

Expose 68 K32

Are You Testing Or Trusting God?

Good morning world, this is Expose 247 where we bring you illumination, we are turning the light on all the scriptures. We started a while back because we got some questions people are asking what of other videos? How do we know? Is it only prayer that you talk about?

So we are going to take the time out to explain this, that we have a lot of this videos. We started with the foundational basics, scriptures about who Christ is, “When the Testator is dead,” “The difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament.” the first eight episodes. Then we moved to the story of the prodigal father and the two lost sons in the book of Luke 15, so we have about thirty-six episodes to that effect.

And later on we started the Knock Out season, and from Knock Out season we started about seasons, about when is “God blessing you?” “When is God coming to bless?” We have like about six or seven in that. Then we moved to Thanksgiving, we knocked out every false ideologies about thanksgiving in the kingdom. And then we are in prayer. And so for prayer we have close to like twenty-six or twenty-seven episodes. So I think today is the thirty-second episodes in Knock Out season. So you have a lot to go back to, and to see that there are some other concepts that we have talked about, but in all in all, we are revealing Christ through all these things, whichever subject or theme we are talking about.

So we started on prayer and last episode, we are talking about the temptations in the holy hill, and that was the second temptation of Jesus. And so we want to continue from where we stopped yesterday, and if you missed what we shared yesterday, then you really need to quickly go to our page, Expose 247 page to know what we talked about yesterday. And now, we have started this story, the last episode, because there is no way we could really summarize this for you. So you really need to find time, find a way of downloading this to listen to this. So we are going to kick off, straightway from where we stopped.

Thank you for joining us today on this Knock Out series on prayer. Now we have to hit the ground running because in our last transmission, we are looking at the temptation that Christ was experiencing from the devil himself. And don't forget Satan has a target for bringing this temptation to Christ.

And we've said yesterday, let's reiterate that, the Bible says Jesus was tempted in all points as we are. So we are investigating the temptation of Christ not just theoretically as it were in terms of theology, we are looking at it as a kind of basis for us to understand how the devil tries to tempt us today as Christians, even for those of us who are spiritual and understand the power of prayer.

So let's get on quickly with this.

Now Matthew Chapter 4, you see yesterday we actually ended on verse 6 and verse 7. And then we are going to take it from there, I will read verse 5 again, Matthew 4 verse 5,

Matthew 4:5

5. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple.

6. And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

And then, we've actually looked at this particular verse, and we looked at where Satan hijacked this verse from, which is Psalm 91. And then it might be amazing to you that Satan quotes scriptures. Because people think just because somebody can quote scriptures, it means they are actually talking about the mind of God concerning a matter. But let's say this quickly and straightforward that atimes, the devil will quote scriptures, he will actually bring text of the scriptures to even advance his own course. So just because we are quoting scriptures, it doesn't really mean that it's in the mind of God.

And for a Christian, what we need to do is to make sure, we have understanding of the Word. The Bible says let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, not sparingly. You cannot afford to have a sparingly understanding of the Word, because if you have a shallow or a sparingly understanding of the Word, what happens is, you can give the enemy an in road, where he begins to twist and manipulate scriptures to deceive us in the place of prayers.

So in actual fact, Satan quoted this scriptures and his strategy was to actually tempt Christ by quoting scriptures. Now we've looked at the scriptures where he took it from, Psalms 91 yesterday. Please have a look at our last transmission to get further understanding on that. But what we are focusing on today is the response of Christ, the response of Christ tells us how Christ understood what Satan was trying to do.

And that gives us a great key to understand this old temptation, how Christ perceived Satan's temptation. The response of Christ gives us a clue.

See what Christ responded with.

Matthew 4 Verse 7,

7. Jesus said unto him, it is written again, Thou shall not tempt the Lord thy God.

Jesus said unto him,

That is the devil. Jesus said to the devil.

It is written again, Thou shall not tempt the Lord thy God.

Now, if you have some other translations of the scriptures, or some other versions, they will simply use the word, **you shall not test the Lord your God**. It's the same thing. So you either call it you shall not tempt the Lord your God, you shall not test the Lord your God. It's the same thing. So Christ was simply saying to the devil, I understand what you are trying to do. You are trying to make me, to actually test my God.

Now, this is where we have to break this down so we can understand. Christ Jesus perceived what Satan was trying to do with him as a means of just trying to test the Lord. Now again, let's look at what Satan asked Christ to do. All he asked Jesus to do was to throw himself down from the top of the temple, and he is simply asked Christ to make a demand on the Father's protection. And then the question you are asking, how does that amount to you testing the Lord your God?

Now, we need to know where Christ quoted this from and see the context. Now, if you look at it, I will read Matthew 4:7 again.

Jesus said you shall not test the Lord your God.

There are three things we are going to look at, in this testing the Lord your God.

The first thing is, how does the request of the devil to Jesus amount to testing God? What does it mean to test God? And secondly, what is the implication for actually testing God? And then, thirdly what is the way out, that God gave us so that we don't fall for this temptation of the devil?

Now, I think before we go into looking at what is it actually to test the Lord your God? How does this request of the devil come down to just testing God? I want us to look at something quickly, what is the implication? I mean what is Satan trying to

achieve with Christ by making him to test God? If we understand the implication, then you might be able to understand why is so significant that we look at this today especially for those who actually believe, God can come through for them in any situation.

Now, there is something I want us to look at, 1Corinthians 10 quickly,

Now you see the reasons, I am just trying to drive a motivation in our spirit, the motivation is why should we look at it? What is it significant?

Look at 1Corinthians 10 and see what happen.

Now, before we look at what is it to test God? What is Satan trying to achieve if Christ fell for this temptation.

