

*Peirádzō* ([3985](#))  
Verb: *To Tempt or Test*

Scripture Reference	Scripture Text	Significance
Matt. 4:1	Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be <b>tempted</b> by the devil.	To test someone to entrap him
Matt. 4:3	And the <b>tempter</b> (lit., “ <b>the one tempting</b> ”) came and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.”	To test someone to entrap him
Matt. 16:1	The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and <b>testing</b> Jesus, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven.	To test someone to entrap him
Matt. 19:3	<i>Some</i> Pharisees came to Jesus, <b>testing</b> Him and asking, “Is it lawful <i>for a man</i> to divorce his wife for any reason at all?”	To test someone to entrap him
Matt. 22:18	But Jesus perceived their malice, and said, “Why are you <b>testing</b> Me, you hypocrites?”	To test someone to entrap him
Matt. 22:35	One of them, a lawyer, asked Him <i>a question</i> , <b>testing</b> Him,	To test someone to entrap him
Mark 1:13	And He was in the wilderness forty days <b>being tempted</b> by Satan; and He was with the wild beasts, and the angels were ministering to Him.	To test someone to entrap him
Mark 8:11	The Pharisees came out and began to argue with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, <b>to test</b> Him.	To test someone to entrap him
Mark 10:2	<i>Some</i> Pharisees came up to Jesus, <b>testing</b> Him, and <i>began</i> to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife.	To test someone to entrap him
Mark 12:15	Shall we pay or shall we not pay?” But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, “Why are you <b>testing</b> Me? Bring Me a denarius to look at.”	To test someone to entrap him
Luke 4:2	for forty days, <b>being tempted</b> by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry.	To test someone to entrap him
Luke 11:16	Others, <b>to test</b> Him, were demanding of Him a sign from heaven.	To test someone to entrap him
John 6:6	This He was saying <b>to test</b> him, for He Himself knew what He was intending to do.	To test someone to teach him
John 8:6	They were saying this, <b>testing</b> Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him. But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground.	To test someone to teach him

Acts 5:9	Then Peter said to her, “Why is it that you have agreed together <b>to</b> put the Spirit of the Lord to the <b>test</b> ? (Lit., “Why have you agreed together <b>to test</b> the Spirit of the Lord?”) Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out as well.”	To test God’s Spirit to see how much evil one can commit and not get caught.
Acts 9:26	When he came to Jerusalem, he was <b>trying</b> to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple.	To attempt to do something (beneficial)
Acts 15:10	Now therefore why do you <b>put</b> God <b>to the test</b> by placing upon the neck of the disciples a yoke which neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?	To test God by placing one’s own yoke of legalism around the necks of others.
Acts 16:7	and after they came to Mysia, they were <b>trying</b> to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them;	To attempt to do something positive
Acts 24:6	And he even <b>tried</b> to desecrate the temple; and then we arrested him.	To attempt to do something negative
1 Cor. 7:5	Stop depriving one another, except by agreement for a time, so that you may devote yourselves to prayer, and come together again so that Satan will not <b>tempt</b> you because of your lack of self-control.	Satan’s solicitation to do evil
1 Cor. 10:13	No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you <b>to be tempted</b> beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.	God will not allow us to be solicited to practice evil beyond our ability to resist
2 Cor. 13:5	<b>Test</b> yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?	To test oneself, i.e. examine oneself, to see if one is in the faith
Gal. 6:1	Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; each one looking to yourself, so that <b>you too will not be tempted</b> .	To be tempted to commit evil.
1 Thess. 3:5	For this reason, when I could endure it no longer, I also sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the <b>tempter</b> (lit., “the one tempting”) <b>might have tempted</b> (lit., “had tempted”) you, and our labor would be in vain.	Satan’s tempting the believer to depart from the faith because of persecution.
Heb. 2:18	For since He Himself <b>was tempted</b> in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.	To be tempted by the Devil to forsake God’s will to alleviate suffering.
Heb. 3:9	Where your fathers <b>tried Me</b> by testing <i>Me</i> , And saw My works for forty years.	To attempt to disprove the goodness and caring nature of God

Heb. 4:15	For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been <b>tempted</b> in all things as we are, yet without sin.	To be tempted in all areas of one's life to depart from God's will. (Jesus passed the tests with flying colors!)
Heb. 11:17	By faith Abraham, <b>when he was tested</b> (lit. "being tested"), offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son;	God's testing someone to prove he can pass the test
James 1:13	Let no one say <b>when he is tempted</b> , "I am being <b>tempted</b> by God"; for God cannot be tempted (lit., "is untemptable") by evil, and He Himself <b>does not tempt</b> anyone.	God never solicits anyone to perform evil; indeed, He is untemptable by evil, and He never solicits anyone to perform evil.
James 1:14	But each one is <b>tempted</b> when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.	We are never tempted by God, but we are tempted when we are carried away by our own lusts (evil desires)
Rev. 2:2	'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and <b>you put to the test</b> those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false;	To test someone in order to discern truth and error. (This is a good testing. Those who test others in this manner are commended.)
Rev. 2:10	Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that <b>you will be tested</b> , and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.	Jesus predicted the devil would, for a period of time, cast some among their number into prison so that they will be tested as to their faithfulness. Note: The devil casts them into prison, but God allows this so that they will be tested as to whether or not they will remain faithful. Jesus commands them to be faithful even to death, and He will give them the crown of life.
Rev. 3:10	Because you have kept the word of My perseverance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing ( <i>peirasmos</i> , <a href="#">3986</a> ), that hour which is about to come upon the whole world, <b>to test</b> those who dwell on the earth.	There is an hour (brief time) of testing that is coming upon the inhabited earth to test the "earth-dwellers" (code for unbelievers, whose home is not heaven, but the earth). God will test the earth-dwellers, but He will exempt Christians from that time. (This time is the <a href="#">Tribulation</a> period.)

**Conclusion:** *Peirádzō* can mean “**to tempt**,” meaning “to solicit to do evil,” always in a negative connotation, particularly when “the one tempting” is the Devil (Matt. 4:1, 3). Godless people solicit others to do evil (Matt. 16:1; 19:3). God, on the other hand, *never* solicits anyone to perform evil (James 1:13). When we sin, we are enticed by our own evil lusts (James 1:14), not by God.

The verb can also mean “**to test**,” which can be either negative or positive, depending on the identity and the motivation of the one(s) doing the testing.

When God tests, His motivation is never to tempt someone to do evil. When He tests believers it is to teach them something (John 6:6) or to prove their faithfulness (Heb. 11:17). However, when He tests unbelievers, it is to reveal their true character, which is one of sinfulness and rebellion against Him (Rev. 3:10).

Similarly believers are exhorted to test the character and false teaching of false teachers and prophets and apostles (Rev. 2:2). Moreover, believers are exhorted to test themselves to determine whether or not they are standing true to the faith (2 Cor. 13:5).

However, when people test God, it is always with a negative, disbelieving motivation (Heb. 3:9), and the outcome is always deleterious (Acts 5:9).

Very rarely, *peirádzō* means merely **to attempt to do something**, whether good (Acts 16:7) or evil (Acts 24:6).