

- (26) Each new believer enters into a process in which he either advances or retrogresses, the direction determined by his interest or disinterest in learning *the* truth contained in the Word of God.
- (27) The world has its lures and attractions among which are cosmic counterfeits of biblical translations. Innocent unbelievers are told that true salvation is accomplished by doing things and verses are quoted out of context.
- (28) Desirous of salvation, the unbeliever busies himself working away at their eternal salvation with false motivation.
- (29) Expending human effort to impress God for salvation is an insult to the grace of God. Salvation is acquired by grace through faith alone in Christ alone.
- (30) The procedure, post salvation, is first of all functioning inside the bubble under the filling of the Holy Spirit and then by grace obeying biblical mandates.
- (31) Those who are grace oriented are focused on this system. The continuous advance under the Spirit's power and leadership advances the believer into the sophisticated spiritual life.
- (32) The environment in which all believers function, knowingly or unknowingly, is the angelic conflict. Lucifer's strategy is to keep the believer distracted by promoting human viewpoint, human good, and evil.
- (33) Those who advance to the sophisticated spiritual life will be tested. These tests are designed to challenge the believer to remain loyal to *the* truth found in the Bible in opposition to *the* lie dispensed by the Dark Side.
- (34) We have noted these under the headings of providential preventive suffering, momentum testing, and evidence testing.
- (35) Providential preventive suffering is designed to educate the believer in the use of the divine system of problem solving. We have frequently noted Peter's discussion about this in his teachings on how one advances to the copacetic spiritual life in 1 Peter 1:6–8.

- (36) We have just completed analysis of the four Momentum Tests and how they are designed to shepherd the believer through several crises: People, System, Thought, and Disaster.
- (37) Now we are summing up Evidence Testing. This level of the spiritual advance puts the believer in the crosshairs of Lucifer himself.
- (38) God allows one of two categories of evidence testing to occur but under certain restrictions: (1) The “relationship with life test,” illustrated by Job and (2) the “relationship with the plan of God test,” illustrated by the Lord Jesus Christ.
- (39) Summaries of each of these tests are excerpted below from R. B. Thieme, Jr.’s book, *Christian Suffering*:
- (1) Satan argues that men will not be able to handle suffering, especially if they consider the suffering unjust. The only reason anyone remains faithful to God, Satan charges, is because God blesses him. This was the argument in the book of Job. Job, however, discredited Satan’s theory and was entered as evidence in God’s case against Satan. Despite a period of failure, Job remained faithful to God not because God was blessing him but because of the doctrine he had learned and eventually applied. As a mature believer, Job possessed the resources to take extreme suffering in stride and to identify his circumstances as suffering for blessing rather than punitive suffering. (p. 160)
- (2) Satan’s second principal argument is that no one will remain faithful to God if offered sufficient wealth or power. In other words, everyone has his price. This argument is a direct defense of Satan’s own fall from his office of anointed cherub, the highest ranking status among angelic creatures. This issue: Will the creature’s lust for power, fame, wealth, or any attainment be more powerful than the plan of the Creator? Will man choose self-aggrandizement independent of God, or will he execute God’s plan and allow God to promote him? This is the evidence test Satan leveled against the humanity of Christ during the Incarnation (Matthew 4:1–11).[†] (p. 161)
- (40) This brings us back to our study of James 1:12. The study of the various tests in Scripture is applicable to the phrase, “Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial.”

[†] R. B. Thieme, Jr., *Christian Suffering*, 3d ed. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 2002), 160–61. A full evaluation of evidence testing may be found in this publication on pages 158–198.

1. The word “blessed,” which introduces verse 12, is **μακάριος** (*makários*) which we are consistently translating “happy.” Who is happy is indicated by the masculine singular noun **ἄνθρωπος** (*anḗr*): “a person of importance” and is complementary of an “advanced believer.”
2. What is it about this man that causes James to consider him important? It’s because he “perseveres under trial.” The word “perseveres” is the present active indicative of the verb **ὑπομένω** (*hupoménō*): “to remain under, to persevere, endure, sustain, bear up under.”
3. The present tense is durative or retroactive denoting that which has begun in the past and continues into the present.
4. The active voice indicates the believer maintains endurance from his inventory of ideas that sustains his ability to remain copacetic under pressure.
5. The indicative mood confirms this as a statement of fact when a believer is functioning in the sophisticated spiritual life.
6. The situations indicated have to do with adversity, persecution, provocations, or trials. The latter is the word used in the NASB’s translation of **πειρασμός** (*peirasmós*).
7. This word is singular therefore indicating a category which refers to testing for the purpose of evaluation: Will the believer remain inside the bubble or exit into the void?
8. We have categorized this testing in three categories: preventive, momentum, and evidence. Each one requires execution of problem-solving devices.
9. Under preventive suffering: virtue love, under momentum testing: unalloyed happiness, and under evidence testing: occupation with Christ.
10. The reason for these categories is for the “purpose of approval,” which is the meaning of the noun **δόκιμος** (*dókimos*).
11. Following in the Greek text is the aorist participle of **γίνομαι** (*gínomai*) and should be translated “having become.” In English syntax, we flip these words in translation to read, “having become approved.”
12. Approval sets up a prophecy, the future middle indicative of the verb **λαμβάνω** (*lambánō*): “he shall receive.”