. Let's remember that God tests us for various reasons. He does so in order to surface our weaknesses, humble us, take us to the Word, teach us that God is, teach us to comfort others, show Satan the power of God and show angels the grace of God.

In this lesson, we come to the eleventh and final reason that God tests His children. It is, in essence, the most basic reason of all. Eight out of the ten reasons we have discussed to date have basically dealt with our growth and our response to God. They centered around us. One of them had to do with placing us strategically where God wanted us. One of them had to do with equipping us to comfort others. The other eight basically dealt with our relationship with God and our response to Him. Like Jesus, our purpose is not to be ministered unto but to minister and to give our lives, if necessary, as a ransom. The lines of a song say, "Others, Lord, yes, others, let this our motto be, Help me to live for others that I might live like Thee." God tests us because through the tests we are His revelation of Himself to the world.

He tests us in order to show Himself to others. He does this to two groups of people. He tests us to show Himself to the church because we strengthen the body one to the other. I was strengthened so much this week by watching some fellow believers in this class go through testing. I watched the godliness of their response.

God also tests us to reveal Himself to the world, to those about us that we are oftentimes unmindful. He does this in two ways.

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He does it by what He does for us, that is by His supernatural deliverance. He does it by what He does in us, that is by our supernatural response through Him. In other words, God sends tests into your life and mine because the world is looking for a supernatural God. You and I are suppose to introduce them to Him.

In this lesson, let's ask ourselves a few questions. Put yourself in this situation. Is there a difference in your response that changes other people's lives? Imagine you are in the hospital. You are supposed to get some medicine from the nurse. There is a twenty-minute delay. What is your response? You may say, "This is a test." Yes, but it is more than a test. Do you have a good attitude? This is a test because there is a nurse coming into your room looking for Jesus in a hospital bed. Maybe she has never seen Him.

Suppose you are at the scene of an accident. You are driving along and someone runs a stop sign and runs into your brand new car. Your car is crushed. You were in the right. He was in the wrong. This is a test. Most of us say this is a test because we want to see if we can respond properly to the loss of our car. We want to see if can respond properly. We think our proper response is not to get out and slug the driver of the other car. The key to this situation is whom are you most concerned about, the other person's car or yours? Are you most concerned about his rights or yours? What difference does it make who was at fault? He might be hurt. This is a test. God is. The other person may need Jesus. Your family may be in the back seat. Your children may have never seen Jesus in an accident. Now they have. What have they seen? As the policeman comes up, he may have never seen Jesus in an accident. What is your response?

Imagine you are at the grocery store. You are in the checkout line with only four items. Another person comes and shoves their way in front of you with 622 items. This is a test. We say, "But God is. God is faithful. He can keep me from whacking her on the side of the head." You turn to her and say, "Lady, I was here first." No. That lady may have been placed there by God because she needs your testimony. The person behind you in that line may have been placed there because they need a testimony. The checker may have been placed there because she needs a testimony.

You go to work. The boss calls you into his office and says, "I gave that promotion you wanted to your best friend." This is a

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test. You may say, “Well, this may be a test to see if I can keep from quitting. It may be a test to see if I can keep from flying off of the handle.” No. It is more than that. It is a test. Your boss has never seen Jesus miss a promotion before. Maybe the friend who got the promotion had needs in his life far greater than yours. Do you care enough about him to be happy for him? This is a test, but God is for the sake of other people. You go home and share with your family that you didn’t get the promotion. Your children have never seen Jesus miss a promotion before. This is their chance. This is a test.

The whole premise of this series needs to come down to the reality that the world is looking for Jesus. The tests of life pass into our lives so that they, through our responses, can see Him.

You go to the airport to catch a flight to go skiing. As you walk up to the counter and give the attendant your ticket, the computer has put you on the wrong flight. This is a test. You may say, “This is a test to see if I can handle the pressure.” It is more than that. The person behind the counter may have never seen Jesus miss an airplane. The person behind you in line may have never seen Jesus miss an airplane. This is a test, but God is, and the first thought that should come to our minds is, “God is. Would you like to meet Him?” That is the reality of our tests.

You are in a traffic jam. The car in front of you stalls. Your natural response may not be positive. Your second response could be, “This is a test. Do I keep from honking? Do I figure a way to get around them?” The problem is that you and I don’t stop to think that the person in the stalled car may be on their way to a doctor and need a ride. They may be down to their last nickel and have run out of gas. This is a test, but God is. Would you like to meet Him? That person may be placed there because they need a testimony from someone who knows God is. Your children are in the back seat of the car. They have never seen Jesus in a traffic jam. Now they have. What did they see?

