

Covenant Life

- Our next Gathering is **TODAY** at 3pm. See you there!
- Visit our [Jubilee web page](#) to enjoy content from our 50th Anniversary.
- If you were unable to attend our last prayer meeting, you can listen to the audio [here](#), read the Word Gift summary [here](#), and the transcript [here](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, Tx 75222.

Testing. I never liked or looked forward to a test. In fact, growing up, they were the source of much fear and anxiety. It also seemed that the concern for tests grew with age. The higher levels of school brought about more and more challenging tests and were the cause of more and more anxiety and frustration.

Pondering the concept of testing I would say that I never really conquered the associated feelings. Testing associated with employment opportunities caused similar concern. I even experience similar feelings when serving in various roles sometimes anxious about the impact of service in the eyes of those being served and regarding whether the efforts are in line with God's call and will.

These feelings swelled up as a read and reflected on today's [First Reading](#). Moses is quite clear with the Israelites that God is testing us. Our lives are much more than a journey to master our surroundings, provide for our families, and leave the world a better place. Moses reminded them that life is a test. There are no two ways about it. God created us out of love for a purpose, life eternal with Him, but we have an ultimate test ahead of us that follows from our response to the many 'tests' we face every day.

God revealed His great love for the people of Israel by calling them to be A People, providing the essentials of life, and providing them with leadership and direction, however Moses is clear that a safe, comfortable, challenge free life was not the goal. He reminded his people that God allows tests, that He allows affliction to determine our resolve in keeping His commandments.

Affliction. When did I sign up for that? I do not like to be hungry and the same goes for every other human ailment. I have tried and continue to try hard to create a safe space around me to minimize human ailment. Despite our efforts to hide from the realities of life, they will catch up with us. It is only a matter of time.

Life is a test. Moses reminds his people that God allows these trials *"in order to show you that not by bread alone does one live, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of the LORD."* Moses goes on in the first reading to remind the Israelites how God loved them by bringing them out of Egypt, provided water and manna.

So, this is the inescapable truth of life. It is a test. God reveals Himself and His great love for us in SO many ways, but we have a choice to make. Every moment of every day is a choice. Is our focus on 'bread' alone or upon *"every word that comes forth from the mouth of the LORD"*?

Maybe today we could ponder this question. How many decisions regarding where we spend our time are made relative to 'bread' versus God's Word? Do we know what He is asking of us right now? Did we ask Him? Did we discern it? Are we resolved to always follow His revealed Will for us?

Sisters and Brothers, God has SO loved us and shows His love in countless ways every minute of every day. He invites us to turn our attention away from our focus on ourselves (and even our loved ones) and give our first and foremost attention to Him. What is His perfect Will for us right now? How can I cooperate with His divine and perfect will for me right now? Do I have the courage to allow hardships and adversity for His sake? Our time of testing on this earth is short. How many times will we choose Him? Let us earnestly try to turn to Him more times today than we did yesterday. Let us recommit to accepting this challenge again tomorrow. May His good and perfect divine Will take root in our lives today and grow day by day!

Let us pray, *"Heavenly Father, I recommit to seeking Your perfect Will for my life. I look beyond the trials and tribulations of life to seeing how You show Your love to me! Grant me the grace to see You at work in my life and how my little yes' are building up Your kingdom. I choose to keep my eyes on You despite life's trials and pains. I choose You! Amen."*

God Bless,

David