

Examine Yourself

8-30-26

2Corinthians 13:5 (NIV)

Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?

The Apostle Paul is saying, “I have shared the deep transforming things of God through Jesus Christ, and I am not sure you are taking me seriously.”

I. **Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith. Examine means make a personal assessment. We should make assessments of ourselves to evaluate the status of our heart.**

For example, Paul bragged on the church at Berea because they had a heart for Christ.

Acts 17:11 (ESV)

They received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

A heart for God is manifested by a thirst for the Word of God. We are saved by grace, but we should examine ourselves so that nothing comes in between us and God. We should examine ourselves every time we take communion.

1 Corinthians 11:28 (ESV)

Let a person examine himself, then eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

We examine ourselves to keep anything from obstructing our walk with God.

1 Thessalonians 1:4–5 (ESV)

⁴ For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. **EVIDENCE!**

II. Test yourselves. A test is based on physical evidence. People who have never been through anything or challenged by anything have proved nothing. The word “test” relates to physical refining of precious metals.

The exercising of our faith, results in challenges.

1 Peter 1:6–7 (ESV)

⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Challenges are good, exercising our faith which is necessary to produce more faith.

Albert Barnes 1798-1870

The best way to *prove* our faith is to subject it to *actual trial* in the various responsibilities of life. A man who wishes to *test* an axe to see whether it is good or not, does not sit down and look at it, or read all the studies which he can find on axe-making, and on the properties of iron and steel, valuable as such information would be; **but he takes his axe and goes into the woods, and puts it to the trial there.** If it cuts well; if it does not break; if it is not soon made dull, he understands the quality of his axe, better than he could in any other way. **So, if a man wishes to know what his faith is worth, let him *try* it out.** Let him go into the world with it. Let him subject it to actual experiment. That faith which will enable a man to endure persecution for the name of Jesus; to bear calamity without murmuring; to submit to a long series of disappointments and distresses for Christ's sake, this faith is genuine. It is like the good axe with which a man can chop all day long, and which does not get dull. Any other faith than this is worthless.

III. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?

Examination is necessary and should refocus our hearts on the things of Christ. We take what we know and step out in the power of Christ.

UNLESS, you fail the test. No fruit, no power, Christ is not in you. Some people fail the test and will not produce any fruit for God. The test is simple, “Is Christ in you?” Examine yourselves because no one truly knows but you.

Romans 8:9 (ESV)

Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

We have the Spirit. We don’t fail the test. We focus on things above and we are being transformed from one degree of glory to another.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV)

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

Examine yourself, test yourself because:

2 Corinthians 5:10 (ESV)

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Christ has accomplished everything for life and godliness. Christ indwells us. Thus we continually examine our love for HIM and focus on things above which produces fruit unless we fail the test.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV)

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.