

## **The Garden of Eden as a test**

Adam and Eve's temptation in the Garden was a test. God wants to transform innocence into holiness.

Satan tempts us toward destruction. God tests us "unto approval" (dokimos in Greek).  
- adokimos is reprobate (not passing the test).

Greek dokimazo, "to test, try, make proof of"

Humanity - in different covenants with God - continued to fail these tests, until Christ came. His approval and acceptance becomes ours when we let go of self and embrace the cross. From then on, the test is whether we admit our failure and reflect the perfectly obedient life of Christ within us.

James 1:12 - Blessed is the man that endureth temptation/trial: for when he is tried (approved - dokimos), he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

2 Timothy 2:15 - Study (make every effort) to shew thyself approved (dokimos) unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The test is like a refiner's fire or an assayer's acids designed to eliminate impurities and reveal what is really there.

It is only after we have been fired in the furnace that the Refiner can begin to skim the dross from our spiritual character (Isaiah 1:25). At about 1,948 degrees Fahrenheit gold melts. The impurities in the gold begin to rise to the top. The refiner is then able to skim the impurities off the top of the molten metal. This process, called calcination, is then repeated over and over - usually seven times. Each time, a little more dross is skimmed off and the gold is further purified. Gold heated to 2,500 degrees produces 18-carat gold. At the maximum temperature gold becomes almost transparent.

Spiritually, my character is formed by the impurities of "me" being skimmed off to reveal Jesus.

Proverbs 17:3 says, "The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the Lord tests the heart."

"He knows the way that I take; when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold" (Job 23:10).

Isaiah 48:10 says, "See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction."

"He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify . . . and refine them like gold and silver" (Malachi 3:3).

1 Corinthians 4:15-17

Hebrews 12:5-6

1 Peter 4:12-19

Psalm 34:19

Psalm 119:67, 71

The whole Book of Job