The whole concept behind this lesson is that we are faced with continual tests, but the tests are not just for our benefit. Our response is for the world’s benefit, and we need to be very careful.

God shows Himself to the world through our tests in two basic ways. The first is that He reveals Himself by what He does for us. This is the elementary part of the deal. Turn to Joshua,

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Then Joshua the son of Nun sent two men as spies secretly from Shittim, saying, "Go, view the land, especially Jericho." So they went and came into the house of a harlot whose name was Rahab, and lodged there. (Joshua 2:1 NASB)

Verses 2-7 tell how Rahab protected the spies.

Now before they lay down, she came up to them on the roof, and said to the men, "I know that the Lord has given you the land, and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land have melted away before you.

"For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.

"And when we heard it, our hearts melted and no courage remained in any man any longer because of you; for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath." (Joshua 2:8-11 NASB)

God had gone before them. Because of what God had done for them, the world was afraid. The world was looking to see what God had done. The world said, "We've heard about what your God has done. We are on our knees waiting for His next move."

Here is an example of a similar passage in the Old Testament:

"And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch forth mine hand before Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them." (Exodus 7:5)

Some similar passages are Exodus 14:4 and 18 and Exodus 29:46. In the book of Ezekiel alone, the phrase, "They shall know that I am the LORD," is used 75 times.

In John 2:10 and 11, you see one of the basic reasons for the miracles. Jesus was at the wedding in Cana of Galilee where He turned the water into wine. In verse 9, we read that the headwaiter turned to the groom

and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when men have drunk freely, then that which is poorer; you have kept the good wine until now."

This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him. (John 2:10,11 NASB)

The reason God does things for us is so that others might believe in Him. Oftentimes we are afraid to share the things He

does. The way we share them is very important. Sometimes you need to share with the non-Christians where you work some of the answers to prayers in your life.

Peter was in prison in Acts 12:5-18. Peter fell asleep. When he woke, he was outside of the prison. An angel had come into the jail, loosened his bonds and taken him out of prison. The Scripture tells us that when he came to himself he had to shake his head to realize what had happened. He thought he had been dreaming. He wasn't prepared for what God had done. God had delivered him out of prison. He went to where fellow believers were praying for him. He knocked on the door to be let in. When they answered the door, they asked, "Who are you?" He answered, "I am Peter. I am out of prison." They answered, "We are busy. We are praying for Peter." They closed the door and went back to continue their prayer meeting. They had the same amount of faith we do. Peter was delivered to prove to the world that God is a deliverer.

PHASE 2- GOD TESTS US TO DEMONSTRATE THAT GOD IS

Now we want to focus on phase two. God tests us to demonstrate through our responses, that God is. God wants to know if you can have an accident well. God wants to know if you can get fired well. In Acts 7, we find that Stephen died well. Stephen's dying well was a big factor in the conversion of Saul which was a big factor in the transformation of the entire world.

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the quick, and they began gnashing their teeth at him.

But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God;

and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

But they cried out with a loud voice, and covered their ears, and they rushed upon him with one impulse.

And when they had driven him out of the city, they began stoning him, and the witnesses laid aside their robes at the feet of a young man named Saul.

And they went on stoning Stephen as he called upon the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"

And falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" And having said this, he fell asleep. (Acts 7:54-60 NASB)

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Would you be willing to go home to be with the Lord today if the next Billy Graham might be saved through your death? What about just the guy next door? It was the way Stephen died and his response to the way it happened that the world around him was transformed.

It says in the Scripture that Paul went through shipwreck as well. In Acts 27:15 we see this event. He was on his way to Italy. The ship was caught in the winds near Crete. They tied everything down.

And we being exceedingly tossed with a tempest, the next day they lightened the ship

And the third day we cast out with our own hands the tackling of the ship.

And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.

But after long abstinence Paul stood forth in the midst of them, and said, Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss.

And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man's life among you, but of the ship.

For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,

Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee.

Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me. (Acts 27:18-25)

Verse 25 is a good verse to underline if you need a memory verse. Paul was shipwrecked well. A lot of people saw Jesus stranded.

Turn to Acts 16. As we look at the life of Paul, we will see how Jesus would respond in prison. Paul and Silas were in prison. For the rest of this lesson, we will see Paul and Silas responding to their test in prison.

First of all, Paul and Silas were in the center of the will of God. In verses 1-18 we see this. In verses 1-3, Timothy is called into the ministry. In verse 5, we see growing churches and growing Christians. The churches were established in the faith and were increasing in number. In verse 7, we find that they were following the direction of the Spirit. They were told not to go into Bithynia.