Now look at 1Corinthians Chapter 10, you can read from verse 1.

1Corinthians 10:1

1. Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea.

2. And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

Now, watch the word baptized. They underwent a baptism. Don't forget that Jesus underwent a baptism, because technically before Matthew Chapter 4. Matthew Chapter 3 tells us about Christ Jesus that he went to Jordan and he was baptized and the Holy Ghost came down upon him in form of a dove, the Father approved him. That is what happened. There was a baptism there, and there was an approval of the Father there.

And he said the Israelites they actually did went through the same approval, the same baptism. The Bible says in that 1Corinthians 10, that the same way we are baptized into Christ, they too were baptized into Moses in the Red sea, it's the same analogy.

Now go on, what does it say next?

3. And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

4. And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

Now go to verse 9, now watch this, this is why we are looking at this second temptation of Christ, what is the implication for your spiritual life as a Christian.

Look at verse 9 quickly,

9. Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents

Oh, he says see, lets us not end up... Now like I said, if you have other translations, that word tempt has always been translated as the word test. It's the same thing. Now don't tempt Christ. Now, he says don't put your Lord God to test.

Now, why should I not do that? Why do you need to listen to what we are transmitting today? See what he says as the implication.

Watch it.

Neither let us tempt Christ,

What is going to happen if I do?

As some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents

Then you are going to understand very soon who those men are. We are going to go there very soon. Now what happens if you tempt Christ, what happens if you tempt the Lord your God.

and were destroyed of serpents

See, what I have actually trying to do by the Holy Ghost is to drive a motivation in your spirit for why we need to figure out why you should not test the Lord your God. Because you wonder, why did Jesus Christ have to tell Satan in Matthew Chapter 4 verse 7 that thou shalt not test the Lord your God? Why is Jesus saying that? Well, now we see 1Corinthians 10. 1Corinthians 10 tells you that when people test the Lord your God, they open up the road for the destroyer, for the serpent to access their life.

Now you see, there is something we need to highlight and it's this. Now for we that we are in the New Covenant, and I think we need to point that out. In the New Covenant of Christ Jesus, there is nothing we can do to actually make God bless us more or bless us less. Let's say this because when you see something like this that says that they were destroyed by the destroyer, are we simply trying to say there is something I can do or not do that can make God to destroy me?

Well, let us say this, the Bible tells us in Romans Chapter 5, that actually from Adam to Moses, God wasn't counting sins against men. And actually what happens is, and also when Christ came, 2Corinthians 5 tells us that **God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not imputing their sin against them anymore.** In the New Covenant, God is not counting your sins against you anymore, but there is one thing that comes up very significantly. Romans 5 says even though there was no law from

Adam to Moses, and if there is no law, sin is not imputed, but he says nevertheless death reign from Adam to Moses. It means death reign even God was not counting the sin against men, but death was still reigning.

What am simply trying to tell you is this, if people tempt God, if you put the Lord God to test, 1Corinthians 10 says it open you up for destruction. It opens you up. Not because God says I will destroy you because you are tempting me, No! That is not the New Covenant, God will not destroy you because you are testing him, the Bible says when you do this, when you tempt the Lord your God, you open yourself up.

So we now understand what Satan was trying to do with Christ Jesus. Jesus said to Satan in Matthew Chapter 4, I know what you are trying to do, you are trying to make me test the Lord my God. I wouldn't do it, because I know you are trying to create an in road into my life as we see in 1Corinthinas 10 verse 9.

What we've done now is to create in you a desire and a hunger to understand why should you not test the Lord your God? Because the Bible says if you do, you open yourself up according to 1Corinthians 10:9. So the question we are asking is, what is it? How does a Christian test the Lord is God? How does just petitioning your Father, asking him to come through for you in protecting you, he says he will send his angels to give them charge over you, and the Bible says Satan was trying to use that to make Jesus to test the Lord his God.

Now let's see what Jesus quoted. Jesus quoted this place in the Old Testament. Now he says, thou shall not put the Lord your God to test.

Where is that from? I mean if you have some other translations, even some Bible that have topical index Bibles, some other one indicate where this was quoted from. It will tell you that it was quoted from Deuteronomy Chapter 6 verse 16.

But before you go there, I just want to sensitize our viewers to 1Corinthians Chapter 10 and then maybe to make them to understand, and now that we've been saying it for the past episode, telling us test comes in different ways and come in different places.

Like we said yesterday, it was in the holy city, opening our eyes to that. If we look at the history of the story that was recorded here, the event that was recorded in 1Corinthains 10, am sure the people never knew then, when they were going through their daily life, and all those things that were coming at them, the pressure. They never knew it was a testing of the Lord, I hope if they had known that, that event is like a testing of the Lord, they were sensitive to know that, they would not be destroyed by the serpent like this. Because some of those things they are taking as everyday life, just like the normal pressure and so they responded that way.

And so we are trying to sensitize you this morning to understand that things are coming at you, whether in the holy city or out of the holy city, those one that are mark or not mark, that you cannot afford not to be sensitive. You cannot afford not to be spiritually alert and be aware just like we are talking about Colossians that you be aware so that you will not be spoilt. So that you will not be spoilt by serpents, to be destroy by serpents, if you really don't know that those things were test directed, you know, those things, your response might be a test, testing the Lord, when you feel like you are just responding naturally and you can just go away with it. You know there are consequences with every response. And so there are consequences for not even having the knowledge to know that this is a test of the Lord. That is the thing.

I hope if they had known that incident was a test of the Lord, may be they would have known and they would not have fallen prey to this. So there are consequences that our response to things that are coming at us. So we need to be aware and be sensitive to know this is a test of the Lord, and we do accordingly so that we will not open ourselves, you know we will not be spoilt by serpent, and that is what we are doing in Knock Out Season.

