

Purifying Your Golden Path



"But he knows where I am going. And when he tests me, I will come out as pure as gold. For I have stayed on God's paths; I have followed his ways and not turned aside." Job 23:10-11 (NLT)

Seven signifies completion, fulfillment, or purity in the Bible. For example, when God capped six days of work with a day of rest, he pronounced his creation to be "very good!" Unfortunately, the fall of man tainted what was once pure.

"So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold." The Apostle Peter (1 Peter 1:6-7)

Praise the Lord for his mercy! Your destiny is as pure gold thanks to the blood of Jesus, but in the meantime God tests. Will you faithfully remain on the path he's set before you?

In "The Path into the Adventure of Your

Life" I discuss how the Fear of the Lord ("taking God seriously") leads you to become one in purpose with him. From his Kingdom vantage point, while humbly considering your unique wiring and



experiences, God will make your Mission visible. Your Mission charts the path to the fulfilled life God intended for you! Is your commitment to it as pure as gold... yet?

Reflect: Have I committed to my Mission?

Always ready to pounce when God tests the purity of your faith (and he will!), your cunning enemy seizes the opportunity to tempt (and he will!) Paul was rightly concerned and you should be too.

"But I fear that somehow your pure and undivided devotion to Christ will be corrupted, just as Eve was deceived by the cunning ways of the serpent." The Apostle Paul (2 Corinthians 11:3)

While testing can come from any angle, God often targets a place where your trust in one of his promises is fresh...

Having boldly flipped my life upside down to become a financial advisor (a new Forum to carry out my Mission) and putting my family's financial future in God's hands, I received a paycheck for \$1.83 for two weeks of hard work. Ouch! Financial fear was deeply engrained in me from childhood... God's test hit smack in the middle of my newly proclaimed trust in his provision. "You were foolish to make this change. Go back to what you used to do before this hole gets too deep!" ...The enemy's taunt was compelling.

"The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure." The Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Fortunately, God showed me a way out. He took me back to the beginning of the cycle, prompting me to ask, "Do I really Fear the Lord?" From there, he reminded me of my Mission and how important it was to him and those he called me to serve. My commitment intensified. I persevered and no longer fear the lack of provision! *Consider:* When tempted, God leads me back to the beginning of the cycle.

Since then, I've cycled multiple times. With each round my commitment to my Mission has been made purer... and God's not done yet!

"Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the Lord tests the heart." King Solomon (Proverbs 17:3)

His tests strike deep in our hearts where self-love persists. He seeks to make us like him and knows our self-love must succumb. Unyielding, I wonder how many times I must cycle through for my commitment to become as pure gold, seven times? Likely more for me...

Imagine: My life is fulfilled because I've stayed on Mission.

God doesn't set his goal for your life aside after a couple of cycles saying, "You've come far enough. You can go off Mission now and do whatever you want." (Remember the cunning deceiver?) No, God's not finished until he takes you to Heaven – the point when you reach a fulfilled life – purified as gold. Until then, expect more commitment purifying cycles. When God's next test comes will you commit to another cycle of...

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Go off the grid and ask these questions:

Coach's Questions

- What is my Mission?
- How is God testing my commitment to it now?
- Am I committed to stay on Mission for the rest of my life, fully expecting multiple rounds of testing and temptation? Write out my commitment.





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~ DAN B. Life Mission: Shaping radical existence in the everyday



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Tremble

Early this spring, I noticed a doe and her two brand new fawns hanging in a sheltered corner of my yard. From that day forward... Keep reading

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