

Letter to the Thessalonians:

To the church of the Thessalonians:

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your entire spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it.

-Paul-

1 Thessalonians 5

1 Thessalonians 5 Instructions for Church Life

19 Do not quench the Spirit.

20 Do not despise prophecies,

21 but test everything.

Hold fast to what is good.

22 Abstain from every form of evil.

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2 Corinthians 5

7 for we walk by faith, not by **sight**--

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How do we test prophecies?

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Four Scriptural Tests For Testing Prophecies:

Deuteronomy 18 – Accuracy (applicable for predictive prophecy)

Deuteronomy 13 –

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Deuteronomy 13 – Doctrine

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Four Scriptural Tests For Testing Prophecies:

Deuteronomy 18 – Accuracy (applicable for predictive prophecy)

Deuteronomy 13 – Doctrine (do they teach about God accurately?)

Deuteronomy 13

1 “If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder,
2 and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, ‘Let us go after other gods,’ which you have not known, ‘and let us serve them,’
3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams.

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For the LORD your God is testing you,

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For the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

Deuteronomy 13

4 You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear him and keep his commandments and listen to his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him.

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5 But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion

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4 You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear him and keep his commandments and listen to his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him.

5 But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has taught rebellion against the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of slavery, to make you leave the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk.

So you shall purge the evil from your midst. [1 Corinthians 5:13]

1. God sometimes grants to the kingdom of evil, the ability to work signs, wonders and even predictive prophecies that come to pass.
 - A prophecy coming true, DOES NOT mean its source is from God.

Matt. 24:24; 2 Thess. 2:9-11; Rev. 13:13-14, Acts 16:16-19

2 Timothy 3

1 But understand this: In the last days terrible times will come.

2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents,

ungrateful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, without love of good,

4 traitorous, reckless, conceited,

lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

5 having a form of godliness but denying its power.

Turn away from such as these!

2 Timothy 3

6 They are the kind who worm their way into households and captivate vulnerable women who are weighed down with sins and led astray by various passions, 7 who are always learning but never able to come to a knowledge of the truth.

8 Just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses, so also these men oppose the truth.

They are depraved in mind and disqualified from the faith.

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2. We are to be a people whose faith/nourishment comes from HEARING or READING the Word about Christ.
 - We are NOT a people who put faith in what we see or experience.

Deut. 4; Rom. 10:17; John 20:31; Rom. 15:4; Matt. 11:20-24

2 Corinthians 11

2 I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy.

For I promised you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

3 I am afraid, however, that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may be led astray from your simple and pure devotion to Christ.

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Genesis 3

6 When the woman **saw** that the tree was good for food and **pleasing to the eyes,**

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Genesis 3

6 When the woman **saw** that the tree was good for food and **pleasing to the eyes**, and that it was desirable for obtaining wisdom, she took the fruit and ate it.

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4 For if someone comes and proclaims a Jesus other than the One we proclaimed,
or if you receive a different spirit than the One you received,
or a different gospel than the one you accepted,
you put up with it way too easily.

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4. This test is one where God does the testing.
 - God purposely uses false prophets, with great abilities, to test His people and thereby separate the genuine from the false.

1 Corinthians 11

18 First of all, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it.

19 And indeed, there must be factions among you to show which of you are approved.

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19 And indeed, there must be **factions** among you to show which of you are approved.

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18 First of all, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it.

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18 First of all, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it.

19 And indeed, there must be **factions (hairesis)** among you to show which of you are **approved (dokimos)**.

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5. This test of God's, will reveal who loves Him with all their heart and soul.
 - It is love for God that motivates us to test prophets carefully.
 - It is love for things other than God that leads to being deceived.

Ezekiel 14

1 Then some of the elders of Israel came and sat down before me.

2 And the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

3“Son of man, these men have set up idols in their hearts and put wicked stumbling blocks before their faces.

Should I consult with them in any way?

4 Therefore speak to them and tell them that this is what the Lord GOD says:

‘When any Israelite sets up idols in his heart and puts a wicked stumbling block before his face, and then comes to the prophet,

I the LORD will answer him according to his great idolatry,

5 so that I may take hold of the hearts of the people of Israel.

For because of their idols, they are all estranged from Me.’

Ezekiel 14

6 Therefore tell the house of Israel that this is what the Lord GOD says: 'Repent and turn away from your idols; turn your faces away from all your abominations.

7 For when any Israelite or any foreigner dwelling in Israel separates himself from Me, sets up idols in his heart, and puts a wicked stumbling block before his face, and then comes to the prophet to inquire of Me, I the LORD will answer him Myself.

8 I will set My face against that man and make him a sign and a proverb; I will cut him off from among My people.

Then you will know that I am the LORD.

Ezekiel 14

9 And if the prophet is deceived and speaks a word, I, the LORD, have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand against him and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel.

10 They will bear their punishment—the punishment of the inquirer will be the same as that of the prophet—

11 in order that the house of Israel may no longer stray from Me and no longer defile themselves with all their transgressions.

Then they will be My people and I will be their God, declares the Lord GOD.’ ”

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God gives people the teachers that they truly desire in their hearts.

2 Timothy 4

1 I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of His appearing and His kingdom:

2 Preach the word;

be prepared in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and encourage with every form of patient instruction.

3 For the time will come when men will not tolerate sound doctrine, but with itching ears they will gather around themselves teachers to suit their own desires.

4 So they will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths.

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John 7

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17 If anyone desires to do His will, he will know whether My teaching is from God or whether I speak on My own.

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6. This test includes discerning a true prophet from a false one; but also then, to purge the "evil (prophet) from among" us.
 - It wasn't enough to just expose him, but they were to dispose of him.

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