**[James 1:13](https://www.jw.org/en/publications/bible/nwt/books/james/1/" \l "v59001013)**

13 When under trial, let no one say: “I am being tried by God.” For with evil things God cannot be tried, nor does he himself try anyone.

God doesn’t test his people because he knows already. Why does he need to test anyone or anything that he already can forsee? I am different, I want to test God because I do not trust and I test for my own sake of clarification, proof and evidences. When satan is telling us to test God, he threatens the relationship of trust. Trust takes faith, faith takes time, experience that He is trustworthy, reliable, stays true to promises, faithful and dependable. Do we test trustworthiness by assuming untrustworthiness and waiting for the other party to prove to be trustworthy or assuming trustworthiness and waiting for the other party to prove to be untrustworthy?

I test people a lot, just to get sympathy and attention. I say and do things to evoke a reaction and I expect a certain reaction which could lead to disappointment or a false sense of security. Classic example of testing: give the person two choices and choose between me or the other, on the basis of what I would think is an attractive point. Another example of testing: give an evaluation about self, I think degrading is usually the case, and wait for the other party to immediately come to your rescue. Next example of testing: give a hypothetical situation where you are threatening your life and you hope the other party would experience fear of losing you. Next example of testing: ask if the other party would do something out of the way for you, including dying, as unreasonable demands as possible. Or also stating an observation that indirectly proves a point of my qualities and expect the other party to agree and state the “obvious”.

I test by pushing away. I would think pushing people away is a false intention that is only a cover up. I have no intention of you moving away from me yet I do it sometimes out of spite and jealousy, hurt ego and pride instead of admitting the real hurt. I phrase questions filled with negative leading questions to force a satisfactory answer. Offering myself is the hardest thing and you can feel confusion from the fact that I would rather offer you an illusion I deemed better from the way I see it. I am not good enough. I do not understand why anyone would accept me because the way I see it, I am not good for anyone by anyone’s standards. Setting myself up for rejection seemed like the best suicide plot than waiting to get murdered. What do I say? Go find someone else? The usual same old insecurity.

I test by pulling away. I want to be chased and pursued hence I behave unavailable and uninterested and selectively ignoring you. I think I can influence you by my level of attention and I treat that as the highest form of power. I know you are co-dependent. When you put me on a pedestal, I feel in control and have the upper-hand, but in actual fact, I have lost control when I am the only one playing my own silly game of “love”. The dangerous concept of playing hard to get gives birth from the concept of availability. I imagine someone being available gets more easily taken for granted than one who isn’t. Having experienced both sides makes me fear being the former and hence how do I not allow myself to be taken for granted? Not be available. It is fear and it is winning and protecting and survival.

This was my show and made up rules, where it was all about acting one way and meaning another. It was always a bunch of tricks, same old manipulative

All in all, the true intention is to figure things out driven by fear and insecurities and lack of faith and trust. If only trust was so easy, but too often, it gets broken. It is only after experiences that testing becomes a child’s play and signs of immaturity. Does he/she truly love me? Is he/she a true friend? Why do I need reassurance? When lacking in reassurance from an incident that seems to trigger doubt, the love tank feels empty. The only way is to get back that reassurance despite it probably being irrational. It leads to searching and looking for validation, when it doesn’t find any, it gives up in exasperation and concludes that there was no love in the first place. Doubt is a weapon and it slays all thinking. Why is it so easy to think about all the hidden meaning and analyze every word? The fear of abandonment, losing someone close forces me to hold on tighter to the point of suffocation. The worst is the grip of being obsessed. There is an urge and desperation to go into another person’s head and get the cause and put my doubts to peace. Ultimately, I cannot let go of worries of how you think about me. I am scared of things turning badly. I am scared you would stop liking me. I am scared because nothing is certain. Who can guarantee you would be mine forever?

Yes, so I am unsure and terrified. Each time I feel the relationship is not going the way I expected, I go back to the end of questioning to stay or to leave. The reason why I asked you that is so that I can truly know what is on your mind. It clearly tells me everything. It is used as my only resort which shows how desperate I am that I cannot use any other ways to express how thoroughly hurt I am that the only conclusion I can come up with is you leaving me. It is my one and only assumption.

