

## Fueling Station 4: Life is a Test

Pitfall: God wants me to be happy



### Introduction

Does God want us to be Holy or Happy? Are they diametrically opposed or symbiotic? When Jesus says “blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” this comment seems paradoxical like all other instructions about His kingdom. I believe once we recognize how transient this life really is and how we are to view our home here as living in a tent instead of a house, this will help us to view Gods instructions from the correct perspective.

“For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.”

2 Corinthians 5:1-3, 10 ESV

\*How many “tests” did we have to take growing up in school? The need to evaluate ourselves and our progress in life is common protocol. It’s no different with the Lord!

1 Thessalonians 2:4 “As we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts.”

\*test

12:35 PM Thu Apr 6

Strong's Greek: 1381. δοκιμάζω (dokimazo) -- I put to the test, prove, examine

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Greek

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### 1381. dokimazo

**Strong's Concordance**

**dokimazo:** I put to the test, prove, examine  
Original Word: δοκιμάζω  
Part of Speech: Verb  
Transliteration: dokimazo  
Phonetic Spelling: (dok-im-ad'-zo)  
Definition: to test, by implication to approve  
Usage: I put to the test, prove, examine; I distinguish by testing, approve after testing; I am fit.

**HELPS Word-studies**

**Cognate:** 1381 *dokimázō* (from 1384 /*dókimos*, "approved") – properly, to try (test) to show something is acceptable (real, approved); put to the test to reveal what is good (genuine). See 1384 (*dokimos*).

1381 /*dokimázō* ("to approve by testing") is done to demonstrate what is good, i.e. passes the necessary test. 1381 (*dokimázō*) does not focus on disproving something (i.e. to show it is bad).

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**Englishman's Concordance**

**Luke 12:56 V-PNA**  
GRK: ούρανοῦ οἴδατε δοκιμάζειν τὸν καιρὸν  
NAS: You know how to analyze the appearance  
KJV: ye can discern the face  
INT: sky you know [how] to discern the time

**Luke 12:56 V-PNA**  
GRK: οὐκ οἴδατε δοκιμάζειν  
NAS: but why do you not analyze this  
KJV: that ye do not discern this  
INT: not do you know to discern

**Luke 14:19 V-ANA**  
GRK: καὶ πορεύομαι δοκιμάσαι αὐτὰ ἐρωτῶ  
NAS: and I am going to try them out; please  
KJV: and I go to prove them: I pray  
INT: and I go to prove them I pray

**Romans 1:28 V-AIA-3P**  
GRK: καθὼς οὐκ ἐδοκίμασαν τὸν  
acknowledge

“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one’s deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,”

1 Peter 1:6-7, 13-17 ESV

\*holy

10:26 AM Wed Apr 19

Strong's Greek: 40. ἅγιος (hagios) -- sacred, holy

Matt 8:30 Bible

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Greek Hebrew Interlinear

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### 40. hagios

**Strong's Concordance**

**hagios:** sacred, holy  
**Original Word:** ἅγιος, ἴα, ον  
**Part of Speech:** Adjective  
**Transliteration:** hagios  
**Phonetic Spelling:** (hag'-ee-os)  
**Definition:** sacred, holy  
**Usage:** set apart by (or for) God, holy, sacred.

**HELPS Word-studies**

**40** *hágios* – properly, *different (unlike), other ("otherness"), holy*, for the believer, **40** (*hágios*) means "*likeness of nature with the Lord*" because "*different from the world.*"

The fundamental (core) meaning of **40** (*hágios*) is "different" – thus a temple in the 1st century was *hagios* ("holy") because *different* from other buildings (Wm. Barclay). In the NT, **40** /*hágios* ("holy") has the "technical" meaning "*different from the world*" because "*like the Lord.*"

[**40** (*hágios*) implies something "set apart" and therefore "*different (distinguished/distinct)*" – i.e. "other," because *special* to the Lord.]

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**Englishman's Concordance**

**Matthew 1:18 Adj-GNS**  
 GRK: ἐκ πνεύματος ἁγίου  
 NAS: to be with child *by the Holy Spirit.*  
 KJV: with child of *the Holy Ghost.*  
 INT: through [the] Spirit *Holy*

**Matthew 1:20 Adj-GNS**  
 GRK: πνεύματος ἐστὶν ἁγίου  
 NAS: has been conceived *in her is of the Holy Spirit.*  
 KJV: is of *the Holy Ghost.*  
 INT: [the] Spirit is *Holy*

**Matthew 3:11 Adj-DNS**  
 GRK: ἐν πνεύματι ἁγίῳ καὶ πυρὶ  
 NAS: He will baptize *you with the Holy Spirit*  
 KJV: you with *the Holy Ghost*, and  
 INT: with [the] Spirit *Holy* and with fire

**Matthew 4:5 Adj-AFS**  
 GRK: εἰς τὴν ἁγίαν πόλιν καὶ  
 NAS: took *Him into the holy city*  
 KJV: up into *the holy city*, and  
 INT: to the *holy* city and

The purpose behind testing is to be “found” Holy when Jesus reveals Himself to set up His final rule of the earth. To be found “in Him” was a common theme used by the Apostles to determine who would receive the inheritance and enter the kingdom. Those declared to be experientially Holy or “set-apart” at that time will be “set-apart” and useful for The Master. The secondary benefit would also be seen in other passages concerning being able to “enter your rest” at that time also. This would be a “rest” from all the testing and refining in the “wilderness” wanderings.

“and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 3:9, 12, 14 ESV

\*This prize is contingent upon us being “found” in him. Paul is reminding us that there is an upward “invitation” that is dependent upon our “maturity” or perfection that we are to be “pressing” into! Remember this is the “goal” not the guarantee before Christ returns.

\*perfect

10:43 AM Wed Apr 19

Strong's Greek: 5048. τελειόω (teleiōō) -- to bring to an end, to complete, perfect

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5:14

Heb

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Summary NASEC Thayer's Strong's Englishman's

5048. teleiōō

**Strong's Concordance**

teleiōō: to bring to an end, to complete, perfect  
Original Word: τελειόω  
Part of Speech: Verb  
Transliteration: teleiōō  
Phonetic Spelling: (tel-i-ō'-ō)  
Definition: to bring to an end, to complete, perfect  
Usage: (a) as a course, a race, or the like: I complete, finish (b) as of time or prediction: I accomplish, (c) I make perfect; pass: I am perfected.

**HELPS Word-studies**

**Cognate:** 5048 *teleiōō* – to consummate, reaching the *end-stage*, i.e. working through the entire process (stages) to reach the *final phase* (conclusion). See 5056 (*telos*).  
[This root (*tel*) means "reaching the end (*aim*)."  
It is well-illustrated with the old pirate's telescope, unfolding (extending out) one stage at a time to function at full-strength (capacity effectiveness).]

**Englishman's Concordance**

**Luke 2:43 V-APA-GMP**  
GRK: και τελειωσάντων τῶς ἡμέρας  
NAS: and as they were returning, *after spending the full number of days,*  
KJV: And *when they had fulfilled* the days,  
INT: and *having completed* the days

**Luke 13:32 V-PIM/P-1S**  
GRK: τῆ τρίτῃ τελειοῦμαι  
NAS: and the third *[day] I reach My goal.*  
KJV: the third *[day] I shall be perfected.*  
INT: the third *[day] I am perfected*

**John 4:34 V-ASA-1S**  
GRK: με και τελειώσω αὐτοῦ τὸ  
NAS: of Him who sent *Me and to accomplish* His work.  
KJV: me, and *to finish* his work.  
INT: me and *should finish* of him th

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“So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.”  
Romans 8:12-14, 18-19 ESV

\*This is a Key moment in all creation when God chooses His firstborn sons to rule and reign with Jesus at His return. This choice will be merited through the testing of our faith and how “genuine” it is.

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.”  
James 1:2-4, 12 ESV

\*It is important to see the exact same theme written from Peter, Paul, and James because where 2-3 witnesses are a matter is confirmed!

We must pass our “testing” and not put Christ to the “test”:

“Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.”

1 Corinthians 10:5-6, 9, 11-12 ESV

“Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed the test. But we pray to God that you may not do wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. Your restoration is what we pray for. For this reason I write these things while I am away from you, that when I come I may not have to be severe in my use of the authority that the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down.”

