

With growth comes testing

Psa 139:23-24 - Search me, O Lord, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

A period of testing will come to all children of God as we walk with the Lord and as we want to grow in him. Testing helps us mature and grow in our faith and trust in the Lord. It is a very intense period - where we will be tugged, pulled, and stretched to the max. We will not overcome this on our own capacity or with the help of another person. It is a time where we need to be totally dependent on the Lord and in him alone! It is a time when the Lord wants to get us alone and work in the secret places of our hearts. It is a very intimate time with the Lord.

Job 23:10-14 - But he knows where I am going. And when he tests me, I will come out as pure as gold. For I have stayed on God's paths; I have followed his ways and not turned aside. I have not departed from his commands but have treasured his words more than daily food. But once he has made his decision, who can change his mind? Whatever he wants to do, he does. So, he will do to me whatever he has planned.

Mal 3:3 - He will sit like a refiner of silver, burning away the dross. He will purify the Levites, refining them like gold and silver, so that they may once again offer acceptable sacrifices to the Lord.

This time is going to be a fight with our very flesh. If we look at our situation during this time with our natural eyes, we might get scared and lose this battle, and lessons will not be learnt in the process, nor will our faith grow in the Lord. We have got to look beyond the natural and look with our spiritual eyes into the supernatural. We need to know that this battle is first to be won in the supernatural and then only will victory be manifested in the natural.

It is a purifying process. This tells us that it is not going to be an easy, quick process. It is compared to the process when fire is used to test and purify gold. That fire is extremely hot. This also tells us that it will be a very painful and hard process, but in the end, the results will be beautiful and worth it. It will require us to spend time alone with the Lord and we need to allow him to work in those tough areas we don't want to look at.

Pro 17:3 - Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the Lord tests the heart.

Zer 13:8,9 - Two-third of the people in the land will be cut off and die says the Lord. But one-third will be left in the land. I will bring that group through the fire and make them

pure. I will refine them like gold. They will call on my name, and I will answer them, I will say, these are my people, and they will say The Lord is our God.

Not everyone in their Christian walk is willing to go ahead with this testing process. As soon as the test comes, they run in the other direction. They choose not to grow and instead do not become intimate with their God, due to the fear of the pain and fear of the unknown through this testing. This hinders their growth and is also the reason why people do not grow in their faith in the Lord.

Deu 8:2 – Remember how the Lord your God led you through the wilderness for these forty years, humbling you and testing you to prove your character, and to find out whether or not you would obey his commands.

We need to allow the Lord to work in us. The Holy Spirit is called our Helper. He was given to us for a reason. He lives in us. He is there to lead and guide us and teach us. All we need to do is to submit and yield to him and allow him to teach us through this journey. We need to trust in the Lord in this period as it is the only way we can learn and grow in the Lord. Our faith will grow and our trust in the Lord will grow too.

Heb 2:18 – Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing; he is able to help us when we are being tested.

1 Pet 1:6-7 - So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you have to endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold – though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So, when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honour on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

We must not run away from our God but run to him during this time. This is the only way we will overcome. Let us cling to him and draw strength from him in this period. He will work all things for our good. Our trust in him will become stronger and at the same time our faith will grow too.

Job 7:18 – For you examine us every morning and test us every moment.

Ps 26:2 – Put me on trial, Lord, and cross-examine me. Test my motives and my heart.

Jer 17:9,10 – The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? But I, the Lord, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve.