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Preparation
for the Days
of Anointing

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When Yeshua (Jesus) taught His disciples how to pray to the Father, He included the statement, “And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil” (Matthew 6:13). The word *temptation* in this verse is better translated as “testing.” We have lived in the testings of the Lord, and we have cried out in our hearts, “Lord, deliver us from evil.” Yet we still have a lack of understanding of what the testings are all about. So I want to solidify our understanding of what God is working in us through testing.



Testing Has a Purpose

What is God doing by testing us? What is it that He is looking for? What is it that He is working in our hearts and spirits? When you are tested, it seems confusing (1 Peter 4:12). The truth is that testing is very straightforward and simple to understand, if you view it from the perspective of what is happening in your heart where the Lord is concerned. God allows testings, which have a deep purpose in the perfection of our spirits and in the perfection of our relationship with the Lord. Testing has a purpose; it has a reason. Testing has a beginning, and it has an ending. And God is looking for the fruit that the testing produces in us (Hebrews 12:10–11).

When you read the scriptural examples of people who were tested, you see that their testing always preceded the expression of God’s ministry through them. Peter went through testing before moving in the apostolic ministry (Luke 22:31–32). Before Yeshua began His ministry, He was baptized in water; the Holy Spirit rested upon Him and led Him into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil (Matthew 3:16—4:1). This word *tempted* is from the same Greek word as “temptation” in Matthew 6:13, which we understand means “testing.” Immediately following His testing, Yeshua began moving in the three-and-a-half-year ministry as the Christ, the Anointed One. Even the Lord experienced testing before moving as the Anointed One in the earth. Testing has that same purpose for us today.



Our Testing Is Preparation for the Days of Anointing

God is preparing a people for His use to minister His Word, to minister His will, and to bring forth His Kingdom in the world. At a time when many people believe that they will be pulled out of this age in a rapture, I believe that the Lord is preparing us to be His instruments in this age. Testing is a necessary part of becoming His instrument in the earth. Before this great anointing of the end-time rests on a body of people, they will experience a testing. They will experience a trial that is almost beyond imagination in what they suffer. It is preparation for the anointing and for the ministry that will be released through God's people. From that standpoint we say, "Thank You, Lord, for putting us in this process."

An important point about testing is found in Deuteronomy: "You shall remember all the way which the LORD your God has led you in the wilderness these forty years, that He might humble you, testing you, to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep His commandments or not" (Deuteronomy 8:2). For the children of Israel, the wilderness was a testing. When you read about their wanderings, it can seem that God was just tormenting them. They went without water; they went without food; they were in the turmoil of the desert, but God was doing something in their hearts. God is also doing something in us. We will look back on the days of testing and remember all that God has taken us through because these testings will sustain us in the days of anointing and blessing so that we will not waver in our relationship to Him.

“He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.” (Deuteronomy 8:3)

Not only did the children of Israel not know the manna, they also did not like it (Numbers 21:5). There are many times in the testing when you do not like what God is feeding you either. But God was trying to teach them something. He was teaching them that life does not come from what man can produce or manufacture. Instead, life comes by every Word that the Lord speaks.



“Apart from Me You Can Do Nothing”

We can talk about believing in the Word, but God wants us in the place where we truly live by the Word. He is humbling us just as He humbled the children of Israel. He is making us aware that there is nothing we can do in ourselves (John 15:5), because life and fulfillment come by every Word that the Lord speaks.

“Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years. Thus you are to know in your heart that the LORD your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son. Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways and to fear Him. For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive oil and honey; a land where you will eat food without scarcity, in which you will not lack anything; a land whose

stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. When you have eaten and are satisfied, you shall bless the LORD your God for the good land which He has given you.” (Deuteronomy 8:4–10)

We need to lock this truth into our hearts: God is seeking to bless us. When you are in the wilderness you say, “All this testing is painful! This is horrible! I don’t like it!” The wilderness is not a fun place. The point is that God is determined to bless you, and He will bless you. He is bringing you to a good land, and He is bringing you into fulfillment. Highlight in your Bible verses 6 through 10 of Deuteronomy 8, because they describe what God is giving you. Then remember how He gives it to you: by the Word.



God Will Fulfill Every Word and Glorify His Name

To us our testing may seem like being enslaved, but it is God bringing us out of the house of slavery and setting us free (Deuteronomy 8:11–14). He brings us out through judgment on our oppressor (Isaiah 49:24–26). However, He wants us to learn something very important from our time of testing. He will deliver us from slavery (Hebrews 2:14–15), but first He works in our hearts a knowledge, an eternal memory, that none of this is from ourselves. He is the One who delivers us. He is the One who frees us. He is the One who blesses us.

