

“THE TEST EVERYONE NEEDS TO
TAKE”

2 Corinthians 13:1-6

INTRODUCTION

We all have to take tests at some point in our life, whether it is school or driving or something else. The book of James says that God allows all sorts of tests in our lives. It shows us what we are made of and what we are like. There is one crucial test that we must all take. It is to examine ourselves! Paul mentions this test because they accused him of being a false apostle, with no power, credentials and poor speaking ability. But Paul turned the tables on them! “Stop examining me and examine yourselves!”

WHY THE TEST?

Paul indicated in **v. 5** that we must examine ourselves. The word “examine” is like testing metal, with the idea of approving it. “Recognize” means to know by experience, to know thoroughly. Is Jesus *in* them? God wants us to be assured of our salvation. Paul encourages this test so they will know for sure.

Another reason is for Paul's benefit. He believes the bulk of the church is saved, but the core group is questionable, **v.6**. If Jesus *wasn't* in them, then they had no right to criticize Paul! If they gave themselves a passing grade, then they had to give Paul a passing grade too, as he is the one that led them to the Lord!

In this world there are various types of people: 1) People that know they are not saved and don't care to be. 2) Those that think they are saved, but are not. They have a false assurance due to a seared conscience. 3) Some *are* saved, but don't think they are. They may lack the knowledge of the Scriptures. They have too many trials, or have a very sensitive conscience and feel bad for the slightest thing. They worry too much! 4) Others are saved and know it and have full assurance. In **1 John 5:13** NKJV it states: “**These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life...**” God wants us to know for sure!

WHAT'S THE TEST?

Here are the questions of the test that we should all take:

- 1) Have we put our faith on Jesus? **John 1:12, John 3:36**. (Put your trust on Him!)
- 2) Do you have the Holy Spirit dwelling inside you? **1 John 4:13, 1 John 3:24, Romans 8:16** (We have the conviction and inner witness of the Holy Spirit.)
- 3) Do you have love for believers? **1 John 3:14, 1 John 2:9** (We should prefer being with the people of God!)
- 4) Do you love the Scriptures? **1 Peter 2:1-2**. (You know a baby is alive because of the desire to be fed. Be hungry for the Word of God!)
- 5) Is there a pattern of obedience in your life? **1 John 3:7-10**. (Of course we all sin, but this shouldn't be habitual. John addressed the hypocrites that have no shame. If you feel bad about your sin, it proves you are saved!)

CONSIDER

God wants us all to take this exam ourselves to find out if Christ is *in* us. We should recognize the pull of the Holy Spirit; have a love for His people, a desire for His Word and a pattern of life that is different than the world. A Christian can withstand this test. If you think that you failed, then do a 180-degree turn, repent and rest on the promises of God for you!

PRAY

- * That each person attending CCFL would pass the test and be assured of their eternal life!
- * That the Lord would bless groups that encourage life, such as Care Net and Embracing Options.