

**South American Ministers Meeting
Questions and Answers for September
Brian Kocourek**

Question no 1.- Rev. Lee Vayle points to the "*two spirits*" message, **two lights in Genesis**. Can you point out which Scripture refers to the Son of God and which to Lucifer? Do you know if at any time the Rev. Lee Vayle corrects this position or maintains this position?

Answer 1) Before we go any further let me just make a correction here. The sermon is called "*Two Spirits (Mark 16)*" But brother Vayle does not point to the two light as you have stated here.

This sermon has nothing to do with supposedly two lights in Genesis.

Now, there are two lights mentioned in Genesis but one light speaks of the birth of the son of God, that is **Genesis 1:3** as I have painstakingly shown you the quotes from our prophet stating that is so. I will get back to that in a moment. **3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.** (The Spoken Word is the Original seed, or son. This was a Spoken Word birth. No different than **Genesis 1:26**) **4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 And God called the light Day,** (yowm, literally sunrise to sunset) **and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.** (Sunrise to sunset).

Now, the next light spoken of in Genesis is the sun, and the moon which only reflects the light of the sun in the absence of the son, and then the stars in verse 14. And remember stars also is a symbol for sons.

14 And God said, Let there be lights (plural) **in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: 15 And let them be for lights** in the firmament of the heaven **to give light upon the earth: and it was so. 16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. 17 And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, 18 And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. 19 And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.**

Now, in getting back to **Genesis 1:3** God's prophet is very specific that this speaks of the birth of the son of God, the logos of God which was given birth. We see this in Proverbs 8.

Proverbs 8:22 *"The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; 23 I was formed long ages ago, at the very beginning, when the world came to be. 24 When there were no watery depths, I was given birth, when there were no springs overflowing with water; 25 before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, 26 before he made the world or its fields or any of the dust of the earth. 27 I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, 28 when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, 29 when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out*

the foundations of the earth. 30 Then I was constantly at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, 31 rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.

But there is no place in Scripture that speaks of Satan, or Lucifer as being born, because he was not born, he was created. There is only one scripture that speaks of Lucifer's beginning and that is in Ezekiel

Now, brother Vayle does not mention "**two lights**" in Genesis. If you read what he said, and somehow got that out of what he said, then that is just your imagining him to say, but it is not what he said. Furthermore, brother Vayle says, "**Now I'm not saying that's exactly as it was.**" So that means he is saying, "**I am not certain of this, because all I see is one light in Genesis 1:3, and yet Lucifer is also called son of the morning, or son of the Dawn.**"

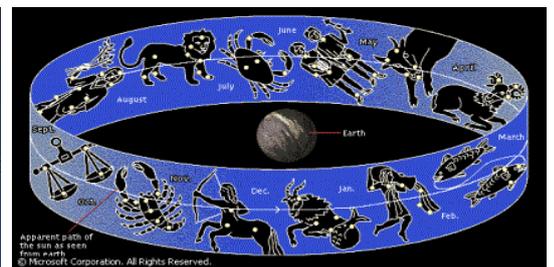


So there is no place in Scripture that shows Lucifer being created, except in **Ezekiel 28:14** Where God says, "**Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so:**"

Yet he is a twin, and he is called a son, yet not a son by birth but a son by creation.

Now, we know this because God set in the universe His Bible and in the constellation we have Gemini which in Spanish is Gemelos, which means Twins.

Now, the reason we know **Genesis 1:3** is **the son of God** is because William Branham prophet of God said so. That is



the only reason we can say that, is because we are saying what a vindicated prophet told us the light in Genesis 1:3 was the logos that went out of God, the little light he called it which was the birth of the Son of God. And that light was "**The Spoken Word which was the Original Seed**, or son period.

Brother Branham tells us that when God birthed forth Jesus, there were two beings involved. One who is God and One who is the Son of God. And he said it was when that little light went forth.

From his sermon **Attitude And Who Is God? 50-0815 018** Brother Branham tells us, "**There He puts the first Bible. Oh, back in the ancient days, they looked at those things. Today, He's got His Bible wrote here. But He wrote It in the heavens, that man would look up and realize that Jehovah the Creator lived above. And then I can see Him, He looked at that...I can see Him speak to this world hanging there as an icicle, whatever it was, way away. And He moved it over here. I can see this little Light go out. Now, We Got two now. The Father, and out of the Father came the Light, the Son. And I can see that Light moving over here and pulled the earth**

over near the sun to dry it off. And begin to...?... raise the water up, separating the land, earth from the water, and so forth.