“Otherwise, you may say in your heart, ‘My power and the strength of my hand made me this wealth.’ But you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who is giving you power to make wealth, that He may confirm His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.” (Deuteronomy 8:17–18)

God will confirm His covenant. Every Word that He has spoken to you He will confirm. He will fulfill every Word, and He will do it by Himself.

“Hear, O Israel!” The Hebrew word for “hear” is *Sh'ma*, which does not only mean “to hear,” but also “to obey.” “Hear [and obey], O Israel! You are crossing over the Jordan today to go in to dispossess nations greater and mightier than you, great cities fortified to heaven, a people great and tall, the sons of the Anakim, whom you know and of whom you have heard it said, ‘Who can stand before the sons of Anak?’” (Deuteronomy 9:1–2). We have also experienced spiritual warfare, but it is for a reason: we too are going in to possess. We go in to possess nations in the heavenly places that are greater than we are. There we see the strong man who is protecting his house—like the sons of Anak, greater and mightier than we (Numbers 13:28, 31). Nevertheless, God said, “You will dispossess them.”

“Know therefore today that it is the LORD your God who is crossing over before you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and He will subdue them before you, so that you may drive them out and destroy them quickly, just as the LORD has spoken to you. Do not say in your heart when the LORD your God has driven them out before you, ‘Because of my righteousness the LORD has brought me in to possess this land,’ but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is dispossessing them before you.” (Deuteronomy 9:3–4)



God Has Emptied Us So He Can Use Us

When we bring down the principalities and powers over the nations, it will not be because of our righteousness. It is only because of their wickedness that the Lord will use us as His instrument to speak His Word. We do not live by bread alone—it is not by what we do. It

is only by His Word, His force, His power, and His righteousness that He brings an end to the wickedness.

“Know, then, it is not because of your righteousness that the LORD your God is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a stubborn people. Remember, do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness; from the day that you left the land of Egypt until you arrived at this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD.” (Deuteronomy 9:6–7)

These passages that we read in Deuteronomy chapters 8 and 9 describe how Moses exhorted the children of Israel before they crossed the Jordan. They were getting ready to cross over and move as conquerors, to possess the land and receive the blessing and fulfillment of what God had spoken. Similarly, when Yeshua began His ministry, He went to the Jordan. After He was baptized and the Spirit descended upon Him, the Spirit drove or impelled Him into the wilderness (Mark 1:9–12). There God took Christ through exactly the same pattern of testing that He took Israel through in the wilderness because He was working the same thing in Yeshua as He had worked in Israel. Remember that the testing precedes the anointing.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry. And the devil said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.” And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE.’” (Luke 4:1–4)

Satan said, “Make bread. Provide for yourself.” And Yeshua answered, “Man cannot provide for himself. He lives by the Word of God.” It has to be God’s Word fulfilled by God.





Receive the Promise by Worshipping God

And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, “I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’” (Luke 4:5–8)

Satan tested Yeshua with the exact dominion that God had promised Him. The Father was already planning to give all creation into the hands of Christ. Satan came and said, “Let me give it to you. Do it another way. Don’t get the promise by worshipping God, by giving Him the credit.” Remember those verses in Deuteronomy 8 that describe all the blessings and everything God wants to give you? Satan is always trying to give you what God has already promised. Then the blessings that God has promised to give you can become such an issue in your own heart that you start to think, “The Lord promised me blessings. He promised me a blessing on my children and a blessing on my finances,” and you become tempted to grasp for those things, but in a way that is not believing that God will do what He said. In contrast, worship says, “Lord, You are everything. You are all there is, and for me in my life there is nothing else other than that which comes from You.”

When you are tested, you are being tested to see how you will receive the promises of God. Will you try to get them another way? Will you credit yourself or credit the world or credit some other means of appropriating the blessings of God? Yeshua said, “There is no other way.” As we read in Deuteronomy, the Lord said to the children of Israel, “Once you have all these blessings, will you say, ‘My hand did it’? Will you say, ‘Someone else gave this to me’? Or will you bless

the Lord your God and worship Him only?” When you experience the fulfillment of His Word, will you give yourself in service back to Him and worship God because you understand that all you have only comes from Him (John 3:27)? Your fulfillment involves nothing from you. There can be no pride of the flesh. That is why God said, “I humbled you.” Why does He humble us? Humiliation is not very fun, but He humbles us so that in our hearts we can distinguish between what He has given us and what we have done for ourselves. Through all eternity we will worship God. Through all eternity we will serve God because everything that we have is from Him. This is what Christ had in His spirit.



