

"The Testing and Refining of a God-Centered Life"
Sunday, February 28, 2010

Deception...

- Every person of faith (Christ-follower) will be tested. All that we trust in as a foundation for living (faith) will be called into question and will be tested.
The intention of the Enemy is to call into question whether the God-centered life is sufficient (James 1; Romans 5)

- The tactic of the Enemy is to distort legitimate needs, emotions and desires thereby calling into question one's faith
The Enemy seeks to cause me doubt whether God can meet my basic needs (Genesis 3; Matthew 4; 1 John 2:16)

- The Enemy will always work on and in areas where I struggle to trust God completely in legitimate areas of need...he is trying to get me to doubt
Philippians 4:19
He seeks to turn legitimate areas of need into "hang-ups of trust"; or besetting sin and what we are so easily "entangled by (Hebrews 12:1-2)

If the Enemy can get me to pursue my distorted perception of my wants and what I think I need or even deserve he is on his way to stealing from me my greatest joy and satisfaction...he has then succeeded in getting me to call into question God's faithfulness

Thievery...

- If I do not "check" a man-centered pursuit (sowing to the flesh) immediately, then the process will build on itself and leave me in places undesired and eventually unsatisfied (reaping of/from the flesh)

The man-centered pursuit is always accompanied by a defense and guard and protection of self as well as an effort to justify action and pursuit by blaming others or circumstances

Imprisonment / bondage...

- If, through a series of man-centered pursuits and failures, the enemy can get me to doubt my position of justification and God's faithfulness to forgive (Romans 5 and 1 John 1:9) he can lead me to doubt God will "have me back"...a false and distorted fear that God will reject me...and thereby steal from me what God intends...my greatest joy and satisfaction in the enjoyment of His love (Romans 8:37-39; 1 John 4:18)

Hope and restoration...

- Even if I have pursued a man-centered way of living I, as a Spirit witnessed follower of Jesus (Romans 8:12-17), must never forget the promise and hope of Matthew 11:28-30 and Acts 3:19 and the Prodigal story of Luke 15

