

Examine Yourself

Are You in **the** Faith?

1 John

2 Peter 1:1-15

Haggai 1



God's Eternal Plan/Purpose

- How do we know if we are one of God's special people?

Intentionally Growing or Not Growing

- At the end of the first month, have we sat down to plan and commit ourselves to growing in 2023?

Goals, Meditation, Memorization, Catechism

- **Delighting in the Lord**
 - **Delighting in the LORD Himself.** (Psalm 37:4)
 - **Delighting in His Law.** (Psalm 1:2; 119:77)
 - **Delighting in walking in the path of His commandments.** (Psalm 119:35)
 - **Delighting in doing His will.** (Psalm 40:8)
 - **Delighting in His Sabbath.** (Isaiah 58:13-14)
- Catechism: Praying as Christ, our Lord, taught us to pray.
- Memory and Meditation
- Prayer for Revival

The Glorious Truth of God's Good News

- All of God's promises are "YES" or "AMEN" **in CHRIST!** (2 Cor 1:20)
- We are justified **freely** ("without cause") through the redemption that is **in Christ Jesus.** (Romans 3:24)
- There is now **NO** condemnation to those who are **in CHRIST JESUS,** who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. (Romans 8:1)
- We are already seated in heaven **in Christ Jesus.** (Ephesians 2:6)
- Nothing, absolutely nothing, can separate us from the love of God that is **in Christ Jesus.** (Romans 8:35-39)
- We are blessed with "every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places **in Christ.** (Ephesians 1:3)
- We, being many, are one Body **in Christ,** and individually members of one another. (Romans 12:4-5)

Yet, the Same Glorious Gospel Commands . . .

Commands to Examine Ourselves

- (Mark 1:14-15) “REPENT **and** BELIEVE!” Jesus commanded continuous repentance in His preaching of the Gospel. (Luke 24:47)
- (Acts 20:21) Paul preached, “. . . repentance toward God **and** faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- (Acts 26:20) Paul preached, “. . . that Jews and Gentiles should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance.”
- (Acts 17:30) God commands (present tense) that all men everywhere REPENT.
- (Haggai 1:5, 7) “Consider your ways!”
- (2 Corinthians 13:5) “Examine yourselves!”
- (2 Peter 1:10) “**Be even more diligent** to make your call and election sure . . .”
- (1 Corinthians 11:27-29) Before celebrating the Lord’s Supper.
- Without serious examination, in obedience to these commands, a person will not repent. And if there is no repentance then that person will certainly perish! (Luke 13:3, 5)
- ★ Are you continuously repenting of your sins?
 - ☆ What is your definition of sin? (1 John 3:4; Psalm 1:1-3)
- ★ What are you using to **diligently** examine yourself?

Handout: Pursuing and Perfecting Holiness

- 2 Corinthians 7:1; Hebrews 12:14 – Are we PURSUING holiness?

God’s Tool for Examining Ourselves - 1 John 5:13

- (2:3-4) Are we keeping His commandments? Our love for God is demonstrated in us obeying His commandments. (John 15:10,14; 14:15, 21, 23-24; 1 John 3:22-23; 5:1-3)
 - PROMISE:** We will be loved by the Father. (John 15:10)
- (1:6-7) Are we walking in the light **as** He is in the light?
 - PROMISE:** We have fellowship with God and Christ.
- (1:8-10) Are we confessing our sins? If we are not confessing our sins we are saying that we have no sin and we are liars.
 - PROMISE:** He is faithful and just to forgive our sins.
- (1 John 2:6) Are we walking just as Christ walked?
 - PROMISE:** We will not stumble (John 11:9-10; we will see light - Psalm 36:9)
- (1 John 2:7-11) Are we loving all our brethren without hypocrisy?
 - PROMISE:** We will abide in the light and not stumble. (1 John 2:10)
- (2:15-17) Do we love the world or do we love God? Are we doing God’s will?
 - PROMISE:** We can be sure we have eternal life. (1 John 2:17)

