

# Forty Days of Purpose Devotional

## Day 5 "Life is a test and a trust."

1Pet 3:11, quoting Ps 34, gives the exhortation to "*seek peace and pursue it*". How is a Christian to seek peace if there is constant stress from the awareness that *everything you do* will be graded and evaluated, and how well you do will have eternal consequences? Fortunately, Scripture clearly teaches that God is a loving and merciful Father:

*"As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust"* (Ps103:13-14 [NIV]).

God does not eagerly compile a record of all our mistakes in order to punish us, but rather forgives us as we come to Him in humility, confessing our sins and asking for help. **God wants us to pass our tests!** Have you ever taught a small child to walk? Initially they can not take a single step, falling down every time. But a loving parent does not punish the child trying to walk, but rather protects him from permanent injury while helping and encouraging him. When the test is passed there is rejoicing! Neither does a loving parent always carry the child, because children grow up and parental love understands that the child will either become mature, leading to happiness, or immature, leading to lifelong failure. God tests us to help us mature, out of love, for our good. As we mature, we are invited to take an ever more active role in our own development:

*"Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else, for each one should carry his own load"*.(Gal 6:4-5 [NIV]).

As we grow and mature our authority and area of responsibility – our "load" – will grow as well. How well do we do with the authority with which God entrusts us? If we do well there is reward, and often increased authority. If we do not do well, we can use our failure as an opportunity to learn and grow, trusting the Father to forgive us.

- God tests us, out of love, for our good so that we can mature.
- As we mature, God trusts us with authority, so that we may continue to learn and grow while we do His work here on earth, gathering a harvest for Him and "storing up treasures in heaven" for ourselves (Mat 6:20).

Today, ask yourself what part of your life is a test you are struggling to pass – or, perhaps, have recently failed. Confess your struggles to God, trusting Him to forgive, and ask Him for help, trusting in His love. What is your greatest area of authority? Acknowledge that everything is a gift from God and seek wisdom from God: "*If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt.*" (James 1:5-6 [NIV]).

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---