



God.0

THE SEARCH FOR THE ORIGINAL VERSION OF GOD'S CHARACTER

SESSION

4



Lorem ipsum

1. This "Yes & No" section makes me nervous, because I feel like I'm being tested to see if I know the right answer.
2. My faith has been tested through some pretty big trials.
3. God tests us to see how serious we are about our relationship with Him.
4. Most of the troubles that come into my life are tests from God to help me grow.
5. God tests us to discover what we are really thinking.

yes
&
no

dig
deeper

HOW GOD TESTS

∞ What are some of the things that have happened in your life which you thought might have been God testing you?

∞ What was Abraham's ultimate test? Why do you think God tested Abraham in this way? Didn't God already know how committed he was? SEE Genesis 22:1,2 (NLT): *"Some time later, God tested Abraham's faith. "Abraham!" God called. "Yes," he replied. "Here I am." 2 "Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of Moriah. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you."*

» The same Hebrew word used for Abraham's test (*nasah*) is also used in Exodus 15:25. *Nasah* means "to examine." What consistent behavior is God displaying in both of these tests?

» When temptations come, is God sometimes behind it? Does He test us in this way?

WHEN THE BIBLE SPEAKS ABOUT GOD TESTING MAN, WHAT WORDS ARE USED ALMOST ALWAYS?

° *tsaraph* & *bachan*:

∞ *tsaraph* & *bachan* are metalurgical terms which mean "to refine or smelt."

LET'S VISIT A PRECIOUS METALS REFINERY! (video) -

How did Job view God's testing? Read Job 23:10: 10 *"But he knows where I am going. And when he tests me, I will come out as pure as gold."*

dig deeper ...continued

AN OVERVIEW OF SCRIPTURE TO SEE GOD'S DESIRE TO REFINE US

ALL QUOTATIONS FROM THE NIV

Psalm 26:2 - tsaraph: **Test** me, LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind.

Psalm 139:23 - bachan: Search me, God, and know my heart; **test** me and know my anxious thoughts.

Jer. 11:20 - bachan: But you, LORD Almighty, who judge righteously and **test** the heart and mind...

Psalm 66:10 - bachan: For you, God, **tested** us; you refined us like silver.

Prov. 17:3 - bachan: The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD **tests** the heart.

Is. 48:10 - first tsaraph, then bachan: See, I have **refined** you, though not as silver; I have **tested** you in the furnace of affliction.

Jer. 9:7 - tsaraph & bachan: Therefore this is what the LORD Almighty says: "See, I will refine and **test** them, for what else can I do because of the sin of my people?"

Zech. 13:9 - tsaraph & bachan: This third I will put into the fire; I will refine them like silver and test them like gold...

Jer. 20:12 - bachan: LORD Almighty, you who **examine** the righteous and probe the heart and mind...

Ps. 17:3 - bachan: Though you probe my heart, though you examine me at night and **test** me, you will find that I have planned no evil...

∞ How does it affect you to see that God's primary way of "testing" is to refine you? How does that either confirm or alter your perspective of His character?

1. When during my lifetime has God been "refining" me?
2. Seeing that God is less of a test proctor and more of a precious metals refiner, how does that affect my relationship with Him?
3. What is one misconception of God the Father that you feel got corrected this week?

my
prayer