

# Acts 15:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

## Analysis

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Peter's question - 'why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?' - powerfully argues against legalism. Adding law-keeping to faith 'tempts God' by testing whether grace really suffices. Peter's admission that Jews themselves couldn't bear the law's yoke demonstrates its purpose: revealing sin and driving us to Christ (Galatians 3:24).

## Historical Context

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The 'yoke' metaphor referred to the comprehensive system of Mosaic law and rabbinic tradition. Peter's honest admission that Jews themselves failed to keep it undermined arguments for requiring Gentile law-observance.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How might you be tempting God by adding requirements to the simple gospel of grace?
2. What does the law's unbearable yoke teach about human inability and need for grace?

## Interlinear Text

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νῦν	οὖν	τί	πειράζετε	τὸν	θεόν	ἐπιθεῖναι	ζυγὸν	ἐπὶ
<b>Now</b>	<b>therefore</b>	<b>why</b>	<b>tempt ye</b>	G3588	<b>God</b>	<b>to put</b>	<b>a yoke</b>	<b>upon</b>
G3568	G3767	G5101	G3985		G2316	G2007	G2218	G1909
τὸν	τράχηλον	τῶν	μαθητῶν	ὃν	οὔτε	οἱ	πατέρες	
G3588	<b>the neck</b>	G3588	<b>of the disciples</b>	<b>which</b>	<b>neither</b>	G3588	<b>fathers</b>	
	G5137		G3101	G3739	G3777		G3962	
ἡμῶν	οὔτε	ἡμεῖς	ἰσχύσαμεν	βαστάσαι				
<b>our</b>	<b>neither</b>	<b>we</b>	<b>were able</b>	<b>to bear</b>				
G2257	G3777	G2249	G2480	G941				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 23:4** (Parallel theme): For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

**Galatians 5:1** (Parallel theme): Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

**Galatians 4:9** (References God): But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?

**Hebrews 9:9** (Parallel theme): Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

**Isaiah 7:12** (Parallel theme): But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the LORD.

**Hebrews 3:9** (Parallel theme): When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

**Exodus 17:2** (Parallel theme): Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?

**Matthew 4:7** (References God): Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

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