I think our viewers understood the things she actually mentioned because I think there are always... you see in the body of Christ today, there seem to be two extremes to what people look like the issues of how God deal with us in terms of our responses. Some people hold the notion that you've got to make sure that unless you do everything perfectly well, God will not favor you. So you have to act right, think right, do right and be perfect in your ways so that you can gain God's favor. Well, we don't see that in the New Covenant, in the New Covenant God only blesses you on how he sees Christ. Your faith in Christ is what open you up to God's blessing. It's not because whether you do this or did that.

Some people actually says, well, actually the other extreme is to say, it doesn't matter what you do, it doesn't matter what you say as long as you just believe in Christ, it will be fine with you. That is true on God's side, but on your side is not true. Because on your side if you do things, the Bible says in Romans 5 that death reign from Adam to Moses, even though God was not imputing sin. It means sin by itself is toxic. It's toxic. It has consequences. God doesn't have to supervise it. And the same thing that happens. This is where we have to balance it.

So that means for example, the Bible says, if you tempt Christ, if you test the Lord your God, you can open yourself up to destroyer. Can you see that?

That is the reason why this issue we are looking at this morning then become critical. If we listen to what the enemy has to say. But don't forget this is about spiritual

matters. Don't forget this is not about a situation where you are in a compromising condition as it were, outside in the world. This is about Satan asking Jesus to make a demand on the Father's protection. Can you see that? It can't be more spiritual than that.

It can't be more spiritual than you believe in God for protection, and Jesus decoded and said this is simply a means of Satan trying make me test my God. So now we know the reason why we cannot afford not to understand this thing because according to 1Corinthians 10:9, if we don't understand them, we can open ourselves up to serpent, destroyer, not because God is the one supervising, is just because we open ourselves up. That is why you need to follow us through this.

Like I said, if you have a scriptures that is a reference annotated Bible, it will tell you that this response of Christ was quoted from Deuteronomy Chapter 6. So let's follow through. Have you notice that Christ Jesus was always responding from Deuteronomy. In the first temptation, he responded from Deuteronomy, the second one he responded again from Deuteronomy.

Let's look at Chapter 6 verse 16. Now, follow us through, what we are looking at is, don't forget we are on a fact finding mission. We are on a fact fining mission. We are trying to figure out, how does the request of Satan to Jesus amount to putting God to test? That is where we are, fact finding mission.

Don't forget we are trying to figure where Christ quoted it from, where Christ quoted it from will be a big indication of what Satan was trying to do.

Deuteronomy 6:16

16. Ye shall not tempt the Lord your God, as ye tempted him in Massah.

Now again like I said, you might want to put that as you shall not test the Lord your God. In fact, if you are reading NIV, the Message translation, they call it test the Lord your God. And I think that is much more easy to understand with.

You shall not test the Lord your God.

Go on please

As ye tempted him in Massah.

Ok now we know. Thank you for that. Now again the scripture the will interpret scripture. I know people have a lot of interpretation for this temptation. But please let's follow the evidence where it leads, here it says don't test the Lord your God as you did in Massah. So it means then, if we want to figure out how someone can put

God to test, we need to see what happen in Massah. That is it. All roads lead to Massah now, because that is where people actually put God to test.

So let's look at this. So it gives us a clue of where it happens. So it means when Jesus responded to the devil in Mathew Chapter 4 verse 7 to say don't put the Lord God to test. It means Christ was referring to the episode in Massah. That is it. And so, all the road leads to Massah. Let's go to Massah. Follow us down to Massah and figure out what happened.

Let's go to Exodus 17, that is where it all started. That is where it actually clarify for us what it means for a Christian or somebody to put God in the test seat. That is it. And the Bible says you can't afford to do that.

In 1Corinthians 10:9, if you do that in your spiritual life, and you put God to test, you can open yourself up to destroyer.

Exodus 17, please read from verse 1. Here we are in Massah at the moment. That is where we are.

Exodus 17

1. And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the Lord, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink.

So they are following God's instruction now...

and there was no water for the people to drink.

There was no water for them to drink. There is scarcity. This is normal. I mean its normal to hit scarcity and limitation.

Go on please,

2. Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the Lord?

Ok, so here we go. Here we have the first indication. Here was Moses simply saying, why are you chiding with me? I mean, if you have some other translations why are you pestering me? That is what Moses said. And Moses said why are you pestering me? You wonder what is the problem with Moses himself, because I don't think there is anything wrong, people have a scarcity, they are thirsty, there is no water. I mean what is wrong with them actually asking Moses where is water? We can't just hide the fact that we have a need. That is why we've been saying on our transmission. I mean,

don't misquote us, on this transmission we've been talking about the temptation of Christ and how Satan want to drag us into unbelief.

We have at any time denied the reality of the human need. One of the reasons why prayer exist, we have different types of prayer. We've talk about thanksgiving prayer in the past transmission. One of the reason why prayer exists, we have petition prayer, is a means to make our request know to the Father. There is nothing is wrong with them saying they are thirsty. There is nothing with that. It seems that Moses was quite quick to say why are you testing God?

You wonder, is there something that Moses heard that we have not heard yet because this doesn't look kind of extraordinary. There must be something else to this. Maybe Moses heard something that we've even not even heard yet.

Let's go on please,

3. And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?

Now, watch what they are saying now,

Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?

Ok, it means they are telling Moses, it seems you are not even sure that your God has a master plan. We are not even sure whether he knows what he's doing. He must have brought us here and he forgot the fact that we need to drink water. Or it seems that your God doesn't have so much of a strategy in place. So you see, we begin them coming out of their shell now.

This was what Moses decoded in what they said in the first place. As you may put it, lack of confidence in the system of God, if you want to put it that way. Lack of trust in God's system. You know, saying the fact that, even though we know you brought us out, we are not even sure whether you know what you are doing as the Father. Watch it! Watch the display of lack of trust and lack of confidence in what God is doing with them in bringing them on their journey to the promise land.

Go on please,

4. And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, what shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.

5. And the Lord said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand and go.

The same rod that you used to smite the river. You might think that the river he was talking about in that case was when Moses actually turned water to blood, that is not... if you read that place in Egypt, Moses was asked to stretch the rod to the river, all the river in Egypt for them to turn to blood. He didn't smite. The only time he smote, it was when he was at the red sea. That is when he actually smote.

So don't forget this take us back to 1Corinthians 10 that these people experience the baptism in the Red sea. So here was God referring Moses again back to the revelation of the baptism of the fact that you see, this people have been baptized already into this system. So it tells him about the fact that, you know the same rod you use, let's take them back to the foundation.

Now go on,

6. Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

7. And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the Lord, saying, is the Lord among us or not?

That is it. So that is where Christ... so when Christ was speaking to Satan in Matthew Chapter 4, what Satan was trying to do was drag Jesus to Massah technically here. Now that is why... how did we know that? Because Jesus quoted a verse of Deuteronomy 6:16 that, the Bible said that episode that Christ mentioned in Matthew 4:7 actually took place in Massah. So Christ and Satan were both dealing with Massah in Matthew 4:7.

Now see what he says,

And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the Lord, saying, is the Lord among us or not?

Because they tempted the Lord, because they test the Lord, they put the Lord to test,

Go on,

How do we know they test the word?

Saying...

That is the word.

Now, viewers all over the world. Watch this. Is this what we say? Is this what you say? Is this what we say in the place of prayer? Is this what we say as Christians?

Now, if you say what they say now, this is how to test the Lord. Saying... this is how to test the Lord, saying...

Now, what did they say?

Saying...

Now watch this,

Is the Lord among us or not?

Ok so we understand now. I mean, for some of us who have scientific minds, or some of us who believe in research and analysis. You know when you want to test something, I mean if somebody tells you is that thing true or not? All you do is go to laboratory or you go to... if you are doing social science research or you are not a scientist, you can go to the field and make some test, some experiment.

And so for example, is that thing there or not? It's that simple. Do a test and watch the observation and come to a conclusion. The Bible says what they were trying to do is here, they are asking a question, is God among us or not? I mean for example, we are testing, we've come to a point of limitation in the wilderness. Well, we just want to put God to test. We have to do some experiment with God. Let's put God... it seems like they putting God in the hot seat.

I mean, let's say well, is he among us? Let's do some experiment to know whether he's among us or not. Well, if we are thirsty, if we come to a place where he's taking us to the promise land and we have hit a road block and limitations all around. I mean, it means is not among us. So let's use our need or our situation as an experiment on God's favour. I mean, our needs, our condition to test whether God is for us or not. Let's use our needs.

Now, when Christians use their need and their circumstances as a means to judge whether God is faithful or not, or to judge whether God is with us or not, if your needs and your circumstances become your specimen to test God's faithfulness or God's favour, the Bible says you've come to that point. You are putting the Lord God to test.

You are the one testing God. You are putting God on the hot seat. That is what they've come into. That is what they said. The Bible said they tested the Lord God

saying... See! Saying.... saying... and may I say this, this is how so many people think, you see, we've come to the place of prayer, you are coming to say, I think If I have so much around me, or if I have so much money in my bank account, it means I am favor of God. If there is not much money in my bank account, that means am not favor of God. That is how people think. You are using your circumstance to actually prove whether God is faithful or not, or whether God has favour you or not, when the Bible says that you have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus but yet we are still resorting to using our circumstances as a means to actually judge whether Ok, is God with us? That is what they said, or is he not with us. Ok how do we know? Let's use our circumstance to prove him. The Bible says when we do that, we are actually setting God up for test. We are the one doing the test of God. We are the one putting God in the hot seat.

So what was Satan trying to tell Jesus in Matthew 4:7? Satan says well, you want to know God is with you Jesus? You want to test? You can put God to test, let's do an experiment on God. Can you see? Throw yourself down from the top of the temple, if he catches you, it means he is with you. If he doesn't catch you, that means he is not with you, let's do a test on him. That is what Satan said. Jesus said to Satan you can't do that. My circumstance, my situation can never be a means to actually test God or do an experiment on God's faithfulness. We cannot do that.

And as Christians in the place of prayer, in the place of petitioning God for things in the place of prayer, we cannot use our circumstances to actually put God, to do an experiment on God's faithfulness or unfaithfulness. And that is what this whole thing is all about.

Yes, I will like to quickly remind our viewers that what we are sharing, the temptation of Jesus in Matthew Chapter 4 is shadowing our own temptation. So you cannot remove yourself from what is happening in Matthew Chapter 4, or what is happening in Exodus in Meribah and Massah, because that is what you are going through. It mirrors your own journey. It mirrors your journey of when you come to a place, you have heard the Word of the Lord, and you have even seen the hand of the Lord demonstrated and you have seen the Lord bringing you forth to a place and you hit the road block, and you thirsted even for the cattle, for things, people around you, even not for yourself alone, you come into that place of lack, and so you have that experiential need.

And so we can see that today and we can be able to bring ourselves into it and see how we should respond. That we cannot use those experience, we cannot use our lack to judge the faithfulness of God. We cannot use it to judge the presence of God, that is

what they said, if the Lord is with you. So they use that circumstance to see if the Lord is with them. And setting aside his covenant, you know that is the kind of a thing. Because for you to use that, for you to come to the point of you want to prove and do experiment. That means you have set aside those things infallible fruits, the immutable counsel of the Lord which was impossible for him to lie, you are setting it aside and said No! We are just going to discredit all the Word.

You know, even they said, the mountain can remove, his Word, his everlasting kindness will not be removed from you. But you just want to set that aside just in moment of need and say, not that is not enough, all those proofs are not enough. And even if the world can go away, the Word will remain the same. Yes, we are saying you are going to set that aside, because those are proof and those infallible proof and evidence, yes you want to set aside by using the needs to judge, using as the only evidence you know that is the thing. Using the needs, our moment of needs as a credible evidence whether God is faithful or not faithful, whether is present or not present. Whether he has shown you favor or not.

Some Christians if you ask some Christians are you favored or not? Are you under God's favour? They will think about it. They will say well, am not sure, the person that will answer is actually under God's favor, is the one that think he has received so many things from people or he's in a position psychologically, financially, physically that is better than others. He said am favoured. The one that does not have says am not favour. And we have come to become a generation of Christians who actually judging or testing or putting God to test using our circumstances.

And in other words, you cannot even use the abundance to judge and say that the abundance and because this is happening, we see this miraculous, we see the fire and everything and say God is there, in all these ones. We cannot use that at all. We just have to fall back on his testimonies of who he is and what he says and that is the thing. And that is why it must become paramount to us, we cannot sideline this testimonies of the identity of God and said no, I just put it as back burner. No! No! No!

So we must forever, be focusing on who he is, and what is worthy. And we are going to elevate it above whether he is in abundance or lack. This is the credible evidence. That is the infallible proof of his person, his identity and what he has said.

Thank you for that.

Now here we now know, we are having clues now. That is why I said, let the scriptures interpret scriptures. We are having strong clues about what Jesus

understood as Satan was trying to do with him in Matthew Chapter 4 verse 7. And let us say this before we go on to other verses quickly.

Satan is already in the process, all the time attempting on the souls of every Christians the same strategy. All he does is to tell us that we should then end up using our situation to come to a conclusion about what God is doing in our lives, or what God did in Christ about our lives.

And then there is something we need to think about, as long as we allow ourselves to fall for such temptation, 1Corinthians 10:9 says that thing creates an inroad for the destroyer in our lives.

So it's not bad enough to have test, is not bad enough you know, that just because you have thirst, you should not do away with and think of having water and have abundance and everything, that is not the problem. It was not because they were thirsty, it was not because they actually made a request, that wasn't the problem. So you cannot go off from this and feeling like, because you were thirsty, that is the problem. They will rather not say anything about thirsty. We are not promoting that. We are not encouraging you to die in your thirst. We are not encouraging you not to petition and not to pray, and not to have things. But the thing is that, any of those prayer, if it is conjure in a way in testing the Lord, putting the Lord on the hot seat, let see whether God is faithful or not. If the way of going about it, is about experimenting to put the Lord in test, that is what this thing is against and that is what we are talking about.

Thank you for that.

And you see, in our current generation, have you noticed that, there are some people who don't even believe in God, people who actually claim that they lack believing in God and they come to the conclusion if there is a God why is there is so much suffering? Those kind of questions are coming from here. They say if there is a God, why is so much suffering, if there is a God why are we in thirst in Massah? Is he with us or is he not with us? And they begin to actually analyze God based on that. Anytime we do that, we are being drag by the enemy into putting God to test.

And let's us say before we go on quickly, and the thing is this, don't forget this is happening in the place of request. This is because if you think like we said before that temptation as gone far beyond the four walls of you being out there, in situations that you think there is so much evil, so much sin and you think am going to make sure am not tempted.

Well, temptation has actually gone topnotch. In this case, this is happening in the place of request. They were making request through Moses to God. It means how can you then be tested in the place of prayer? How can you be praying to God for the solution to a problem or for God to come through in a circumstances and again, the Bible says your request to God could actually be you putting God to test?

And that is what we've seen that Satan was trying to make Jesus to do. He says, Jesus if you can just throw yourself down from the top of the temple, let's see whether God will pick you or not, has he not said so? And then he's saying, test him and confirm whether he is with you or not. But don't forget one thing, right before that Matthew 4:7 in Matthew Chapter 3, the preceding Chapter, the very last verse told us that God said that is my beloved son, this is my son in whom am well pleased, am there with him all the time but here was Satan asking Christ to put that to test to see if what God said is true or not.

So it's good that you mention that part and I need to reiterate that for our viewers to know that, it's not only about people feel like ok, you can only be tempted when you are having request maybe tantamount to lust or greed or to excess, but you see this was basic need. They just need for survival, they need thirst, they were thirsty, they need water.

Some people say, well, you can understand temptation when you want to get more and above, when you want to live in luxury, when you want to get this and so the lust and greed or some one of those things, when you are looking for and above things, you want to have a better experience and everything... so people start watching it, then you can really go into temptation so don't ever go into that area. But feel like you can never even get into any temptation and be in a tempting position when you are even asking for just basic need, that I just want to survive that I just need water. But we can find that just for survival they fell into that sin. It is a mentality, the ideology.

Yes, is not about what you request for most of the time. It's about what you are prayer is generating and what your prayer is seeing. If your prayer is just putting the Lord in test and come and show yourself. You see prayer point directly like that, come and show yourself if you are there, if you are my God, if you are my Father, if you actually my savior, then show yourself. This is the time to show that you are the savior, that you can deliver. So we have people like that and actually you know, they just call out to God, even that way, they are not even mincing words what is about it and say if you are God show yourself, prove yourself to me and everything like that. So what you are just doing is, you are just in this wilderness of Massah and you are putting the Lord to test.

