

THE PROVING GROUND

TO BE TRUSTED IT MUST BE TESTED

The Lordship Test

Pastor Nick Dekold - June 9, 2024

James 1:2-4

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy, for you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man but in the end it leads to death

1. DO I ACCEPT AND BELIEVE THAT GOD'S WORD IS ALWAYS TRUE AND HIS WAYS ARE ALWAYS BEST.

Mark 10:17-22

As Jesus was starting out on his way to Jerusalem, a man came running up to him, knelt down, and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "Why do you call me good?" Jesus asked. "Only God is truly good. But to answer your question, you know the commandments: 'You must not murder. You must not commit adultery. You must not steal. You must not testify falsely. You must not cheat anyone. Honor your father and mother.' "Teacher," the man replied, "I've obeyed all these commandments since I was young." Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. "There is still one thing you haven't done," he told him. "Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." At this the man's face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

SAVIOR - SOMEONE WHO RESCUES ME IN TIMES OF NEED

LORD - SOMEONE WHO LEADS MY LIFE THAT I WILLINGLY SUBMIT TO

James 1:22-25

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. 23 Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

2. HOW MUCH ARE YOU WILLING TO LET GOD BE THE LEADER OF YOUR EVERYDAY LIFE.

Matthew 26:36-39

Then Jesus went with them to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and he said, "Sit here while I go over there to pray." He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, and he became anguished and distressed. He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me. He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

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Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

HOW DO WE PASS THE LORDSHIP TEST?

1. DON'T FOLLOW THE CROWD OR CULTURAL OPINIONS

Matthew 7:13-14

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

2. LET THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD GUIDE YOUR LIFE

Psalms 119:105

Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path

Proverbs 29:18

When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is joyful.

3. LIVE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AND LISTEN TO HIS VOICE

John 10:27

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me

John 15:9-11

"I have loved you even as the Father has loved me. Remain in my love. When you obey my commandments, you remain in my love, just as I obey my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you these things so that you will be filled with my joy. Yes, your joy will overflow!