



Examine Yourself

Day 21 Examine Yourself

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

--2 Corinthians 13

*Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:
And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*

--Psalm 139

And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more. --John 8

For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire."--2 Peter 2

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. --Colossians 3

We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him.--1 John 5

So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits. --Matthew 7

Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few. --Matthew 7

We are commanded to examine ourselves, to see if we are remaining in the faith. So we need to take a look and see what we've been doing, in light of the scriptures. Am I sinning and remaining in sin? Are I bearing fruit?

Contrary to popular teaching, the word teaches that to know the word and not do it has dire consequences. When I first became a Christian, I learned a lot from John MacArthur. I believed the "once saved always saved" doctrine. But one day I was reading in Hebrews 6 :

For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt. For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God. But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

I had to say "Whoa, wait a minute here...." He's talking about people who were enlightened. They were partakers of the heavenly gift. They had the Holy Spirit. He's talking about saved people! They are saved people who have fallen away! What scared me was he was saying that it was then impossible to bring these people again to repentance, cause they've like run out of sacrifice for their sins. There would have to be a whole new Jesus sacrifice on the cross to restore them, and that ain't happening. Scary stuff!

So I started looking at other verses to either confirm my thinking or refute it.

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vine dresser. “Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. “You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. “Remain in me, stay with me, and continue to be with me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it remains, stays, and continues to be in the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me, stay with me, and continue to be with me. “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who remains in me, stays with me, and continues to be with me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. “If anyone does not remain in me, stay with me, and continue to be with me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned. “If you remain in me, stay with me, and continue to be with me and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so you become My disciples. “Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; remain in my love, stay in my love, and continue to be in My love.--John 15:1-9

The branches must bear fruit and remain connected to Jesus to avoid being cut off and thrown into the fire as useless.

Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear; for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either. Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God’s kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off. And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.

Romans 11:20-23

God didn’t spare the Israelites who disobeyed him, so he won’t spare the Christians. You have to continue with Him, otherwise you will be broken off.

And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

Colossians 1:21-23

Again it says we have to continue with Him, be steadfast and not moved away.

The problem with the Once Saved Always Saved doctrine is that people get this idea that “I said the prayer, now I don’t have to worry about my eternal security.” That leaves the

door open to a life of habitual sin. Yes, we all sin, but we need to repent and stop it when that happens, not keep doing it! Paul said in Phlippians 2, *“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”*

Why would you need to work out your salvation with fear and trembling if everything is all settled?

Day 21 Prayer

Lord, help me to gird up my loins with the truth. Please don't let me delude myself that I am in right standing with you if I am not. Show me the truth about how I should be working out my salvation with fear and trembling, even if that truth is painful. Living in you and you in me is way more important than my feelings.

Father, please help me put on the breastplate of righteousness. Forgive me if I have not stayed connected to You, the true vine. Forgive me if I have not in the past born good fruit. Please forgive me of any sin I have committed.

Lord, please help me to get my feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace. Help me to bear good fruit, by sharing my testimony of the great and wonderful things you have done for me. Help me to reach someone with your light and your good news today.

Father, help me to take up the shield of faith. If I have faith in You, I will do what you say. So Father, your word says I need to examine myself. Help me to do this today.

Lord, please help me to put on the helmet of salvation. I realize that your salvation isn't just saying a prayer and then never doing what you've asked of me. It is an ongoing active relationship. Thank you to Jesus for making a way for my salvation.

Father, help me take up the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Help me to examine myself in light of your Word, and help me to come into agreement with your Word in every aspect of my life.