

Integrity Life Church iGroup 2018

The Proving Ground 1.0 : Nine Tests that Prove your Personal Potential by Pastor Kevin Gerald

Oct 14-Nov 24, 2018 (Test 1-5)

Week 1 (Oct 14-20) The Test of Small Things: This test comes to prove our potential for greater opportunities.

Ephesians 5:16; A problem , whether Small or great, is still an Opportunity!

- Experience Required: Read Matthew 25:20-23
- God made us to match the Mission: Read Esther 4:14; Genesis 13:2, 6-17
- 1. What are we doing with what we have?
- 2. Can I handle the increase in your life?
- 3. How do I facilitate increase in my life?
- 4. Do I have a vision for increase?

Tips: Problems=Opportunity; small opportunities become a doorway to greater ones; be motivated with the small things in your life; Make no excuses

Week 2 (Oct 21-27) The Motivation Test: This test comes upon a person who is doing the right thing, to prove why they are doing what they are doing. Read Job 1:9-11

Discuss: The reason I do what I do, will ultimately determines what I do (motive is the compelling force behind our actions). Proverbs 4:20-23 Matthew 12:33-35

1. Why do we do what we do?
2. Why do we go to Church? Hebrews 10:25 and Psalm 92:13
3. Why do I pray? Matthew 6:5-6 Psalms 150

Week 3 (Oct 28-Nov 3) The Credibility Test: This test comes to prove our reliability and trustworthiness. Read Matthew 25:23

Credibility is the combination of What I do; Who I am; how others view me Luke 2:52

Noone else can earn your credibility. 3 forms of credibility: Phillipians 4:1-10

- Competence (note to self: doing whatever it is you want to do, involves earning the credibility of competence.
- Personality (note to self: our personality is made up of what we think about the most, how we respond to difficulties, what we do when we hear negative or positive feedback, how comfortable we are with failure or defeat, and what kind of people we get along well with.)
- Character (note to self- we must practice inside – out living, Psalm 51:1-12)

Week 4 (Nov.4-10) The Wilderness Test: This test comes in the form of a dry season, to prove your potential to make the changes necessary to enter the next level of prosperity in your life. Read: Deuteronomy 8:15-16

The right response to the wilderness:

- Keep an Attitude of Gratitude I Thessalonians 5:18
- Don't Fix the blame, Fix the Problem and Don't look back Ecclesiastes 7:10
- Conquering containment (note to self: the strategy of evil is to contain good)

Commented [KM1]:

7 symptoms of **routine** Christianity opens the flood gates to welcome a wilderness experience:

R=rut of repeated activity; O=obstinate state of mind, stubborn; U=unbelief; T=traditions that no longer serve a purpose; I=ignorance from failure to gain knowledge and understanding; N= nature of the flesh being allowed to fulfill its desires over the Will of God; E= empty spirit that lacks resources that give life.

Not all challenge brings progress, but all progress brings change.

List 3 ways you are willing to change, when in the wilderness?

Week 5 (Nov 11-17) The Authority Test: This test comes to prove your respect for the authority that God has put in your life.

Lets take note of our attitude in those areas of our life where authority exists: (brief open discussion)

In our family; On our job; At our church; At our school; In our community(world)

Q. How do we accept Gods Word concerning authority? Read: Romans 13:1; Colossians 3:18-22; Hebrews 13:7 Romans 13:1-7

Key biblical principles that describe a proper attitude toward authority: Read and discuss each.

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| 1. Submission-surrender, obedience, resign | Romans 13:1 |
| 2. Respect-show consideration, honor and esteem | I Timothy 6:1 |
| 3. Obey- to carry out orders,to be guided by | Hebrews 13:7 |
| 4. Honor-to respect greatly, to show high regard for | Romans 13:7 |

Q. Where do we fall short? (brief open discussion)

Week 6(Nov 18-24) The Authority Test continued

Key biblical principles that describe a wrong attitude toward authority: Read and discuss each.

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| 1. Rebellion-a defiance or opposition to authority | I Samuel 15:23 |
| 2. Sedition-stirring up of discontent, resistance | Galatians 5:19-21 |
| 3. Railer-speaks bitter with complaint against others | I Corinthians 5:11 |
| 4. Insurrection-rise against authority | Psalms 64:2 |

Q. How do we recognize legitimate authority? We should see a balance of privilege with responsibility. (note to self: legitimate authority is functional authority, it exists to accomplish a purpose.

Lets review our responses to those who have authority in our life, discussed in Week 5. Any changes?