

# Testing/Tempting God Study Guide

There is a very fine line between testing/tempting God that is forbidden by the Bible and that which is seemingly acceptable such as Gideon's requests from God.

In Matthew 4, Satan tempts Jesus to throw Himself off the highest part of the temple saying that surely God would send His angels to save Jesus if He truly was the Son of God (Matt. 4:5-6). Jesus responds by saying in Matthew 4:7, "*It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'*" The King James Version reads, "It is written again, '*Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.*'"

Jesus quotes this command from Deuteronomy 6:16 which says, "*Do not test the Lord your God as you did at Massah.*" Now how was God tested at Massah? Well let's take a look at the Jewish history to find out what they did at Massah.

Read Exodus 17:1-7.

**What had God done in the previous chapters for the Israelites?**

**What did the Israelites do in Exodus 17:1-7? What was their attitude like to God and to Moses?**

**Read Exodus 17:7 again.**

**What did Moses call the place this happened?**

**What does that word mean?**

By Brian Cole

**Let's look back at Jesus temptation in Matthew 4:1-11.  
Why does Satan tempt Jesus? What does Satan want him to prove?**

**Does Jesus know that He is the Son of God?**

**What happens in the previous chapters that reveal Jesus as the Son of God?**

**Was Satan aware that Jesus was the Son of God?**

**Did Satan have any legitimate reason to get Jesus to test God to prove that He was the Son of God?**

**What Scripture did Jesus quote?**

**What are the similarities between this situation and the one with the Israelites?**

**Now let's look at Gideon and his testing of God.  
Read Judges 6:11-24.**

**Did Gideon know that the person he was talking to was the angel of the Lord at first?**

By Brian Cole

**Had God recently evidenced Himself to the Israelites with signs and wonders?**

**What two words clue Gideon that the person he is talking with might be the Lord?**

**What is the Lord calling Gideon to do?**

**Does Gideon know for sure that this person talking to him is the Lord?**

**What does Gideon ask him to do? Why?**

**What was Gideon's reaction when he realized who this person was?**

**Now read Judges 6:36-40.**

**Who all is with Gideon right now?**

**What does Gideon ask of God?**

By Brian Cole

**How does He approach God the third time?**

**Why do you think Gideon does this?**

**What is Gideon really asking of God?**

**Did Gideon complain, groan, or whine about what God was doing?**

**Gideon vs. the Israelites**

**What difference do you see between Gideon and the Israelites?**

**How did the Israelites approach God? And Gideon?**

The key part of the command that is found in Deuteronomy 6:16 is “*as you did at Massah.*” That part of the verse shows the difference between the two approaches to God one demanding of

God in a grumbling and complaining manner and the other humbly asking God for confirmation finding pleasure in God's sight.

Now how does this apply to our lives? Matthew Henry points out that before Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was not given to anyone on a permanent basis. Gideon did not have the Holy Spirit residing in him as you and I do to confirm God's work and what He is saying. But now we do have the Holy Spirit who speaks to us and confirms God's work and words in our life.

Read John 16:5-16, Romans 8:16, 1 Corinthians 2:10-12, Ephesians 3:3-5, Romans 15:13, Galatians 5:22-23, 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.

**What do these verses tell us about the Holy Spirit in our lives?**

God still works signs and wonders according to His will. We cannot demand that He prove Himself to us, when the Holy Spirit in us already testifies to God. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and increasing faith in God, God can use you as an instrument in working His signs and wonders to prove to others that He is God. If you ever have unbelief, simply ask God to help you with your unbelief and He will.

**Check your attitude when you go before God. Are you acting like a Gideon or an Israelite in the wilderness?**