

A Test of Faith

Greetings my fellow disciples and patriots. This is Perry Greene of GodNAmerica. Thank you for listening in on today's devotional, "A Test of Faith."

It seems that all of God's children have their faith tested from time to time. James reminds us in the first chapter of his book that this is a "joy" because the testing of our faith develops perseverance or patience within us. Look at all of the great heroes of faith and you will see them tested. Abraham is said to have had ten tests of faith, the greatest was the attempted sacrifice of Isaac. Moses had his tests in the wilderness of Midian, in Egypt, and in the wilderness with the children of Israel. Of course, Jesus was led into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit after His baptism and was tested/tempted by Satan three times. In each temptation He was victorious because He knew and lived the words of God.

Did you know that some of our states once required people who ran for political office to be believers? In some states they would not even allow an unbeliever to testify in court. Consider statements from three of the original states' Constitutions:

Maryland

Article 36 (deals with the Denial as Witness):

...nor shall any person, otherwise competent, be deemed incompetent as a witness, or juror, on account of his religious belief; provided, he believes in the existence of God, and that under His dispensation such person will be held morally accountable for his acts, and be rewarded or punished therefor either in this world or in the world to come.

Article 37 (deals with the Denial of Office):

That no religious test ought ever to be required as a qualification for any office of profit or trust in this State, other than a declaration of belief in the existence of God; nor shall the Legislature prescribe any other oath of office than the oath prescribed by this Constitution.

North Carolina

Article 6, Section 8 (Denial of Office):

The following persons shall be disqualified for office:

First, any person who shall deny the being of Almighty God.

South Carolina

Article 6, Section 2 (Denial of Office):

No person who denies the existence of the Supreme Being shall hold any office under this Constitution.

Today these sentiments would not be considered "politically correct." People would accuse such legislation as "pagan-phobic." Yet, there was a faith-based logic. That is, if a person doesn't trust God in his or her private life, how can we trust that person in public life? If they have no standards of right or wrong, how can we entrust them with the standards of our government? How can we trust a godless to witness to truth?

God's standards are exceptional. God never lowers those standards but expects our best efforts in living up to them. Isn't this the challenge of faith?

Psalm 93:5 (ESV):

Your decrees are very trustworthy;

Exodus 18:21 (ESV)

Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy. . .

Paul told the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:27, ESV), **“I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.”** Through Bible teaching, God counsels us in every arena of our lives. He makes us trustworthy when we take to heart what He teaches us.

Take God at His word. Live up to His standards. Become trustworthy before Him. Pass the tests!

Keep The Light Burning!
Dr. Perry Greene