Coronavirus Social Distancing Daily Devotion #15

How Do I Examine Myself?

**2 Corinthians 13:5 (NASB)** *5  “Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test*?”

Today marks the preparation for the Passover during the Passion week. It is Thursday and the day Jesus would institute the New Covenant. (Luke 22:14-22) This Covenant would not be like the Old Covenant where the Laws of God were written on tablets of stone but now the Laws of God would be written on the hearts of everyone who professes saving faith in Jesus. (Jeremiah 31:33)

Yesterday, I left you with the task of examining your heart. An examination that would help determine if you truly are following God and if you truly are in the Faith. But the question is, how does a person examine themselves? What needs to take place? What evidence needs to be within the heart to know that a person is truly a child of God? Because our Lord loves us so, He has given a few tests that will prove the genuineness of our salvation.

The first test is to acknowledge Jesus as God who has come to earth in the flesh. **1 John 2:22-23 (NASB)** *22  “Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. 23  Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also*.” Many of the false teachers denied the reality of both Jesus’ deity and His humanity. To deny either one is to fail the first test.

The second test is to be convinced that your heart is full of sin and operates totally outside of the realm of faith, without the power of God working in you. **1 John 1:8-10 (NASB)** *8 “ If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9  If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10  If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us*.” Verses 8-10 clearly mark the second test. For anyone to deny the reality of sin in their heart is to fail the second test.

The third test is the test of obedience to all God commands. The Holy Spirit gives a person the internal assurance of salvation, but it is through obedience that the proof of salvation is affirmed. **1 John 2:3-6 (NASB)** *3  “By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4  The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5  but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: 6  the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked*.” The true follower of God is obedient to His Word.

The fourth and last test is the test of love for other believers. ***1 John 2:9-11 (NASB)*** *9  “The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. 10  The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. 11  But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes*.” This is the simplest and yet the hardest test. Love, from the heart, is the test that sets true believers apart from unbelievers. To not love your brother, is to fail the final test. **1 John 4:7-8 (NASB)** *7  “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8  The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love*.”

These tests from God are the tests we should used daily to examine our hearts. When we pass these tests, we will know we have eternal life.

**1 John 5:13 (NASB)** *13  “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.”*