2 Corinthians 13:5-10 ESV

\*Note even Paul wants to pass the “test”. Paul is always concerned that the members of the body of Christ will fall short in passing the “test”. He encourages us to give ourselves regular examinations in order to confirm that we are continuing in the faith!

“As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter. So although I wrote to you, it was not for the sake of the one who did the wrong, nor for the sake of the one who suffered the wrong, but in order that your earnestness for us might be revealed to you in the sight of God.”

2 Corinthians 7:9-12 ESV

\*Daily examination and repentance are key to running a faithful race and receiving the inheritance of the kingdom!

The old and new covenant agree seamlessly:

““Take care lest you forget the Lord your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end.

Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ And if you forget the Lord your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish.”

Deuteronomy 8:11, 16-17, 19 ESV

What are some ways that God tests our faith?:

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation.”

Hebrews 11:1-2 ESV

\*The most identified chapter on faith in the Bible is chapter 11 of Hebrews. It has been called “The Great Hall of Faith”. It shows us all the saints who have gone before us who God commends for their faithful obedience to Him.

“By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks.”

Hebrews 11:4 ESV

\*God has always separated out His faithful from His unfaithful. Certain people proved to be genuine and “acceptable” before Him, receiving His commendation. This is most certainly the goal of our lives. Based on this faith chapter, I will suggest some parallel ways in which God may and will test our faith in Christ:

1. Cain/Abel: will we prove faithful with the resources God has given to us?
2. Enoch: Jude tells us that Enoch prophesied Gods judgement on ungodliness. Will you be bold enough to tell someone this truth when God presents it to you?
3. Noah: also proclaimed righteous living and warned of Gods judgement even giving up a normal life to build an arc in a world that may not of understood that rain can flood the earth. Are you willing to look like a fool for Christ?
4. Abraham: left is country to an unknown. Are you willing to leave your comfort zone to follow Gods voice? Abraham also was willing to sacrifice his son. Are you willing to put God before your children?
5. Joseph: was thrown into a pit, sold into slavery, and put in prison but served God in every instance. Are you willing to serve in every hardship God presents you?
6. Paul: pursued self righteousness and his own reputation only to go into the opposite direction, tanking his reputation and suffering for Jesus. Are you willing to do the same when God calls on you?
7. Jesus: Our perfect example of faith in every category, completely giving up His life unto death, even death on a cross. Are you willing?

What are the differences and similarities between “temptation” and “testing”?:

“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am being tempted by God,” for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.”

James 1:12-15 ESV

\*James explains the differences between the two:

1. Testing: is from God and is meant to strengthen your faith and reward you.
2. Temptation: is from the enemy that was meant to entice us to disobey God and be punished.

\*Remember, It was Gods idea to put the serpent into the Garden of Eden, and to put Satan into the life of Job. Here is where the similarities exist: “temptation” was meant to “test” our allegiance to God for the hope of passing the “test” by resisting “temptation” and receiving Gods commendation. Another popular understanding is that “love” could not be genuine or proved “pure” without these. If God wanted robots He could have made them, instead He gave us “love”.

### Contemplation/Application

1. How normal is it in our every day lives to be tested? How many areas of your life were dependent on passing or failing a test of some kind?
2. It was Gods idea to put a “serpent” in the garden of Eden. Reflect on the possible meanings for this?
3. What about the life of Job? What were Gods intentions?
4. Mankind can be unjust in his testing regiment but God cannot. In Galatians chapter 6 God says he will “not be mocked, what ever a man sows, that will he also reap”. What will the implications of this mean for you at the judgement seat of Christ?
5. Have you ever thought about “examining” and “testing” yourself? Explain.
6. Reflect on the idea that God always wants things to happen for His glory and our good? Does the life of Jesus measure up to this statement? How so?
7. The author believes that God is telling a story even to the angels:

“Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.”

1 Peter 1:10-12 ESV

7. Lucifer was believed to have been the highest and most blessed Cherub, when he fell, could that have motivated God to create humanity, “lower than the angels” for the purpose of redeeming the story of their “fall”? Isn’t that the story of Jesus also becoming a “man” in order to redeem our “fall”? What other implications can be drawn, if any, from this?

\*Remember be a good Berean and be diligent in studying the scriptures to show yourself approved and encourage others to do the same!

“what we do in this life echoes for all eternity.”

Gladiator

