

## Deuteronomy 8:16

**"In the wilderness He fed you manna which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do good for you in the end.**

Testing is a word that very few people ever get excited about. More times than not, most of us get a sick feeling in the pit of our stomachs whenever a test is coming up. But, I believe that is because we don't fully recognize the significance of the test. How many of you, would want a doctor to perform a medical procedure, especially when they had failed that very class in Med School? Or what about going on a flight with an airline and the crew taking you to your destination, had continuously failed their flight evaluations? None of us, right?

But what about God's test; do we truly understand the significance of them? Here in this scripture we are told that in order for God to do something for His people; He first had to humble them, in order to prepare them for that good thing. In other words, most of us know where we are and, where we want to be; but what we don't realize is that the test is the very bridge that will take us from here to there! The children of Israel did not want to go through the wilderness when they left Egypt. In fact, that eleven day journey became a forty year nightmare for most of them. The saddest part of all is that the masses of that two to three million body of people, failed in the end because they chose to go with their will, instead of God's. More times than not, we exhaust ourselves trying to attain our will over His! Perhaps we want what He has for us; but we just simply don't want to go down the path that He has chosen. Please understand this, whatever situation that you are facing, you will never have total success outside of His will. God loves you and me so much, that He allows situations of testing in our lives, in order to bring us closer to Him, and to the plans that He has for us; ultimately to bring us closer to the desires that He has planted in each of our lives. You'd think that each of us would want to learn from the children of Israel in the wilderness, but actually we are often no different. God's ultimate purpose in the wilderness was to take these freed slaves, and to do two things; first of all to be their God, and secondly for them to be His people. You see He promised Abraham, their patriarch that He would do this. But God couldn't just allow them into His presence without cleaning them up first. Not only did the Lord want intimacy with these people, He wanted to give them a promised land of their own. But in order for them to receive all that He had, He first needed to remove that slave mentality, poverty mentality, and victim mentality; that He might give them their new identity through the test. The test was an extension of His love for them! Just as His test is an extension of His love in your life!! So, stop fighting what He is doing and make a decision today to embrace whatever He has for you. The textbook definition for insanity is, "To do the same thing over and over again, but to keep expecting a different result". We will never attain the promises or intimacy with our God, outside of His Word or His Will.

I exhort you today, to see your test as an opportunity. An opportunity to go from where you are, to where He wants you!!