Some people can even say, if God if you truly call me I want you to show yourself and show yourself mighty, I mean how can we come to that point in the place of payer? Where we say God, if you truly my God, if you truly love me, I want you to show yourself in this situation. Bible says when we do things like that, instead of we undergoing testing, we are the on trying to test God. We are the one trying to put God in a hot seat, trying to do an experiment.

And you see, we cannot afford to do such thing because this is the reason, those things display a lack of trust, a lack of confidence on God's system. Before you had a need, before you had a situation, before you hit a road block. God was, is and will always be faithful, because he can never deny himself. God did everything he will do in Christ Jesus. So you are not going to come to a point of saying God I want you to show forth yourself, so that I can know or you can prove yourself in this situation.

In this particular Exodus 17, what we see is, to the Israelites, it was a matter of, if there was water in the wilderness then God is with us, if we are thirsty, then he is not with us. This is what they come to. They did an experiment and that is how experiment work in real world. People do experiment, if this is turning red, it shows that that is... if it is truing blue, it means that... that is people do experiment, they say well, if we are not thirsty that means God is with us, if we are thirsty is not here with us. That is the conclusion they came to experimentally and that is why the Bible say they were testing, doing an experiment on God.

Some people have been living off their life habitually testing the Lord, because you know, we see they actually got water. And so some people are saying they do that request they get it, Lord if you are the one, show up now. If you are my father if you are the one that called me and all those things, they get those things done, but they don't know ... but we know that they got these things and we know what happen to them. So the fact that you are even getting result with it, habitually abusing, testing the Lord does not mean that you are off the hook of temptation.

So it's better for us to know this. It's not about what comes out of it, that ok, yes no matter what that I got what I wanted. You don't want to get what you wanted and have leanness unto your soul and opening yourself up to serpent. That is it.

They have all those things, they have leanness on their soul, they have the water, they actually got the water whichever way, so is not about result. So that let the result speak. The result does not justify the end. You know that means that I got it.

Thank you for that.

Now Romans Chapter 8, we are going to look at something quickly, don't forget we are trying to deal with how Christ was able to walk out of what Satan was trying to use on him and like we said, its applicable to all of us.

Romans 8:31

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

So let's see what the New Covenant is actually trying to present to us in terms of how you come to a confirmation or a conclusion of the fact that surely you can be guaranteed that God is on your side. How did we know that?

Now you know, what he would have said next, you would have thought he will say yeah, how did you know God is for you? Well, it means when things are working fine for you, you've got the biggest this, you've got the longest of that, and everything is falling in place in your life and destiny, oh yes, you can be sure that God is for you. The enemy has not destroy you, the enemy has not consumed you, you have not become a failure in life, you can be sure God is for you.

See what he says here, how we can be sure that God is for us and never against us,

See what he says?

32. He that spared not his own son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things.

Oh well, this doesn't seem to put you and I, in the picture. It doesn't seem to put you and I in the picture. It's not even waiting to see what happen to our circumstances. It's not even waiting to what happen in our situation, before he make that conclusion by the Holy Ghost.

The Apostle Paul made that conclusion that God is for you and not against you only on one premise, only on one singular premise and what is the premise? If God didn't spare his son, I mean, he said that is the reason you can be sure. So why are you doing experiment, I mean he said, the reason you can be guaranty that he is for you and he can never be against you is not because am going to find out in your circumstance, Paul says let not discuss about what you are going through, let's discuss about what Christ went through, and what Christ went through can become your... if you are somebody that is so focus on experiment.

Well, the best experiment you can do is the experiment of the fact that if God did not spare his son because of you, then you can be sure God is with you... it means all that you deserve, for all your life, you don't deserve the goodness of God. You don't

deserve God's favour. The Bible says there is no not one that is good, no not one, no man, no matter how perfect they think they are, deserve the goodness of God.

If you think you deserve God's goodness, you don't know how good God is. It means your goodness is all like filthy rag, your righteousness like filthy rag before the Lord. So every goodness that you get today from God, is not because of you is because of Christ obedience on the cross. So the Bible is simply saying if you are not too sure if God is for you, see what he did to his son.

Isaiah tells us that the visage of Jesus was marred beyond measure because of him No! Because of you. The Bible says he that knew no sin was made sin so that you can become God's righteousness. So are you still doubting if God is for you, see what he did to his son because of you, see what he had to make his son go through because of you.

So if you are still in doubt if he is for you, check out what happen to Christ, check out the pain, check out the suffering, check out the death of the cross and then stop doubting whether God is in your side or not. And this is what Paul is saying, if you are going to do experiment, do this kind of experiment, not the experiment of now trying to use your circumstances to judge God's faithfulness. You can't do that and that is what the scripture tells us there.

So I will just like to tell our viewers that, that is the end of discussion here, because verse 31 was saying, what shall we say to this, so when you have situation like that that want to push you to go into an experiment, you know there is an end of discussion and you have the final result. You have to go to that archive that tells you that he did not spare his son, and that is the conclusion. Because he could not spare his son, that was the evidence to show that he's present with you.

So what shall we say to these things? When those things are coming at you, things that might want to push you to the point to doing experiment, to want to judge whether is with you or not, just remember Romans 8:31 that what you can always say to this, remember that he did not spare his own son, he put his son through something because of you, common! You can't doubt whether he is on your side.

So just remember there was an experiment that was concluded, and that was the experiment he in which he gave up his son for you. So remember that is the end of your own search, the end of your own discussion, the end of your own search and know that there is one, he's concluded, there is one, its finished. He prove it for you and gave up his son, to show how much he is on your side. So he is ready to give his son to get you, you know bringing many sons to glory.