Gain God's Prophet said in his **QA on Genesis COD 53-0729 P:12** "Now, **No man has seen the Father at anytime.**" No man can see God in the bodily form, because **God is not in body form; God is a Spirit.** See? All right. **No man has seen the Father, but the only begotten of the Father hath declared Him,"** I John... See? Now, but notice now, **there's nothing; there's just space. There's no light; there's no dark; there's no nothing; it's just seems nothing.** But in there is a great **supernatural Being, Jehovah God,** Who covered all space of all places at all times. He was from everlasting from everlasting; He is the beginning of creation. That's God. Can't see nothing, can't hear nothing, not a move of an atom in the air, not nothing, not no air, no nothing, but yet God was there. That was God. (Now, let's watch for a few minutes, and after a while...) No man has seen That, now; **that's the Father. That's God, the Father.** **P:13** Now, notice. **Then after while I begin to see a little sacred Light begin to form, like a little halo or something;** you could only see it by spiritual eyes to look now, while we're looking, the whole church now. We're standing on a great big banister, watching what **God's** doing. And we'll get right down to this question here and you'll see how He brings it in. Now, **no one has seen God.** And now, the next thing we begin to see, by eyes of supernatural looking, **we see a little white Light forming out there.** What is that? That was called, by Bible readers, **"Logos,"** or **"the anointed,"** or **"the anointing,"** or as I was going to say, **the part of God** begin to develop into something so human beings could have some type of an idea what It was: it was a little, **a little Light** moving. He... **That was the Word of God.** Now, **God gave Himself birth to this Son** which was before there was even an atom or air to make an atom. That was... See, Jesus said, **"Glorify Me, Father, with the glory that We had before the foundation of the world."** See, way back in yonder... **P:14** Now, in St. **John 1** He said, **"In the beginning was the Word."** When the first... **"And the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us."** God unfolding Himself down to a human being, now, watch how He did it. Now, back there, then, **when this little halo comes**... Now, we can't see nothing yet, but just by eyes of just supernatural we see a halo standing there. Now, **that's the Son of God, the Logos,** Now, I can see Him playing around like a little child before the Father's door, with all eternity. See?

Now, I do not know how you can read these quotes from God's prophet and apply what he is saying to any other Scripture than **Genesis 1:3.** You just can't do it and **rightly divide the word of truth.**

And then in **Genesis 1:15-17** we are told how God brought forth the rest of creation. And then when we get to **Genesis 1:26** we are told how God says to **His First born son,** **"Let us make man in our image."** And of course, he was talking to his son, not only because a vindicated prophet in our day told us that, but also the Apostle Paul who was also vindicated told us that Jesus Christ was the light being and the exact image of the father.

Hebrews 1:3 Amplified Bible "The Son is **the radiance** and **only expression of the glory of God, reflecting God's Shekinah glory, the Light-being, the brilliant light of the divine, and the exact representation and perfect imprint of His Father's essence,** and upholding and maintaining and propelling **all things** [the entire physical and spiritual universe] by His powerful Word [carrying the universe

*along to its predetermined goal]. When **He [Himself and no other]** had [by offering Himself on the cross as a sacrifice for sin] accomplished purification from sins and established our freedom from guilt, He sat down [revealing His completed work] at the right hand of the Majesty on high [revealing His Divine authority], **4** having become as much superior to angels, since He has inherited a more excellent and glorious name than they that is as Son, the name above all names.*

So when God said, “**Let us make man in our image**”, there could be only one who was in the image of God at that point in time, and it had to be the pre-incarnate Son of God. Angels were created beings and not made in the image of God. There could be no other answer than he was talking to His son.

He then brought forth additional sons to be made in the very image of God as well. In the image of the Father and of course the Son who was the very exact image of God's being. And that is what God's vindicated prophet tells us in his Questions and Answers on Genesis.