People want to be consistent don’t they? So if we force an outcome in which they make a promise, they are going to want to stick to what they say and be consistent with their words.

[**1 John 5:19**](https://www.jw.org/en/publications/bible/nwt/books/1-john/5/#v62005019)

19 We know that we originate with God, but the whole world is lying in the power of the wicked one.

Acts 5:31 - God exalted Jesus to His right hand to be Prince and ***Savior***, to give repentance and ***forgiveness of sins***. [Romans 8:34]

Matthew 1:21 - The angel promised Joseph that Jesus would ***save*** His people from their ***sins***.

Luke 5:32 - Jesus said He came to call sinners to ***repentance***. [Luke 19:10]

Matthew 20:28 - He came to give His life a ***ransom*** for many (a sacrifice for sin).

Hebrews 10:10-12 - What He offered was His body as a sacrifice to take away ***sins***. [9:11,12,26-28]

Romans 14:17 - The kingdom is not physical things (eating and drinking), but ***righteousness***, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit - ***spiritual things***.

[**1 Chronicles 28:9**](http://bible.knowing-jesus.com/1-Chronicles/28/9)

"As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever.

[**2 Chronicles 15:2**](http://bible.knowing-jesus.com/2-Chronicles/15/2)

and he went out to meet Asa and said to him, "Listen to me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: the LORD is with you when you are with Him And if you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you.

It says here the Lord searches all hearts and understands every intent of the thoughts. Just when I was thinking what made the Lord so impressive, it was his ability to know and dissect our thoughts, getting to the root of our minds and hearts. It is his infinite wisdom to understand all man and isn’t it comforting that he knows us completely even more than we do ourselves and others? Living in a world where we keep many things to ourselves, fear being misunderstood, judged by what we say, assumed, stereotyped, labelled, ostracized, blamed, rejected, desperate to be liked, be accepted, but not seen for who we truly are, told otherwise where we are being imposed by the way they see us, how can we stay sane and really let what people say about us go? We have been a part of the collective system of man who generally have lost the quality of searching the heart and intent of thoughts, and searching for flaws, weaknesses, ill-intentions, differences, incorrectness, untruthfulness, hypocrisy. We do want to be honest, we do want to be truthful, we do want to show who we really are without pretending, we do want to be accepted and valued. Don’t we hope for that special someone who understands? Who else but God, our Lord? He gives light to why we are the way we are, he tells us that we have sinned. Men, fellow beings, parents, teachers, authority, government, bosses, partners, friends are not inexcusable of sin. This at least gives me an explanation of behaviors that are hurtful, mean, malicious come from intentions that are sinful. He tells me that the heart is deceitful and wicked above all. This directs my hatred towards the lies coming from the heart, and lean towards the truth coming from God. It is enlightening to know that we are often led by lies and we are not self-aware sometimes. We are just so easily led away by temptations and selfishness because we have no firm ground or truths to fall back on. We are weak and we have to admit and face the weakness, we are sinful because carnal desires confuses us, we want attention and acceptance because we do not get it enough from ourselves and do not know where exactly to get it from that is ever-satisfying, ever-giving, eternal and unconditional. I have delighted in my own selfish heart and narcissism but I’m afraid I have turned so egoistic, uncaring, unfeeling that I could not maintain simple relationships for long, until I found that someone. But I cannot love enough unless I am loved first.

