

SQUAD

SHARE

Are you a reflective person? Do you think about the things you say and do throughout the day?

SEEK

In the Faith

While we all enter into Christianity by God's call and invitation, we are also encouraged to examine ourselves. In 2 Corinthians 13:5, Paul gives a passionate plea to the Corinthians to "examine" and "test" themselves to see whether they are in the faith. Therefore, there must be valid reasons to measure one's faith, not to somehow merit God's favor, but without guidance one's faith can go awry. The Corinthians demonstrate this very thing.

For this reason Paul uses two distinct words in his Greek tongue that help us understand his aim. First he calls the Corinthians to "examine" themselves. This word was used among Romans to describe money changers who would not accept counterfeit coins. The other word is "test" and alludes to self-discovery. For example, in Revelation 2 the Ephesian church is affirmed for "testing" apostles and finding them to be false. Both of these terms are used, then, to reveal what is genuine.

Self-examination is a necessity. For one, it reveals to us where we might have gotten off track. Even the best of Christians make mistakes. The reformer Martin Luther once said that "Saints are sinners too." For the same reason John Calvin said, "Can anything be more detestable than this madness in man, who, finding God a hundred times both in his body and soul, makes his excellence in this respect a pretext for denying that there is a God?" Here Calvin makes the case that there is more than sufficient signs of God's love and involvement, yet the human heart can still turn from such a reality. At the same time, examination is not a guilt trip looking at all the wrongs we have committed; rather, it guides us to full maturity as believers. It helps us to see our victories in Christ and the wonderful things God has done in our lives and the lives of others.

SEE

TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD,
TEST AND SEE THAT YOU ARE IN THE FAITH

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE IDEA OF EXAMINING YOURSELF TO SEE WHETHER YOU ARE IN THE FAITH?

IS IT POSSIBLE TO THINK YOU ARE LIVING A FAITHFUL LIFE TO JESUS BUT REALLY NOT BE? IF SO, WHAT IS THE REMEDY?

THE GREEK WORDS FOR "EXAMINE" AND "TEST" POINT TO AUTHENTICITY/GENUINENESS. IN YOUR MIND, WHAT DOES AN AUTHENTIC/GENUINE CHRISTIAN LOOK LIKE?

ARE THERE AREAS OF YOUR FAITH THAT YOU ARE PLEASED WITH? WHAT ARE THEY? WHAT ARE SOME AREAS YOU WOULD LIKE TO GROW IN?

Please take a few moments to pray with and for one another