QA on Genesis COD 53-0729 P:18 *He got all those things together, and made...?... made all the other things, all the animal life, the birds, the bees, the monkeys, and whatever it was, put them all here on earth. And then He asked this question now. "Let us (Who? **Father and Son**) **make man in Our own image.**" Now, **if a man was made something like that little sacred Light yonder, or something like that, It could not be seen (which is a spiritual Being).** He manifested or unfolded Himself a little more to make a trinity of Himself by Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And here was God, unfolded Himself now, down into "let us make man (**which was His son, an offspring from Him**) **man in Our own image (He was a supernatural being.), and let him have dominion over the cattles of the field, and so forth.**" Now, **the man led the the cattle and everything, just like the Holy Spirit leads a real true believer today.** The Voice of God out there... The voice of man, rather, would speak and say... call the cattle this way, call the sheep over to this pasture, call the fishes to this water. See, he had dominion; everything obeyed him.*

Therefore, when brother Branham preached his sermon “**the Spoken Word is the original Seed**”, this is what he was referring to. I preached 268 sermons from that one sermon of brother Branham's. And if the “**Spoken Word**” is “**the original seed**” that means it is the **original carrier of life**, because that is what a seed is, a carrier of life. And if the son of God was the original seed, that means he was the original son. And as Paul told us in **Romans 8:29** that “**Jesus Christ is the first born in a vast family of sons**”, and we are fore-ordained to the conformed to His image.”

That means he is **the original son**, which would make him **the first-born Son**. For that is what a son is, he is the seed of his father. And a seed is a carrier of life. Therefore, if it is **the original seed**, that means it is **the first seed** or **first carrier of life**. And the first time God spoke in **Genesis** we see the light came forth which William Branham himself said time and time again was **the son of God**. William Branham himself called that first light seen in **Genesis 1:3 the logos** (which is the Word of God) he says **it came forth from God** when God spoke, and he called it **the son of God**. He also calls it **the little light or halo that came forth from God** at the creation. But he is very clear **it is the son of God**, which means **it was birthed**.

Now, let's go back to what brother Vayle was saying, ...*I'm just telling you there's a possibility, and telling you, because I'm taking you way back to the very beginning. So in the very beginning, they're twins! One is a Son of God; one is a son of morning.* Now the word '*morning*' means '*dawn!*' *D-a-w-n. Sunrise.* So, is it not possible, that after this word came forth, "*Let there be light,*" and there was light, that this person was the first creation that was set there? Now the reason I'm saying that, *there is a difference between the two.*

Now, notice, this question sounds like the person is thinking brother Vayle is saying the light in **Genesis 1:3** is Lucifer, but to do that brother Vayle would have to be contradicting a vindicated prophet. And if you understand br. Vayle's ministry as a teacher, he pointed to vindication 85% of the time he taught. I know because he said so.

Notice Br. Vayle emphasizes that Lucifer is a son, but not a birthed son, he is a created son. And since he is called son of the morning, then he had to come after the Morning star which was that Logos which came out of God, or he would not be called son of the morning. And if he was the light of genesis 1:3 then he was birthed by God, for God said, "*let there be light.*" And all of God's children are spoken word birthed.

So Br. Vayle was very definitive that Lucifer was not the light of **Genesis 1:3**, and as he said, he was not certain then when that false light Lucifer appeared.

And there is now way that br. Vayle was telling us that **Genesis 1:3** is the son of the morning. The light in **Genesis 1:3** is called the morning star, and Jesus Claimed that title for himself in **Revelation 22:16** *[Jesus] have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.*

And there has to be the presence of the morning star before you can have a son of the morning. So you see Lucifer was not created before the birth of the son of God. He was created after the birth of the morning Star which was Jesus Christ, that little light that God spoke forth in **Genesis 1:3** which brother Branham said was *the Logos, a part of God that came forth from God.* And as brother Vayle said, "*Now the word 'morning' means 'dawn!' D-a-w-n. Sunrise.*" And that is why God called that Light "*day*". The word "*day*" in Hebrew is "*yown*" and it means "*from sunrise to sunset.*" **Genesis 1:5** *And God called the light Day,* And Peter called him "*the Day Star*".

2 Peter 1:19 *We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:*

Let me read for you what you quoted br. Vayle as saying so you can see here he is not saying what your question says.

