

The Vow - Part 1

2 Corinthians 13:5 ISV

Keep examining yourselves to see whether you are continuing in the faith. Test yourselves! You know, don't you, that Jesus the Messiah lives in you? Could it be that you are failing the test?

I. Being a “Better You”

1. God’s word can be like a reflection or mirror. When we look into it, we see ourselves the way God sees us.

Matthew 7:3-5 NIV

Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.

2. If we focus on our part, then God will get involved.
3. Only God can change a person.
 - a. When we seek God first, we will begin to see our prayers answered. We will see change not just in ourselves but also in our spouse.

II. A “Better You” Begins with Christ

1. Also, a better marriage

Matt 22:37-38

Jesus replied, “You must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.”^[a] This is the first and greatest commandment.

2. Seek first the kingdom of God.
 - a. We do not want to do life without Him.
3. God wants to be first.
 - a. The more we give to Him, the more He can give to us.

III. Let the Past Stay in the Past

1. If we remain stuck in the past, then we will miss the present and never have a future.
2. The only thing that is supposed to define us is God.
 - a. We must kill the pain of our past, not letting it kill us and become a part of us.

- i. Bitterness produces more bitterness.
 - ii. Hatred breeds more hatred.
 - iii. Hurt produces more hurt.
- b. Husbands and wives
 - i. We cannot bring past relationships, past arguments and past mistakes into our marriage.

2 Corinthians 10:5

Cast down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

- ii. Husbands proclaim: My wife is my good thing, she is a crown to my head.
 - iii. Wives declare: My husband loves me like Christ loved the Church.
- c. When you do this repeatedly you will renew your mind.

Isaiah 43:18

But forget all that— it is nothing compared to what I am going to do.
For I am about to do something new.