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They obeyed the Spirit. In verse 9, Paul received the Macedonian vision. In verses 12-15 Lydia and her household are converted. In verses 16-18, we see direct confrontation with Satan through the life of a soothsayer. Paul and Silas are triumphant. They were in the center of the will of God.

Tests of life usually come after a great victory. This ought to be when we are able to handle it. The problem is one of presumption. Many people come to me and say, "I don't understand it. I've started having my quiet time everyday. I'm back into the Word again. I am back in fellowship. I'm doing the things I ought to be doing. I've had the worst day I've ever had. I've had all kinds of problems." What we have is a kindergarten perspective. This says, "I've been good. God ought to be good to me." That is not the way it works.

God says, "Wait a minute. You've finally put on the armor after all of these days. I'm not going to waste it. Out into the battle you go." Do you see the difference? Perspective. Paul and Silas were in the center of the will of God when they were tested.

Secondly, Paul and Silas were humiliated by the test. This may sound familiar to you. That is part of the deal. Tests are often designed to do just that. It was setting the stage for God. They were humiliated emotionally, physically and socially. In verse 20 we read:

And brought them to the magistrates, saying, These men, being Jews, do exceedingly trouble our city,

And teach customs, which are not lawful for us to receive, neither to observe, being Romans."

And the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them.

And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:

Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.

(Acts 16:20-24)

The jailer locked them tight. They were humiliated completely. You can just see Paul and Silas' brains going around. They were thinking, "This is a test."

Thirdly, with a perfect setting for a bitter spirit, Paul and Silas remembered that God is. Most of us would have the WIM

Syndrome about this situation. WIM means Woe Is Me. We would be thinking, “Here I am doing the will of God and look what happened.” But they remembered that God is. God is what? God is God in prison. What difference does it make where you are? Do you want to see Jesus in jail? Follow Paul and Silas.

Fourthly, Paul and Silas began to pray and praise God. It is a perfect cross reference for II Chronicles 20 where we read that as the people began to sing and pray, God sent ambushes about the enemy and delivered them. How many of you try singing a song when things go wrong? That sounds trite, doesn't it? Do you begin to praise God through song when the heat is really on? That is what God commands us to do in so many places. Here Paul and Silas begin to pray and sing. I think they did it for three reasons:

1- They were filled with a love for God. The setting doesn't change your love for God it just reveals it.

2- They were filled with faith in God. The setting here demanded that.

3- They sang because their primary concern was for others.

Fifthly, others will always hear if there is a difference in your response. It is found in the second half of verse 25,

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. (Acts 16:25)

The problem is that they also hear when there is not a difference. Can you imagine in the cell next to them a murderer and a thief? They must have been sitting over there thinking, “These religious fanatics are finally getting what is coming to them. That will teach them.” They may have taunted Paul and Silas a little before going to sleep. All of a sudden they hear, “I'm so happy and here is the reason why. Jesus took my burdens all away.” I'm sure they didn't sing that same song, but they did sing praises to God and Jesus. You can just imagine in the next cell hearing, “He lives! He lives! Christ Jesus lives today. He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.” You can just imagine the other prisoners' ears perking up. You can just hear them singing, “Joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart.” The other prisoners were thinking, “Good grief! What is happening?”

Sixthly, Paul and Silas were circumstantially set free. This brings us up to where we were in the last illustration. God the Deliverer moves into view. They sang. God moved. Three things

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happened in verse 26. There was a sudden earthquake so that the foundations were shaken. The doors were opened. Everyone's bands were loosed. These are the three things that happen when God moves onto the scene.

1- The foundations shook. We can turn to Psalms to see this.

In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, even into his ears.

Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations also of the hills moved and were shaken, because he was wroth.

There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.

He bowed the heavens also, and came down: and darkness was under his feet.

And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind.

He made darkness his secret place; his pavilion round about him were dark waters and thick clouds of the skies.

At the brightness that was before him his thick clouds passed, hail stones and coals of fire.

The LORD also thundered in the heavens, and the Highest gave his voice; hailstones and coals of fire.

Yea, he sent out his arrows, and scattered them; and he shot out lightnings, and discomfited them.

Then the channels of waters were seen, and the foundations of the world were discovered at Thy rebuke, O LORD, at the blast of the breath of Thy nostrils.

He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters.
(Psalm 18:6-17)

The Lord responded.

2- Doors were opened. There was a way out. That is what always happens when God comes on the scene.

3- Their bands were loosed. They were finally set free.