Rev. Lee Vayle – Sermon Two Spirits (Mark 16) 9 Jan 1997 (12) *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!* Now, that word '*son*' in the

Hebrew is the same word for **son, s-o-n, as all sons, period**. Now, the Jehovah Witnesses think that Jesus is a Son of God by creation. Not so. **He's the Son of God by birth, and God gave birth to Him, because that Son was a part of God, the same as every baby when it comes forth in the flesh is the visible part of the woman's flesh that comes forth, not the man's, although that's in the genes and forms what was in the womb, but it's the woman that supplies everything else in there that that spirit inside, or that soul works inside on, and brings it forth. So all right. "Thou son of the morning."** 25 Now, **Lucifer was a son, but not a son by birth**. Now the word 'son' means, according to what I read in the definition, it's 'a builder of a family'. So therefore, **Jesus is a builder of the family, and Satan is a builder of a family**. Now **Satan is a builder by reason of creation**, and therefore that's what he was way, way back there. And that's when I say there might not have been any creation other than the heavens, and the archangels, the angels, and a form of worship up there, then after that, ...

And then you skip forward to Page 11/23 “Jesus coming on the scene as creator of the earth and all, could have done it. Now **I'm not saying that's exactly as it was**. I'm just telling you **there's a possibility**, and telling you, because I'm taking you way back to the very beginning. So **in the very beginning, they're twins! One is a Son of God; one is a son of morning**. Now the word 'morning' means 'dawn'! D-a-w-n. **Sunrise**. So, is it not possible, that **after this word came forth, "Let there be light," and there was light**, that this person was the first creation that was set there?

Now catch his words here, because brother Vayle was a very definitive teacher. He said, **after this word came forth, "Let there be light," and there was light**. Then br. Vayle suggests to us “was it possible that Lucifer was then the first creation after this birth of the son of God.” So he is not talking about the Logos being birthed is the first creation which was Lucifer, that is extrapolating way too much from what he said. He makes a definitive statement first, **that AFTER this word came forth, "Let there be light," and there was light**, then after that birth, “that this person was the first creation that was set there?”

Now, remember, he just told us Now **I'm not saying that's exactly as it was**. I'm just telling you **there's a possibility**. And why would he not be certain? Why would he say, I am not saying that's exactly as it was? I will tell you why he said that. Because there is no scripture for the creation of Lucifer in particular. Yet we know He is called by our prophet Michael (Christ's) Twin.

But You see twins are never born exactly at the same moment. Usually there is a period of time, perhaps minutes, hours or even days between there coming into this world. And since no one knows when Lucifer was created, yet we know he must have been the first angel created by God, and in fact that is exactly what Brother Branham tells us in his sermon **Questions and answers COD 59-0628E P:41** Now, let's turn to the New Testament to **Luke 10:18**, just a minute, and see what Jesus said. In the Book of Luke, you that have your Bibles now, that's trying to get on these questions, **Luke 10:18: And he said unto them, ... (Jesus speaking) ... I beheld Satan as lightning falling from heaven**. See, **Satan was the original archangel of God**. He once dwelt in the heaven. **He once was the greatest person in the heavens outside of God. He was God's right-hand man to fellowship, and he got puffed up in his heart**.

Now, back to br. Vayle's Statement. *"Now the reason I'm saying that, **there is a difference between the two**. Someone would like to say that Jesus is a brother of the devil. And the restitutionists believe that Jesus and the devil will walk down the streets of glory one day hand in hand, that's a lie from the pit of hell! They ain't going to do it! And I'm going to be there to see it ain't done. You know I had to throw that in there. Because look, there's nothing in my heart that would ever believe that for fifteen minutes, there couldn't be. All my life I want to love God and be obedient. And this fellow here that's defiant, wants to destroy the holy encampment, is he going to walk down there? Am I going to be a part of him and him of me? My God. No, no, no, no, no, there's nothing there that could believe that. ...?... believed that. **Bro. Branham denied it, so that takes care of that**. That's what Jimmy Jones believed too, by the way. So you got a good idea. 26 "**Thou son of the morning!**" **So you got two sons. One's the Son by birth, the other is a son of creation, at two different times entirely**. So therefore, **One belongs to eternity, and the other does not belong to eternity!** None of the angels belong to eternity. Angels and archangels, and different cherubim, for all I know fell, I know angels fell.*

So as you can see, he is very definitive that the birthing of the son of God and the creation of the son of the morning were at two different times, yet somehow they are represented in Scripture as twins.

