

**2 Corinthians 13:5**

**“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith”**

**2 Peter 1:2 – 11**

- Called by victory and virtue
- Promise: partake of the divine nature
- Sequence from faith to love:
  - Virtue
  - Knowledge
  - Self-control
  - Patience
  - Godliness
  - Brotherly kindness
- Increasing: useful and fruitful

**Faith and Love**

- Romans 5:1 – 5
  - Glory: celebration of victory
  - Another sequence of traits from faith to love
- Love is a gift
- 1 Corinthians 13
  - Faith without love is useless
  - Example: Pharisees
- 1 John 3:16 – 24
  - Two commandments

**The mindset of examination**

- The objective is transformation, not achievement
  - 2 Corinthians 3:12 – 18
  - Romans 8:29 – 30
  - Colossians 3:9 – 10
- Celebrate forgiveness, not guilt.
  - 1 John 2:2
  - Romans 5:6 – 8
  - 2 Corinthians 5:14 – 15
- Romans 14:23 All that is not of faith is sin

**Am I Doing Enough?**

- 1 Corinthians 6:11, Ephesians 5:26 I am reserved for godly purposes (sanctified)
- Romans 6:3-4, 12:1. I become a sacrifice like Jesus.
- Galatians 2:20 It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me
- Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ, to die is gain

**Am I Doing Enough?**

- Some cannot understand
  - 2 Corinthians 4:3
  - 1 Corinthians 2:14
- The gospel has gone to the whole world
  - Luke 2:32
  - Matthew 24:14
  - Acts 13:47
  - Romans 1:8
  - Romans 10:18
  - Colossians 1:6

### Am I Doing Enough?

- I am not responsible for every lost person, just those who have faith.
- God has a history of arranging meetings
- Be bold and clear
  - Colossians 4:4
  - Ephesians 6:20
- Hebrews 11:6 Definition of faith:
  - God is
  - And rewards
  - Those who diligently seek Him

### Am I in the Faith?

- Am I growing?
  - 2 Peter 1:2 – 11
  - Galatians 5:19 – 23
- Have I accomplished what I thought I could not?
  - 2 Corinthians 4:7
  - 1 Peter 4:11
  - Romans 8:13

### Am I in the Faith?

- Do I seek nutrition?
  - 1 Peter 2:2
  - Hebrews 10:24 – 25
  - Hebrews 5:12 – 6:3
  - 1 Corinthians 11:30
- Can I understand?
  - Ephesians 1:15 – 20, 3:18 – 19
  - Philippians 1:9
  - Colossians 1:9 – 12

### What if I am not getting it?

- Examine my expectations
  - What will “all the saints” understand?
  - How will it be to the “praise and glory of God”?
- The objective is transformation into the character of Jesus in this life
  - The stories are physical illustrations of the attributes of spirits
  - Can it be done?

### What if I am not getting it?

- Keep the good parts
  - Do I listen for what is useful and discard the part that is off base?
  - Do I listen for one bad part to justify disregarding everything?
  - How do I know which parts are good?
- If it won't work for everyone in every place in every culture, climate, and century...
- Printed Bibles, concordances, and word studies are modern conveniences.

### What if I am not getting it?

- Understanding is a promise.
  - Be patient
  - Ponder
  - Make connections
- Try to prove yourself wrong
- Rejoice in finding past misconceptions
- Assume the best of people
- Being wrong is not acceptable but forgivable

### Am I in the Faith?

- Do I have one life or competing segments?
  - “Perfect” in the New Testament is not “flawless” but “consistent.”
  - Matthew 5:48
  - 1 John 4:17 – 18
  - Hebrews 12:23
- When faith and love are the motivating principles of all decisions, we become consistent, confident, and content.

### How do I make myself available for transformation?

- (1 Corinthians 10:11) These things happened to them as examples...
- Expose my own excuses with the “bad lists”
- (Colossians 3:16) Teach by singing; lyrics are not complicated
- The Bible is not the sole source
  - Contradictory but reasonable explanations
  - The proof is in the resulting life
- Changing your mind is acceptable

### How do I make myself available for transformation?

- (Philippians 4:8) Whatever things are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, or praiseworthy, let your mind dwell on these things.
- (Hebrews 12:14) Pursue peace with all men, and holiness.
- (Colossians 3:1) Seek those things which are above
- (Philippians 3:17) Join in following my example, and note those who so walk

### How do I make myself available for transformation?

- (Hebrews 10:25) Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together
  - (1 Thessalonians 5:11) Comfort one another and edify one another
  - Lord’s Supper (1 Corinthians 10 – 11)
- (Romans 16:17) Avoid those who cause divisions
- (1 Corinthians 5:11) Do not keep company with anyone named a brother who is sexually immoral or covetous or an idolater or a reviler or a drunkard or an extortioner...

### How do I make myself available for transformation?

- (1 Corinthians 6:18 – 19) Flee sexual immorality... You are the Temple of the Holy Spirit.
- (1 Corinthians 10:14) Flee idolatry
- (1 Thessalonians 5:21) Test all things; hold fast what is good
- Know the promises of God