**Understand how Jesus loves us**

He said ([John 13:34](javascript:%7b%7d)), “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”

* **Obedience to his commandments with the help of the Holy Spirit**
* **Diversity and equality of people from all backgrounds**
* **Being committed to the other person’s highest good of sanctification, preserve unity, bond of peace**
* **Visible actions for the rest of the world to see**
* **Sacrifice our selfishness for others**
* **Not out to hurt others intentionally**
* **Sustaining (keep us going in life) everlasting infinite (will this love end? Will it cease due to circumstances? Or is it guaranteed, undeniable, undoubtable, unrefuted?) unfailing (promises are true and He will never hurt us) accessible (praying from the heart) encompassing (with grace, wisdom and hope) renewing (refreshes and cleanse us from sins, changing and molding us into more resilient) once found never lost inherited love**
* **He suffered because he loved us, whether we love him back or not.**
* **Gift of community with fellow Christians**
* **Receiving love from others who have went through the same**
* **Experience it to believe it**

**Why make us**

* **What’s the point of this life? Since I am pondering over the life to come after this after going through all these**
* **This life serves us in understanding God’s goodness, to suffer the burden of this life and look forward to the next, confident of something better**
* **Take delight in every blessing and adversities**
* **Creation is good but sin is not. Life is a gift but this gift comes with many things we cannot control**
* **To triumph over devil, flesh, sin and wicked men**
* **To experience a battle and taste victory, to cooperate**
* **What is my calling?**
* **But why would there even be suffering if I have learned to let go for God? Monks deprive themselves because it is easier that way – attachment to material things and temporary things – attaining peace of mind and enlightenment – it’s easier to leave nothing behind and not even love than to face love for other human being and experience a mess of feelings**
* **Making choices to deny myself daily and to love others that nobody understands because it is accompanied by joy**
* **Paul wrotes ‘Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions.’**

**Slaves of sin**

* **Jesus tells us “everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin,” (John 8:34)**
* **“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.” (John 6:44)**
* **All of us are born with the heart desiring what is evil which leads to sin**
* **Having ability to believe in God through the work of Holy Spirit now enables us to freely make choices**
* **We know sin and we have to confess the reality of sin and its consequences.**
* **Freedom from sin not freedom to sin. Then slave to God? Is that slave or is that servant? (What is the difference here?)**
* **Obedience to God, or obedience to sin?**
* **God’s define true freedom without sin. We define true freedom as having the choice between good and evil.**
* **Man cannot freely change just as we have no power to fight the desires when there is no determining factor to do the ‘right’ thing**
* **God’s mercy and compassion come into the picture for men who sins**
* **It’s ‘unfair’ when we don’t recognize his solution for the world to repentance, so we are ultimately held accountable for our intentions**
* **It’s like god does not ‘love us enough’ and that he ‘wants to punish us by sending us to hell’, ‘he only saves those who believes’**
* **Who can bring themselves to believe if not for the holy spirit and the gift from God? But then again why isn’t the Holy Spirit enabled in everyone who listens? Since we have to depend on the Holy Spirit, we are not responsible for believing? Are we to be blamed if we cant believe?**
* **To what extent is our responsibility to incline our hearts and respond positively?**
* **God choses people? That’s why I don’t believe. I chose God? That can also explain why I don’t believe because its what I can control and do on deliberate. This is what people stand firmly on believing when they see it’s up to the person to believe or not. Who wants to take the responsibility on themselves, that they are shutting off God instead, that it IS my choice? Is it an excuse ‘I cant bring myself to believe? I am waiting for God? Ill take the backseat in this mission. If it is the holy spirit, don’t blame me’**
* **But anger at God just for the consequences of death and punishment. Anger at not being ‘chosen’. Anger at the idea of election. Anger that God hardens who he wants. Anger that he is using faith as a bridge to the relationship. Anger that I don’t have faith so I am not eligible. Anger that God is biased in his love.**
* **God desires from man a worship that comes from love and desire.**
* **We are created by God. What kind of freedom do you want from your creator?**
* **Slave of Christ = being free? But some think slave of Christ = boundage, theres so many things I cannot do, rules, laws, etc.**
* **Do I want my sin to be exposed? Or rather, my sin is already known by God so what is the point of hiding? I believe in knowing how sinful I am as I accept that I am not righteous in God’s eyes.**
* **Why do I think I am sinful? Because my conscience tells me so. The thoughts of outdoing others, taking revenge, holding grudges, thinking I am better, judging others by intelligence, looks, obsession. ‘I need to be better than them’, ‘I am smarter’, …**

