

## Superior: Hebrews - Scripture

Icebreaker: How many bibles do you own?

*Much of the letter of Hebrews is a strong call to spiritually “check” yourself...*

*Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience. (Heb. 4:11)*

- *One of the most powerful diagnostic tools for self-examination is the Bible – “For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” (Heb. 4:12-13)*

*“Is not my word like fire,” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?” (Jeremiah 23:29)*

How often/willing do you perform a diagnostic check on your own life? What does that look like? If and when you do that, do you use the Scriptures to diagnose? What other methods may you use?

*Three areas to keep in check:*

- *Head (content) – “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching...be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. Watch your life and doctrine closely.” (1 Tim. 4:13, 15-16a)*

*What am I believing about God/myself?*

What are some prevailing philosophies in our specific culture that compete for your mind and are contrary to God’s Word? How do you know that they are contrary?

- *Heart (character) – “My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!” (Gal. 4:19-20)*

*How am I becoming like Jesus?*

In relation to the *Heart*, read Galatians 5:22-23. Which of those “*Fruit of the Spirit*” have you seen a noticeable difference in your growth from when you first became a Christian. Which of them still needs work?

- *Hands (conduct) – “Even a child is known by his actions, by whether his conduct is pure and right.” (Prov. 20:11)*

*How am I behaving as a result?*

What would you say is your issue, your vice? Why do you think that is an issue (the why question takes it to the core)? Generally speaking, what does the world see and learn about Jesus through your behaviors?

¶ *Do I duck myself or check myself on a regular basis?* – “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” (Psalm 139:23-24)

Have you ever prayed Psalm 139:23-24? Let’s do that now either as a group or individually.

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Tim. 3:16-17)*

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Have you ever considered/completed official biblical/theological training? If yes, what was your experience? If you've considered it, what's prevented you from doing it? If you've never considered it, why haven't you?