So he has done for that you. That is the experiment since you are keen on doing experimenting, fine! that is the way that he speaks to you. You want experiment, that is good. You want proof, that is your proof. That is the infallible proof to know that, since you are backing about that. He gave up his son, there is an experiment here, and so we are reminding you of that experiment, he gave up his son for you. So that is the end of every test, that is the end of discussion. Will that be settled in your heart today?

You see there is one scripture we need to talk about. You see, Jesus when he was on the cross, he said my Father, my Father why have you forsaken me? I know... am proud of them, am proud of Christian who believe strongly that the Bible say we are accepted in the beloved. We quote that scripture we say yes! thank you father, am accepted, is not like until I do three things or five things or I fast long enough before God can accept me, I know people are talking about the fact that if you do this and do that, then we will make heaven, they say heaven at last or heaven days and that. But you see for those of us who believe in the scriptures, that the Bible says we are already accepted in the beloved, not then, not later, now! Accepted is a past tense.

When we say things like that, atimes what we do not take into cognizance is that somebody was forsaken so that we can be accepted, can you see that? Jesus said my Father, my Father why have you forsaken you? My acceptance was him forsaken. Can you see that? I was accepted because he was forsaken. It means, he took on my being forsaken so that I can be accepted. And this is what we know. And the Bible says this is your guarantee for you to know he is on your side. Now don't ponder to use your circumstances then, you cannot use that to judge God's faithfulness. God is faithful on the basis of the fact that he is for you.

Now, the reason why we are saying this, you see in the 21st century context, in the modern day church. You see, one of the reason when you see so many people praying and praying and praying and then fasting and fasting and all these things people do, in most cases, they are just simply means to prove God's faithfulness. They are means to put God on the hot seat, to test that God is good, to test that God is faithful, to test that God is with us. That is what most people exercise their energy for in the place of prayer. The Bible says when you do such thing, you are walking in unbelief, you are being tempted. You are being drag by the enemy. Those things cannot simply be the means for you to judge whether God is faithful or not. They are just the means for you to receive what God's faithfulness has actually paid for in Christ Jesus. And that is what we seen there.

Now let's go quickly. So now we know, before we go on, because we are still on the issue of test. Don't forget we are still trying, we've actually shown you by the

scriptures, we put a handle on what it means to put the Lord God to test, and this is what Satan was attempting with Christ in the wilderness, to bring Christ to the point of doing experiment to test if God is faithful or not.

I just remember something I read this week, some of the church circle. So you know some people they really don't know, maybe the religious side, they really don't have a problem in telling you that oh don't fall into sin which we are, you must not commit sin, that is it, we stand by that because is God's Word, he said because you cannot hide your sin from God, God is ever present with you, they know all those verses that says where can I hide from your presence? Psalm and everything like that.

But you know find, they find it hard to see that they can understand God's abiding presence is with them and the same person will say oh God will see you wherever you go, if you do this, you cannot hide this from the Lord, you see them raising prayer points, God come and show yourself forth. You wonder, can't you understand this same scriptures. When his eye is beholding, wherever his eye, then you have the abiding presence, there is a disjoin to understand that you can have the abiding presence of God in this despite the scriptures like this.

So we need to understand that even in our prayer points the way we word it, and from what comes from our heart are the same thing because somebody might have the same task and coming to the Lord in the same place of prayer and some will be tempting the Lord and the other will not be.

So is not about the test, because we can be in the same situation but the way we word it, our mentality about it, that will really want, some people feel like so pressing, they can get God like just pushing him and say you must do this, come and prove yourself and feel like he is like our carnal and fathers or master and everything like that. Show yourself and they want him to prove and everybody want to prove. He is God by himself. So he doesn't need to impress you. You understand. He is God by himself.

So he doesn't need to impress you. So he is not going to earn point and come to your good book or come to your good side, he is God all by himself. So he is being whatever he want to be himself. So he does need you, he doesn't need you to impress you about that. He has done what he needed to do with Christ, and for you and that is the end of everything.

And so today you have to come out, and you want somebody to come and impress you. He has done everything in Christ.

Thank you for that.

It will mean then that our prayer life is not going to be a means of trying to make God prove himself, it will just going to be a means of we understanding that our Father is faithful. We have to make a demand on the grace of God in our lives. We have to make demand on the implication of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ.

We have to make a demand on the action of the holy one that lives in us. We have to make a demand on the power of resurrection to cause changes in our daily existence in our lives, in our circumstances. Surely we do have to do that. But that is coming in revelation of the God who did not spare his son because of us, and we are fully convince. In that case, it means he is for us. And we must pray from that understanding not trying to pray to actually prove that. We already prove that because of what he said and then we are praying from that understanding.

I want to believe, am just thinking maybe those people that are just doing that, they are just like spiritual and mental laziness, instead of them to come into that confidence to know what he has said and then for them to come and grow into that confidence that this is what he is, to understand that he is with them, because he did not spare his son. because they did not do their own part of the work, and so when the pressure comes, they just want God do this, in a way to escape what they should have done, because if they should have done in their own meditation and devotion has always been a settled confidence of what God has said about him and you have grown into that, into accepting that and you have a settled confidence on that, you wouldn't need to do that.

But when that part is not done, when that part of the work is not done, which is their own part and the pressure come on that, so the only thing they can do at that time is God you just have to make an impression now, and now because they have not settled and accepted the person he has made. Exactly!

And I think what you are saying is going to take us to Psalms 78. Because Psalm 78 gives us a snapshot, the confusion of those that believes in the arena of trying to put God to test or putting God on the hot seat, doing an experiment on God.