**God’s will**

* **That which will glorify him and help us and others grow spiritually**
* **To give thanks, to be sanctified, to repent and trust in the Lord with all my heart**
* **To remember we are God’s children and to be led in His way**
* **To be transformed by the renewing of mind, according to the things of God to know his perfect will**
* **To obey Him and rely on the spirit who will place his desire in our hearts**
* **Do I know what God will say to me? Or do I have to ask him first?**
* **Let your will be done, not ours.**
* **Have the mind of Christ**
* **Be patient that he will reveal what is good for us and provide us the best**
* **Who is to say what the future will hold? God surely wouldn’t bring someone who is out to lead me away from Him in my hands. I would never want that, and as His child I would long to hold on to our relationship. I know He knows who is the best spiritual leader, faithful husband, as loving as he can be. I wont judge anymore as who I think is good or not good for me, what matters is we can grow in your image and glorify you together. That’s all I pray for, father. You can take control in this area of my life.**

**Satisfaction**

* **Promises of satisfaction for the discontent; why are we discontented? It is simply we don’t see the true value in pursuing things that are not everlasting and fleeting. It is simply we don’t know what else more we need to be complete after having the things that we can live on.**
* **Since all things come from Him, only He can be the spring water to fill whatever we are lacking in on our own.**
* **Jesus said he is the bread of life; whoever comes to him shall not hunger, and whoever believes in him shall never thirst (John 6:35)**
* **Would he not give us what we essentially need to keep living? What do I essentially need as a human being to function?**
* **Love, sense of belonging, self-respect, value life as a gift, thankfulness, identity, purpose and meaning, understanding truth,**

**Relationship with God**

* **What is hindering us to be with God? Seems like the same things that hinder us from prayer and building a relationship with Him**
* **I don’t know what else is there to doubt that God is real, Jesus is sent by God. Even if I have doubts, maybe its when I am trying to think in my own perspective and that also means not understanding deeper enough which is my own limitations.**
* **Being honest and truthful towards Him; we must have our reasons if we think deeper – could it be we don’t see Him as good in our eyes? And what is this definition of ‘good’?**
* **Not thankful for life (big problem…) expecting and demanding from Him and He isn’t giving me what I want (better job, ideal country, etc) , not having faith in Him to answer my prayers, questions and doubts (other religion… people claiming all things…) Other things seem to matter more in life or provide me more joy (my own leisure time…) Not being convicted in spreading the gospel and sharing about Him to others or telling them about how I think of God (outwardly, I don’t see myself expressing that joy… why am I not eloquent or consciously aware of this love?)**
* **What draws me to God? That he loves us first unconditionally and accepts us regardless of how long we take or if we misunderstood Him. His everlasting patience and commitment to us. He brought us to the light and showed us the truth. He cares for the broken and gives us hope. He is faithful and just.**
* **How do we grow with God?**
* **I am afraid I am not starting to see him as my refuge, strength, helper, Lord, king of all kings, judge, etc.**
* **If I fail to be honest and open in my communication with Him, I am not open to the idea of restoring the relationship and acknowledging him as my Father.**
* **Child-like faith – what is that like? Is it necessarily being naïve?**
* **I will not run away from God when I value him less, judge myself, assume his ways, rebel and feeling defiant, refusing to trust, love him less, did something wrong.**
* **Joy is highest when expressed in praise**

