

God Tests People To See If They Will Obey Him

Sometimes God tests people to see if they will obey his law. Exod 16:4 says “[Then the Lord said to Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not.](#)” (NKJV). Many passed the test by doing exactly what God said (verses 17-18), and some failed by ignoring His directions (verse 20).

God said something similar to the Israelites in Deut 8:2 “[And you shall remember that the Lord your God led you all the way these forty years in the wilderness, to humble you and test you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not.](#)” (NKJV). Evidently this was not an unusual occurrence (Exod 15:25, 20:20, Deut 8:16, 13:3, Judges 2:22, 3:1, 3:4, Psa 17:3).

You may remember in regard to God asking Abraham to offer his son Isaac as a burnt sacrifice, Gen 22:1 says “[God tested Abraham](#)” (NKJV). God was testing Abraham to see if he really feared/loved God more than anything else (12). Do you ever think God may be testing you when He asks you (through His word) to obey him in any particular matter?

When God asked the Israelites in Josh 6:2-5 to walk around the city 13 times in 7 days before God would knock down the walls of Jericho, wasn't that in effect a test to see if they would obey Him? Because couldn't God have knocked down those walls without their walking?

When God asked Naaman (through Elisha) in II Kings 5:9-14 to dip in the Jordan River seven times to be cleansed of his leprosy, don't you think it might have been a test? Because couldn't God have cleansed Naaman without the dipping?

Isn't Num 21:4-9 the same? God told the Israelites to look at a bronze serpent on a pole and He would heal them. Is there anything about looking at a statue of a snake that normally cures snakebites? Reckon God placed this stipulation upon the Israelites' healing to test if that would obey Him?

Why did Jesus ask the blind man to “[Go, wash in the pool of Siloam](#)” (John 9:7)? Couldn't Jesus have healed him immediately just with the snap of his fingers? By now we should see God's consistent pattern. God conditions his blessings upon our faith acting, thereby us proving our allegiance to Him.

Might water baptism be the same way? God could have justified people by “faith only” as many preachers teach, but instead He says in James 2:24 our justification is “[not by faith only.](#)” As a matter of fact, every passage that tells us the purpose of water baptism teaches it is necessary to salvation:

- Mark 16:16 [He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved ...](#)

- John 3:5 **Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God**
- Acts 2:38 **Repent, and be baptized ... for the remission of sins ...**
- Acts 22:16 **arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins**
- Galatians 3:26-27 **For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**
- Col 2:11-13 **putting off ... sins ... buried ... in baptism ... forgiven ... all trespasses**
- I Peter 3:21 **baptism doth also now save us**

It appears many are failing this last test. They reason that believing Jesus can save us is good enough. They teach we don't have to actually follow through and "walk in His law" to be saved.

What happens if we fail God's tests of us?: Matt 25:46 **And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.**