The interesting thing is the seventh point. Paul and Silas had a choice. They could have thought, "We can go now. God has delivered us. God has proved Himself. God is." No. They would have missed it and so would we. They said, "God delivered. We are free. Who is there around us who needs to know about Him?" They stood dead in their tracks and didn't move. They had a choice. They could give credit to God's physical deliverance. He

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delivered His children out of prison. Or, they could stand still and give credit to His spiritual deliverance and save others also. Their focus was on people.

Paul wasn't worried about Paul. Paul was saved, sanctified and satisfied. But the jailer was lost, lonely and desperate. That is who Paul was concerned about. That is who we ought to be concerned about.

Go back now to the hospital room. Go back to the scene of an accident. Go back to the store, to the office or to the home where those tests came up that we talked about earlier. The problem is not us. The problem is the people around us who are looking for Jesus. We need to think, "This is a test, but God is. Can I show Him to you?" This is what is most important. This is what Christianity is all about.

The eighth point is that Paul and Silas shared the message.
We see this in verses 27-30.

And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had fled.

But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.

Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?
(Acts 16:27-30)

He came in and said, "Paul, you are free!" Paul said, "I've been free since the Damascus Road. You are the one who is not free." Paul had prayed, and God was displayed. That is what gets man's attention. We read, "trembling, the jailer fell down."

We can also remember the story of Rahab. "What must I do to be saved? We live in fear because of your God. What is He going to do next? What can He do for me?"

The first step is to let God get their attention. Believe me, He has.

The second step is found in verse 28. Show them the love of God. Paul looked at the jailer and said, "Don't worry. We are all here. You are what is important." How quickly we tend to flee from the scene of a test. We often miss the blessing of ministering to others. Once we feel the crisis has passed we think that we are

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out of the woods and we take off. The people standing around us at the scene of the test are waiting to hear about Jesus and we are gone. Show them the love of God. I don't think the open door shocked the jailer nearly as much as Paul and Silas' open hearts.

The third step is to tell others the plan of God. Paul said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved."

The fourth step is to introduce them to the Son of God.

And they spoke unto him the word of the Lord and to all who were in his house. (Acts 16:32)

I think it would have been effective for Paul to give the jailer a tract when he was being thrown into prison, but it was more effective to give him the Word when they were free to leave and didn't.

The fifth step is to stay and see the process through.

And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his house, straightway. (Acts 16:33)

Paul stopped and said, "Let's have a baptism service. I want you to know what has happened. I want the world to know what has happened. I want to sit down and give you some follow-up material." That may be adding a little bit to it, but it is needed. Let's continue,

And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his House. (Acts 16:34)

The whole family was saved.

The sixth step is to take your time. God's timing is split-second. Again, whatever the circumstances, take time for God. Whatever situation it is we tend to take care of it quickly and then want to leave. At the scene of the accident or whatever situation we are in, we do what we have to do. We say to ourselves, "This is a test. God is. Now I can scram." We are not patiently waiting as Paul and Silas were for the perfect split-second timing of God.

And when it was day, the magistrates sent the sergeants, saying, Let those men go.

And the keeper of the prison told this saying to Paul, The magistrates have sent to let you go: now therefore depart, and go in peace."

But Paul said unto them, They have beaten us openly uncondemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prison;

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and now do they thrust us out privily? nay verily; but let them come themselves and fetch us out.

And the sergeants told these words unto the magistrates: and they feared, when they heard that they were Romans.

And they came and besought them, and brought them out, and desired them to depart out of the city.

(Acts 16:35-39)

The seventh step is to take time to encourage the brethren. We need to tell other Christians what has happened.

And they went out of the prison, and entered into the house of Lydia: and when they had seen the brethren, they comforted them, and departed.

(Acts 16:40)

In Luke 22:31-34, Jesus, knowing that Peter was going to fail Him, said, “Peter, you are going to really mess up. But when you wake up and realize you have messed up, sit up and encourage the brethren.”

In John 19:26, we see Jesus at the cross. Here He was, the Son of God being crucified for the sins of the world, yet He stopped and said to John and Mary, “Son, behold thy mother. Mother, behold thy son.” He took care of His family. He stopped to encourage others. He also said, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”

The crux of the matter is that you and I are strategically placed in tests. The reason we are there is not just to minister to us, but also to minister to the world. “This is a test, but God is. Would you like to meet Him?”

I have a poem I would like to share. One of my children said, “Pop, I’ve got you figured out. You are down to four points and a poem.”