- (1 John 2:29) Are we practicing (living) righteousness of God?
PROMISE: We can be assured that we have been given the righteousness of Christ as a gift from God. (Romans 5:17)
- (1 John 3:1-3) Are we purifying ourselves just as He is pure?
PROMISE: We shall see God! (Matthew 5:8; Hebrews 12:14)
- (1 John 3:6-10) Are we comfortable/complacent in sin? What God calls sin!
Do we have a lifestyle of living strictly in accordance with God's written Word?
PROMISE: We can be assured that we are a child of God and not the devil. (1 John 3:10)
- (1 John 3:14-15) Do we really love all the brethren? If not, we are a murderer, and no murderer gets to heaven. (1 John 4:7-13) By us loving all the brethren we know that God abides in us!!! If we do not love all the brethren we do not know God. (1 John 4:20-21)
PROMISE: By this, we **know** we have "passed from death to life".
- (1 John 3:16-18) Are we laying down our lives for all the brethren? Are my brethren's needs more important than mine? Do people see us loving one another? (John 13:34-35)
PROMISE: Knowing that in so doing God is well pleased. (Heb 13:16)
- (1 John 4:1) Do we test every spirit? Do we test everything we hear by the **written** Word of God? (1 Thess 5:21; Isaiah 8:20)
PROMISE: We will not be deceived. (Ephesians 4:14)
- (1 John 5:4-5) Are we overcomers? Only overcomers get to heaven! (Revelation 2:7,11, 17, 26-28; 3:5, 12, 21)
PROMISE: List of promises in Revelation.
- (1 John 5:18) Are we keeping ourselves? (Jude 21; Prov 4:23; James 1:27)
PROMISE: In so doing we will abide in God's love. (John 15:9-10)

Using God's "IF's" to Examine Ourselves

- ★ **IF we . . . THEN we have the assurance that we are God's special people.**
 - IF we persevere in steadfastness to the end. (Hebrews 3:6, 14; Matthew 24:13)
 - IF we continue in **the** faith, grounded and steadfast, unmovable. (Colossians 1:22-23)
 - IF we keep His commandments we remain in His love. (John 15:10)
 - IF we deny ourselves, carry our cross daily (die to self), and follow Him. (Luke 9:23)
 - IF we love Christ more than family. (Luke 14:27-28; Matthew 10:37-38)
 - IF we do not **neglect** a great salvation that Christ came to secure. (Hebrews 2:1-3)
 - IF we follow Christ we can be sure we have eternal life. (John 10:27-28)

- IF we show diligence to the full assurance of our hope to the end by not becoming sluggish, but imitating those who through faith and patience (fortitude; forbearance) inherit the promises. (Hebrews 6:11-12)
- IF we endure and do God's will; not our own. (Hebrews 10:36; Matthew 7:21-23; 12:50)
- IF we are working out our own salvation with fear and trembling. (Philippians 2:12)
- IF we love just as Christ loves us. (John 13:34-35)
- IF we abide in His Word and His Word abides in us. (John 8:31; 15:7; 1 John 2:14)
- IF we give attention by giving ourselves entirely to reading, exhortation, doctrine, using our gifts in the Body, meditating, taking heed of ourselves and doctrine, continuing in them. (1 Timothy 4:13-16)
- IF we are obeying Him. (Hebrews 5:9)
- IF we are obeying (more than just believing some truths) the Gospel. (1 Peter 4:17; 2:8; 2 Thessalonians 1:8; Galatians 5:17)
- IF we patiently continue in doing good. (Romans 2:5-11)
- IF we have done good . . . (John 5:28-29)

The Standard that We Press Toward

- (Philippians 3:12-14) **PERFECTION** - our ONE aim, purpose, goal.
- (2 Corinthians 5:9; Colossians 1:10) To be **well pleasing** in God's sight by doing as He commands. (1 John 3:22)
- (Ephesians 4:13) "till we come to the unity of **the** faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a **perfect** man, to the measure of the stature of the **fullness** of Christ."
- (2 Corinthians 7:1) **Perfecting** holiness.
- (1 Peter 1:15-16) Holy in **all** of our conduct because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy." (1 Thessalonians 4:7; Hebrews 12:14)

The Promise of Revival

- When God's people awake from their complacency, self-righteousness and laziness. (Rom 13:11; 1 Cor 15:34; Eph 5:15; Heb 6:11-12; Zeph 1:12)
- When God's people seek God diligently - Hebrews 11:6.
- When God's people take His Word **SERIOUSLY**. (Luke 4:4)
- When God's people examine themselves regularly. (2 Cor 13:5)
- When God's people repent of their sins. (2 Chronicles 7:14)
- **THEN**