Psalms 78 give us a snapshot of the kind of confusion that those kind of people will go through and what we should do with it.

Now look at Psalms 78 we can read from verse 12 quickly.

Psalms 78

12. Marvellous things did he in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.

13. He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; and he made the waters to stand as an heap.

Now have you notices, that verse 13, if you notice very well, when we read Exodus 17 when Moses went to God at Massah telling God what Israelite was saying about their test. You know I don't know whether Moses already picked the signal quickly about the fact that this asking for water was coming from the basis of trying to actually judge God's faithfulness and God's presence, if there was water or not. Moses knew that. But there was one thing that God told Moses is what am interested in, which correlate with verse 13 of Psalms 78.

What God told Moses in Exodus 17? God said the same rod that was used to smite the river, that same rod, am going to do this from the revelation of that which was done in the past. God says use that same rod that was used to smite the river, the one that divided the sea into two, it's that same rod that you used to smite the rock to release water. The same understanding, the same revelation. We have to make a recourse to what was done in the baptism in the red sea to deal with this. That is why God told him to use that rod.

See what he says here, he divided the sea, is making reference to what was already done. Finished! Done and dusted!

Now go on please,

13. He divided the sea, and caused them to pass through; and he made the waters to stand as an heap.

Everything here is about past tense, made, past! divided, can you see that? Watch the tenses now.

14. In the daytime also he led them a cloud, and all the night with a light of fire.

Past tenses again!

15. He clave the rocks in the wilderness, and gave them drink out of the great depths.

Past tenses again!

16. He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers

Past tenses again!

All what he did are sorted out. All past tenses.

17. And they sinned yet more against him by provoking the most High in the wilderness.

Now what kind of sin is he talking about? You need to think about it, what sin was he talking about here? Was it the sin of them fornicating? Was it the sin of them lying to each other? Was it the sin of stealing each other goods? Every time we hear the word sin, we are very quick to come to a conclusion. Of course fornication is sin, of course lying is sin, of course stealing is sin, but in this context, what sin was he referring to? Let's the scripture interpret itself.

Look at the next verse.

17. And they sinned yet more against him by provoking the most High in the wilderness.

What did they do? Look at verse 18, look at the sin,

18. And they tempted God in their heart by asking meat for their lust.

Now, looking at this, don't let's be too quick to the particular type of sin in verse 17 of Psalms 78, because verse 18 actually told us what it is. He said is just putting the Lord God to test. Of course they committed so many sins and atrocities, but at least in this context is about testing God. He said they actually tested him.

And then we've said it, we've talked about what testing is? Now what kind of sin is that? Unbelief. That is unbelief. Lack of trust, lack of confidence in the system. Is there water in the wilderness? There is water there, God is with us. If there is no water God is not with us.

19. Yea, they spake against God; they said, can God furnish a table in the wilderness?

How do you call that a sin? I mean, how do you call that a sin? How can somebody be praying to God and say well, can God furnish a table? Well actually if you are trying to get this, please if you are just joining us, go and read Exodus 17, we've been on that, when the person is saying well, if God shows up it means am favored of God, if God didn't show up, I don't have God's favour. Can you see that? When we come to that kind of conclusion as Christians. Simply put, we are here already in Psalms 78. So that is what he is simply saying, that is how they sin against him. Unbelief. That is it.

It's not the kind of sin that we think it is. It's unbelief in this case. That is how they tested God. Can you see that? Can he furnish a table in the wilderness to prove that he

is with us and he is favoring us, that he cares for us, let him prove it. He can make it happen, if he can do the miraculous.

So it's not again, don't get this twisted, don't misunderstand us. Believing God for the miraculous is not what we are talking about, is not the problem. We've got to believe God for the miraculous, Jesus said greater works than he did that we shall do. We will do greater works, we are doing greater works, and we will manifest greater works. And we are for greater works.

In fact the Bible says with power the Apostle gave witness to the resurrection. We are for greater works. However what he is simply saying here if we are not persuaded and convince of God's favour, of God's faithfulness, of God being with us simply put on the fact that he parted the red sea, he baptized them into Moses, that is what he said, if you notice from verse 8 all downward, past tenses! What he did! What he did! And they should have actually moved upon what he did to understand what he is going to do in their lives, but they didn't do that. They just said, let him show himself, let him prove himself, and the Bible says that is what they were testing God for that.

So I just want to conclude by telling our viewers just like in that Psalms 78 was telling verse 12 all those marvelous thing, all the past tense. So am going to refer you and run you through all the epistles to know what he has done in you, what he has done and everything, because what they did not took note of, the Israelites then, what he has done, how he parted the red sea and everything, am going to take you down to those epistles too, so this week, I want you to.... and for you it is what he did to Christ. Romans 8:31.

Go and see what he did to Christ. What he has done, you will see all the past tenses, go and look for all the past tenses, because of you, all the past tense of God and the past participles, what he has done and everything, so you really need to put yourself in this place, in this position.

So you need to know that, so that you will not tempt and test the Lord. I think like we are just scratching the surface on this, we are not even through as you can see, we are not through with the second temptation of Christ.

So you will need to join us next week 7pm on Saturday UK time and 9am UK time on Sunday again as we continue this temptation.

So if this speaks directly to you we want you to walk in the light of the word of the Lord and we want you to share this and we covet your prayers to pray along with us because we are just, we only say we are unprofitable servants we are just doing what the Lord will have us do.

So till we see you next week Saturday 7pm UK time, and 9am on Sunday UK time, so what do you want to say?

Well, God bless you stay in line with the Word of God.

Ok

Bye!!!