“At midnight”, Paul and Silas prayed
“Singing praises” says the Word,
Within itself - that’s sensible,
(That men should praise the Lord.)

But read the total story
And consider if you will,
The circumstances they were in,
And that they praised Him still.

Circumstances? Selfish men
Had lied about their goals,
And said that Paul and Silas
Were troubling good men’s souls.

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And a maddened, godless people
Emotionally impressed,
Cried out in righteous anger
And demanded their arrest.
And so Paul and Silas went to jail
And beaten o'er and o'er,
They then, blood red, were cast in shame
Behind the prison door.
Into the inner chamber
With all its doors and locks,
To double-guard these harmless men
Their feet were placed in stocks.
Now take up the story, Christian,
Re-read it from God's Word,
It was in this condition that
They sang and praised the Lord.
But their eyes were on the Master
(And He was not in chains,)
And when Jesus comes on center stage
All power and hope remains.
So unmindful of the circumstance
Amidst life's darker days,
They envisioned freedom in the Lord
And they began to praise.
And as they praised, and as they sang
Their chorus joyfully,
The chains were loosed and open doors
Revealed God's men were free!
And all within the prison gained
The right to go as well,
Because two men, believing God,
A song of praise could tell.
But freedom wasn't all they sought
For Paul and Silas stayed,
To share their inner freedom
With the guard for whom they prayed.
And in that powerful moment
Engraved in history,
Came the greatest miracle of all
A guard - in Christ - set free.

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We too, are sent to prison
(Circumstantially,
And often we in bondage
Cry out in agony!
But the perfect will of God for us
Is that we learn to praise
Amidst the guards and prisoners
Who do not know God's ways.
Casting open prison doors
For God's a simple task,
And circumstances gloomy
'Ere long indeed will pass.
But if we sing amidst it all
And praise Him faithfully,
Not only we, my Christian friend,
But others can go free.
And more important as we praise
Cannot we dare to share,
The way to perfect freedom
With those who've heard us there?
Paul and Silas, thank you
May 'ere your chorus ring,
And from this day, in prison may
We learn to praise and sing.

That is the point of it all.

In closing, let's look at Paul's final prison incident and see phase three of the Christian being tested. Paul's final prison incident was a little longer. I believe that Paul became acclimated to a prison ministry in Acts 16 so that he could spend the rest of his life involved in one. His imprisonment lasted for years and changed the course of history. Paul realized that in the midst of being in prison, two things could happen. Believers could believe that God is. God is what? God is sovereign. Unbelievers could believe that God is. God is what? God is salvation.

In Philippians 1, Paul wrote, "I get excited being in prison because all of the other Christians are encouraged by the fact that I am hanging on and that God is blessing. All of the guards and other people around me are coming to know Christ because I am here. This is where I belong. This is a test but God is. I am introducing Him to others."

PHASE 3- TESTING TO DEMONSTRATE GOD JUST BEING GOD

This was phase three, the long-range test where life just goes on and on and on with no promise of better circumstances. It may be a home situation. It may be a physical infirmity. It may be a situation with children or your job. No longer is it just God delivering you so that you can say, "This is a test, but God is." No longer is it just God responding to His children at a point of crisis. Now it is God just being God morning, noon and night. God locked in chains. God eating prison food. God filled with daily disappointments. God experiencing rejection. God experiencing love for the benefit of other people.

Now Paul was saturated by the reality of the fact that God is. God is what? God is able? No, more than that. God is everything. Paul was able now to say, "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live. Yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." Paul was able to say now, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain."

Tests? Few of us have had the kind that Paul had. In II Corinthians 11:24-29, we read that Paul was beaten, shipwrecked, humiliated, starved and much more. Tests to Paul were no longer a novelty to talk about, they were a ministry to pray about. They were not a crisis to end quickly, but an opportunity to stand firm and follow through to its godly conclusion.

Tomorrow or even today, God will test you again. God will test me again. He may test us to give us His perspective. He may test us to show us our weaknesses. He may test us to humble us. He may test us to place us where we are needed. He may test us to take us to the Word. He may test us to teach us simply that God is. He may test us to equip us to comfort others. He may test us to teach us to pray. He may test us to teach Satan the power of God. He may test us to teach angels the grace of God. But above all and in all and through all, He will be testing us because the church and the world is looking for Jesus. They desperately want to know God is.

With our lives as His stage, He can demonstrate Himself in a way that, like Rahab, others will cry out, "We have heard about your God. Where is He? What will He do next?" Like the jailer they will cry out, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" You and I can be ready to say, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."

This is a test but God is. Would you like to meet Him? This is what it is all about.