Cain and Abel were not born at the same time. It could have been days apart for all we know. Esau and Jacob were born close together, but one was born before the other and that is what they wrestled for in the womb, to get that birthright. That is why we are told, "not by power, nor by might but by my Spirit saith the Lord." Esau was more powerful and was mightier than Jacob, and so he pushed Jacob aside and came forth to claim the birthright, but God's hated Esau before he was even born, and loved Jacob, and "so not by power, not by might, will you acquire the birthright, but by My Spirit saith the Lord." I think you might have a better understanding of that Bible verse now.

But this Twins that brother Vale is speaking of is not two births, no not for one second. He said, "*One was born and the other was created and it was at **two different times entirely***."

And that is only logical because one had to be born before he could bring forth the other in creation.

Remember the Apostle Paul said in Hebrews 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

The Amplified Bible puts it this way, *2 has in these last days spoken with finality to us in the person of One who is by His character and nature His Son namely Jesus, whom He appointed heir and lawful owner of all things, through whom also He created the universe that is, the universe as a space-time-matter continuum.*

The Expanded Bible says, *2 But now in these last days God has spoken to us through his Son. God has chosen, appointed his Son to own [be heir/inheritor*

of] all things, and **through him he made the world [universe; ages; ^c comprising both space and time; John 1:2-4. "The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.**

4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

While we are at it lets also see in **Colossians 1** what the apostle Paul also says of the Son of God the logos of God that went out of God. **15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.**

So much for people trying to compare William Branham with the first born son of God. The fullness of the Godhead dwelled in the first-born son, and Paul says in Hebrews and Colossians that the first born son was the agent God used in the creation of all things. So there is no comparison, except that God allowed William Branham to point to where he wanted God to place the three created squirrels. That is why I repeat what br. Vayle always taught us, "**Get your eyes off the vessel, and get your eyes on the God who is using the vessel.**"

Question number 2. Can you please clarify the difference between the word "**sonship**" and the word "**son**". I think it is important to clarify this for the benefit of Spanish-speaking believers because in the Spanish translations of the prophet's messages, the word "**filiation**" is translated "**son**." And when the prophet says: "**I do not believe in an eternal sonship**", in Spanish he says: "**I do not believe in an eternal son**". The Unitarians use this to say that there is no son because they say; "there is no eternal son".

Answer for number 2 – Frankly we should not be concerned with what Unitarians, nor Trinitarians have to say. We know according to God's vindicated prophet they are both just as wrong and the other. But the word **son-ship** is actually **two words**, the noun "**son**" which describes the position of the person, and the suffix "**ship**" which simply means "**the state or quality of being**". Placed together the suffix ship together with the noun "**son**" speaks of the word "**son-ship**" which means "**the state or quality of being a son.**"

The English word "sonship" translates to Spanish as "**filiación**" which translated back to English is **filiation and that means "the fact of being the child of a certain parent. descent as if from a parent; derivation.**

But that word is not specific enough because it does not speak of the gender of "son" but rather generically that of a child the gender nonspecific. And that is not specific enough. Because there is a big difference between a son and a daughter when it comes to the birth right. So the best Spanish word to use would not be one word but the following phrase. "**el estado o cualidad de ser un hijo**" That is what the word sonship means.

Question 3.- Here in Peru, due to a lack of government control, some people who refuse the covid vaccine can obtain the vaccination card in a fraudulent way by

breaking the laws by paying a certain amount of money to government officials. This has also been done by several believers of the doctrine of the message who have not been vaccinated but have obtained their vaccination card in a fraudulent way in order to continue working or to enter certain establishments such as supermarkets, banks, etc. What do you think about this behavior of some followers of the doctrine of the message?

When Jesus said, “**render to Caesar what is Caesars**” he also said and “**Unto God what is God’s.**” Since our names are written in the palm of God’s hand then we belong to God and not to the state. *Isaiah 49:16 Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.*

John 10:28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

We do not belong to Caesar, nor any government. We are the children of God and one day the Government shall be upon our shoulders.