**Worldview**

* **To care for people counts as a ‘good Christian?’**
* **Our works are likened to dirty filthy rags**
* **But it is hard to live in such a world where our faith and world view differs.**
* **Jesus asks us to be the light. Even more so, the darkness needs light.**
* **Most conscious topics: vanity, trends, popularity, entertainment, politics, economics, health, fitness, age, money, possessions, fame, war, terrorism, crime, fashion, longevity, status, discrimination, travelling, culture, partying, comfort, social media, campaigning for rights, corruption, politics, inventions, power, technology,**
* **Less conscious topics: welfare, humanity, peace, cooperation, benefits, aid, restoration, values, community, bonding, family, justice, equality, poverty, suffering, mental health, emotional links, relationships, parenting, education, individualism, freedom, safety, protection,**
* **Talking about age: feeling like mid-life crisis already, what am I to do with my life? Is that a very self-absorbed statement?**
* **Hope – we are missing hope.**
* **Every good gift is from God.**
* **Unshakable contentment ; peace, serenity, and freedom from anxiety**
* **Discontentment with life; want to trade it for another one**
* **We change and replace people that seemed to make us discontented**
* **I don’t have time to think about my life**
* **We can either be proud that our heavenly Father is so supreme, rightfully owning our lives, or we can be struggling with having our own rights and freedom**
* **He kills us, decides our lives, planned, puts us in hell, watches us suffer, allows diseases and disasters to strike upon us, gives birth to us to experience this, takes away our families and loved ones, takes away our possessions, takes away our body and health, leaves us alone in misery, creates havoc, pain, illnesses, etc, etc.**
* **God is indisputable; he does things for a good reason**

**Someone else’s faith**

* **Faith is a gift of God**
* **Ephesians 2:8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing”**
* **Not concerned about behavior but that the person sees Christ as valuable and gracious**
* **There is always hope for her future in Christ**
* **Don’t grill them about their faith incessantly**
* **Ask about her heart, emotions, struggles**
* **Remind yourself about seeming hopelessness as a prelude to joy**
* **Don’t despair, God hears prayers.**
* **Every Christian has someone dear they always pray for**
* **Focus more on the heart’s sickness than its symptoms**
* **To be concerned that they are ‘not doing enough’, ‘have given up on God’, ‘is not having faith’, ‘is turning against God’, ‘risking of not walking with God’, why do we have this kind of worry? What else besides their salvation, their changed meaning in life, their self-seeking purpose, their vulnerability to sin? My perspective of them will change, they have chosen a different path without God in their life and that path can only lead to unhappiness and suffering. They are like lost sheep with no shepherd and any other bait is temptation waiting to devour them.**
* **Its sad but true. People can change.**

**Happiness / Obedience**

* **When we see obedience as happiness.**

**Risen christ**

* **Eternal reward and joy**
* **We can be assured of suffering and heaven that it is not delusional**
* **We can rejoice in hope that the glory of God will come**

**Trials / Chastisement**

* **Trials builds patience; patience, experience, hope**
* **Trials allows us to see God more clearly and understand Him better**
* **Father disciplines his child of disobedience**
* **We can be assured of suffering and heaven that it is not delusional**
* **We can rejoice in hope that the glory of God will come**

**Rearing of children**

* **Children are a gift from God, they are not our making.**
* **Discipline from love for good, that we may share his holiness and yields fruits of righteousness to those trained by it**
* **Exhortation and encouragement to walk in a manner worthy of God**
* **Parenting is a high calling that helps us flourish in faith when we experience God’s kindness and severity in discipline**
* **God requires obedience just as parents have to require obedience and submissiveness from children**

**Does God love me?**

* **If he does, why would he let me suffer? But then again, he sent his son to accomplish what was impossible by men and suffer for our sins. So are we saying that He doesn’t love his son?**
* **If I do not believe this act was an act of love by God, I do not believe He is for us but against us and that He is my enemy, then that would make me hate everything about Him – his sovereignty, his power, his justice, his mercy, his grace, his punishment, his discipline, his correction.**
* **To me, He would just be an unreasonable demanding creator who have no form of love or whatever to us.**
* **How can I understand his love as perfect, as sinless, as beautiful and unsurpassable?**
* **Who is to say that isn’t an opportunity to experience His love?**
* **Mistaking him hurts, not keeping in touch with him hurts, wronging him hurts,**
* **Praying and answered prayers – ask and you will receive and your joy will be complete; to see God working in our prayers is also a way of experiencing him and for the ‘prayed’ one to know that prayer works so it is a joy experienced by both parties**