We Are Not to Test God

You have to remember who is testing whom. God is testing you, but you are not to test Him (Luke 4:9–12). Sometimes it is easy to try to test God with His own Word. Satan quoted Scriptures that were prophecies written of Christ: “He will give His angels charge concerning you, ... that you do not strike your foot against a stone” (Psalm 91:11–12). Then the devil said to Yeshua, “Okay, make this happen. Test the Lord. Make God come through with His Word.” We cannot turn any of our prayer or crying out to God into a test of Him and His Word. We cannot test Him. We must be the ones who receive testing from Him. We must be living in a faith that says, “You spoke these things, and You will manifest them to me. You will bless me. I do not live by bread alone. I live by Your Word—Your Word fulfilled by Your hand.” It is God who will give us the land. It is God who will bring the end of the testing. He will bring the fulfillment of the Word, of the prophecies, and of all that He has spoken to us.

Our hearts need to be freed from this unbelief that tests the Lord. In our unbelief about His Word, we may come back to Him and say, “Why are You leading me through this testing?” He

is leading you through the testing because He is going to bless you. He is testing your spirit to see how you will walk before Him. God must bring us to the place where we know how to stand before Him and how to appropriate from Him all that He has spoken. Our intercession cannot be about testing God. We do not bring the Word back to Him and say, “You spoke this. Now where is it? Why isn’t it manifested for me yet?” We must be vessels to speak His Word like watchmen on the wall, prophesying by faith day by day what He has said and what He has promised, knowing in our hearts that He will bring to pass that which He has spoken (Isaiah 62:6–7). Do you see the difference? His Word is faithful, and it will always manifest what He has spoken. It will always bring into being what He has determined (Isaiah 55:10–11).

Our cry is a cry of faith and a cry of worship that knows God will give us what He has spoken. When we find ourselves in a wilderness, and there is no water and we are thirsty, what do we do? Do we demand, “I need You to move now! You said You were going to do this, so You had better do it. Otherwise, You are lying to me”? No, we say, “We have a promise of water. We have a promise that You will sustain us. Give us this day our daily bread. We believe You. We trust You; we worship You and serve You.” Do not test the Lord but ask Him to provide by His Word every miracle, every blessing, and every promise that He has for you. Our focus is upon Him and His Word, and we simply believe that today is the day of His fulfillment. It is God who will bring about the fulfillment of every good Word that He has spoken. We draw that fulfillment from His presence because we believe in Him.

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All Scripture references are from the New American Standard Bible 1995 (NASB1995).

ABOUT GARY HARGRAVE



GARY HARGRAVE has a passion for leading people into spiritual maturity. Gary effectively ministers the life-changing truth of God's Word through Bible teaching and prophetic revelation that emphasizes the Lordship of Christ.

Gary embraces the teachings and insights of the Hebrew Scriptures as the essential foundation of God's Kingdom and the roots of Christian faith.

By cultivating spiritual maturity in Christians, Gary is deeply committed to teaching and inspiring unity in the Body of Christ and between Christians and the Jewish people.

Throughout decades of ministry, Gary has worked closely with leaders in the Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant communities to build relationships based on commonality and understanding. He frequently leads study tours to Israel in the land of the Bible.

Gary is the host of a weekly podcast entitled *Growing In God* and is the founder of Shiloh University, an accredited online Bible college and seminary.

Gary and his family reside in Hawaii.

For other insightful resources by Gary Hargrave, including podcasts, books, articles, videos, and other educational materials, please visit: www.HargraveMinistries.org.

ABOUT HARGRAVE MINISTRIES

The calling of the Lord upon this ministry is to lead people into spiritual maturity by revealing biblical truth. **Our passion is to see the Kingdom of God manifest on earth** as the Body of Christ grows in unity, power, and love.

Everything we do flows from the revelation of the Jewish foundations of our Christian faith. It is our desire and privilege to bless the land and people of Israel. Our Israel outreach includes our ability to:

- **Feed the poor and break the cycle of poverty in Israel**
- **Support the orphans and widows of fallen Israeli soldiers**
- Provide physical and emotional care to **child victims of terrorism**
- **Build bridges between Christians and Jews with biblical study and research**
- Support archaeology and preservation of the **biblical City of David**
- Provide 24/7 **care for Holocaust survivors**
- **Help persecuted Jews around the world return to Israel and start new lives**
- Plant trees to **reforest Israel** and help create **"The Gospel Trail"** between Nazareth and Capernaum

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