Now, remember, all these things are just for a test, and God is watching to see what you do with them.

We can look through the history of God’s children and see how God allowed governments to test His children and then we saw how they performed under such trials and testing.

We have **Job**, we have **Daniel**, we have **Shadrack, Meshack and Abednigo**, we have Joseph and others who trusted God for the answer and even defied the king’s orders but in all of them God watched over the way of His righteous with an active participation. God delivered them all.

Psalms 1:6 tells us “*For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous:* (That word knoweth I Yada and it means to watch over with an active participation) *but the way of the ungodly shall perish.* (And the word perish is “**awbad**” and means to be left to oneself.)

I know brothers in Australia who trusted God and both brothers lost their jobs, but one received a job from a competitor of his first company and he started work the very next day after being let go, so he never missed one day of work. And the other brother was able to make ends meet doing part time jobs until his boss was able to hire him back with the addition of a company car, the same pay and much less work to do.

Also, a sister who is a Medical Doctor in England was told to either take the vaccine or she would be fired. She had until a certain date to do so. I told her to hold out as long as she can and God will see her through. But I told her God always allows your trial to go down to the wire to watch your reaction. The day before her date to be fired came, the prime minister of England lifted the sanctions, and she was able to continue without being let go. She never missed a minute of work.

The answer then my brothers is that you can either trust in your Loving Father who is the creator of all things, including jobs, or you can trust in your own ability. But let me

tell you this, when you do the latter, you will end up like who had a trial of no food, and he was going to starve to death, "he thought". The Bible tells us "**Esau who for one morsal of meat despised his birthright.**" And God hated him for that.

We are in the time of testing and will be right up until the resurrection season. And God is watching you to see what you will do. To try to work out things for yourself you are telling God I do not need your help. And you will reap what you sow. Never forget as long as you are in this body you will reap what you sow, and if you are caught using fraudulent papers you may end up in jail and injected in their because then you will not be able to get away from their control.

So I would rather stand with my faith in God and never lean to the arm of flesh. When God's children in Goshen saw all the plagues strike Egypt, they trusted in the Word of God and God saw them through all the plagues.

1 Peter 1:3-7 6 *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That **the trial of your faith**, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and **glory** at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: 9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.*

Psalm 26:2 2 *Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart. Psalm 139:23 23* *Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:*

James 1:2-4 2 *My brethren, count it **all joy** when ye fall into divers temptations; 3 Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

God has through every age tested man. He tested and examined His own Son to see how He would handle the Word test and we know that every son that cometh to God must first be tried and tested. But we also found that the test is to prove us. Not to disapprove, but **to approve**. To show us off. Not that we have anything within our own selves that merits anything, but the fact is that We are a chip off the old block so to speak and God just loves to show off His Kids.

1 Peter 4:12-13 12 *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But **rejoice**, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.*

That's exactly what He did in Job's day. He put Job through the test because He knew what Job would do. You don't test your kids for Algebra if they haven't even learned their ABC's yet. You teach them their ABC's and then you progress onto higher things. And so when you are tested you should know this one thing. God has found favor in you, or you have found favor in His eyes and He is just bragging on His kids.

I Peter 1:3-7 *That the **trial** of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

Wuest : *In which last season you are to be constantly rejoicing with a joy that expresses itself in a triumphant exuberance, although for a little while at the present time if perchance there is a need of it, you have been made sorrowful in the midst of many different kinds of testings in order that the approval of your faith, which faith was examined for the purpose of being approved, that the approval being much more precious than the approval of gold which perishes, even though the gold be tried with fire-testing, may be discovered after scrutiny to result in praise, honor and Glory at the time of the Revelation of Jesus Christ;*

So we see then that God only tests us or puts us to the test with the Purpose in mind of Approval.

