

New Morning Magical – for 7-30-20

Will you pass your test?

The next letter in Paul's journey is 1 Thessalonians, and early in Chapter 2 he introduces a principle that we should examine this morning. Here's his statement in verse

3 For our entreaty is not out of deception, nor yet out of uncleanness, nor yet with guile
4 but, according as **we have been tested by God to be entrusted** with the evangel, thus
are we speaking, not as pleasing men, but **God, Who is testing our hearts.**

Paul tells us why the Father tested him and his fellow travelers: *"to be entrusted with the evangel,"* The bigger point here is this testing wasn't for the Father to discover anything; it was for Paul and the others! The Father already knows what's in everyone's heart. He is all-knowing, all-seeing, and everywhere-present! He clearly doesn't need to test anyone to learn anything for Himself; therefore, any test you undergo is for you to learn what you need to learn. The Father already knew that Paul could *"be entrusted with the evangel,"* but Paul must have needed to know it for himself and within himself in an unshakeable confidence that he would need throughout his journey.

One of my college professors told us in our first class that he'd be giving us pop tests without warning, so we'd better be prepared, and it served us well. Your faith is sure to be tested in some way, if it hasn't been already. You can't anticipate the "pop tests," or even the bigger exams, and you don't know you're in one most of the time until it's all over. Even if you spot a big exam ahead of time, you never know all the questions and challenges that can come from all directions.

Stories of testing from the Father's hand, and more.

We'll continue this exploration into testing and discipline tomorrow.

Until then:

May Yahweh bless you and keep you;
May Yahweh light up His face toward you
and be gracious to you;
May Yahweh lift His face to you
and appoint peace for you.

AMEN