“The Test” | Alex Potter | Refuel – May 2nd, 2015

* Christians on a daily basis are put to the test by a world of sin and unbelief
  + Atheists are around every corner, finding ways to disprove our faith
  + Muslims are around every corner, with a belief far against ours
  + Different denominations are around every corner, with wildly inappropriate views on the Bible
* One of the most easy tools for Atheists use are struggle and evil
  + An Atheist might ask you, “If ‘God’ is so good and powerful, how can he allow evil to exist?” That is a good question
  + Another question they might ask is “I see that you are having troubles, where is your ‘God’ now?”
  + How do we respond to situations like this?
* I often have the urge to tell Atheists, upon asking those questions, to just go watch “God’s Not Dead.”
  + The trouble here is that that is me being lazy
  + Another trouble is that they might not do it
    - They won’t hear the Gospel
  + I must give a response with scripture that answers both questions, with *grace*
    - Romans 8:28-29 – “And we know all things work together for good to them that love God to them who are called according to his purpose. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”
* Being called to his purpose starts with believing (His purpose = His will)
  + Romans 8:30 – “Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”
* If someone questions your faith, or you wonder how you are going to make it, talk to God.
  + Romans 8:31 – “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”
  + God is our protector
    - Romans 8:32-35 – “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? Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”
* All you have to do is trust the Lord and do as he says!
  + Proverbs 3:5-6 – “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”
  + Don’t be clever either, trying to use sneaky tricks to get someone to believe
    - Proverbs 3:7 – “Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.”
  + As believers, it is our job to witness, not forcing someone to believe
* It may seem hard, but remember, God is working
  + Philippians 4:13 – “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”
* Pray about those around you
  + Philippians 4:4-7 – “Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”
* Also in today’s society, we deal with muslims
  + The Islamic religion believes in a false god named “Allah”
  + We should know as believers that the name “Allah” is nothing.
    - Allah is not another name for God
    - He is not God
    - He is *fiction*
    - He is a *fantasy*
    - John 14:6 – “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
  + Allah is not a name of God
    - Muslims believe there was a prophet (Moses/Musa) yet do not recognize the unique name YHWH, which was given to Moses as a name of God
    - The names of God can’t be reconciled. What this means is that the names of God can’t be settled.
      * There are so many
  + God’s Laws
    - We are all familiar with the laws of God
      * Allah’s laws contradict these laws
      * Therefore, Allah is not God
    - The “Sharia” Law of Allah, if followed, you will break the 10 Commandments for sure
  + God announces that he will begot a son.
    - Psalms 2:7 – “I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee”
    - Allah denies a son
      * Allah is not God
  + God’s holy city is Jerusalem
    - Allah’s is Mecca
    - Allah is not God
  + God hates what Allah allows
    - Proverbs 6:16-19 – “These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”
    - Allah is not God
* Different Denominations are everywhere

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