I Corinthians 10:13 *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man:* (In other words, there are certain kinds of trials and temptations we receive just because of our human nature, but the key is the next thing he says here **...but God [is] faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear [it].**

This word tempted here is a Greek word, "**Peirazo**" which means: **To try, or to make a trial or test for the purpose of ascertaining the persons quality, or what he thinks or how he reacts during the trial.**

So we see here, that God purposely has a means or method whereby He assures Himself of the progress He is making in our behalf. To put it in better words, God has everything under control. He uses tests to give Himself feedback and to give us feedback as to our Spiritual growth. Just like we do with our Kids. We hold up a tape measure to see how tall our kids get, and we have them hop skip and jump to measure their physical growth. We teach them subjects and we test them in those subjects to see how well they are coming along. Well, God is our Father and why should we be surprised when we ourselves are being put to the test. **1 Peter** tells us we should consider it **great joy** when we are being examined because we know that we cannot fail the test, and besides, the test is given because our Teacher and Tutor, the Holy Spirit of God believes we are ready to move up a little higher. Just like your final school exams each year.

Job 1:1-12 *1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. 2 And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. 3 His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east. 4 And his sons went and feasted in their houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. 5 And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have*

sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually. **6** Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. **7** And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. **8** And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? **9** Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? **10** Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. **11** But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. **12** And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

Notice how God is bragging on His Kid Job. He says to satan, Have you considered my servant Job... Have you considered Him... Now the word consider means this, Have you made a careful mental note to yourself, Have you taken notice of so that you might understand him better? And of course satan doesn't give in to God's bragging about His kid Job, so he says, "Aw, yeah, but He doesn't serve you for nothing. You give to Him and you protect him and watch over him and you've even put a protective hedge all around him, so who wouldn't reverently fear you with that kind of payback." Then we see that Job is subjected to many trials all at once that satan does, but that God allows . And again we see God bragging on His Kid Job in chapter 2.

Job 2:1-10 **2** Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD. **2** And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. **3** And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause. **4** And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. **5** But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face. **6** And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life. **7** So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown. **8** And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes. **9** Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die. **10** But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

So now the trials become even more personal but yet Job continues to fear God. Satan even uses his wife to throw criticism's his way but he even hold his head above that. And so we see Jobs friends come along and they also throw criticism's his way. Have you ever been through a trial when you felt that everything that could go wrong was going wrong, and then to put salt on your wounds, your husband or your wife criticizes you too. And then on top of that your friends join in the criticism.

That's when you feel like you are all alone in this world with no one who understands you. But rest assured. God understands you and the very purpose of these kind of trials is to let you know that He does understand, and He is just using the test or trial to tell you to come on up higher.

Let's look at another of His Son's. His only begotten Son, Jesus. **Hebrews 5:8-9**
8 *Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;*
9 *And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;*

Chastisement = to train Educate, instruct **Ephesians 6: 4** *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Nurture = Discipline*

Hebrews 12:1-6 *12 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. 4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. 5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: 6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.*

God sent forth His own Son into this world and tried Him and tested Him. But notice the Trials did not come when He was in His younger years. You hear nothing about Him from age twelve to thirty. But When He learned obedience it came through suffering. We do not hear of a Suffering Jesus from ages twelve to thirty. But as He learned and Grew in Grace God tested Him just as He tests you and I. We find Jesus receiving the Holy Ghost in the water when John was baptizing Him. The heavens opened up and the Holy Spirit of God came down like a dove and entered into Jesus. Then He went forth in a mighty ministry showing the people just What it was that had come down to earth and was in this man. But if you will notice, when God was through with this ministry. When His Message had been rejected, and the Messenger seemed to be defeated, That's when God stepped in to finish the exam for Him.

In the Garden, God left Jesus there to suffer alone. He asked His only close friends to come with Him to pray knowing full well what fate awaited Him the next day, and yet His Friends could not even comfort Him, they *could not stay awake with Him. They kept drifting off to sleep. So He knelt there alone as any man could be.*

Matthew 26:36-50 *36 Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. 37 And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. 38 Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. 39 And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt. 40 And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not*

watch with me one hour? 41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak. 42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. 43 And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. 44 And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. 45 Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. 46 Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me. 47 And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. 48 Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. 49 And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him. 50 And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus and took him.

Surrounded by friends and yet so alone. Facing His testing alone. And you know what. The trials came hard and furious for a couple days and then when it seemed like it was all over, God said, My Son, you have passed your test, come up higher, and He raised Him from the grave and this morning He sits in heavenly places "ever living to make intercession for our confession."

And he says to you "**Come Up higher**", You've passed your examine. You've passed your test"

Let us Pray