

1 Corinthians 16

How are you doing spiritually?

There are seven things shared in Sunday's message that can help serve as indicators of how we are doing spiritually?

A. How are you doing in the area of giving?

There can be different reasons why a believer might not give. Finances may be tight and thus they believe they can't afford to. They may be waiting for the right time (i.e. looking to pay off some bills).

Based on today's message, how would you encourage a believer who does not practice giving? What counsel would you give them?

1. Three things were mentioned as to what giving expresses

a. _____

B. How do you respond when God changes your plans?

I have no doubt that each of you have experienced occasions where you had made plans for something only to have God change those plans.

1. Share an occasion where you had made plans (career choice, where you wanted to live, where you thought you would be at this point in your life, etc....), but God changed those plans.

a. How did you react? What was hard for you in that, if anything?

b. If it wasn't hard for you, what made it easier for you to accept it?

2. Trust plays a big part in being at peace with God changing our plans

a. What are we to trust God about?

3. It was conveyed in the teaching that we are bondservants

a. What difference does that make with regards to God changing our plans?

C. Are you more apt to build others up or tear them down?

This is an area that can be tricky. None of us want to believe that our first instinct is to point out someone's fault. Let's say a fellow believer writes a devotion and sends it to and they ask you to share your thoughts about the devotion. As you read the devotion you notice some spelling and grammatical errors. Is that what you notice first? Is your first instinct to point out the errors to them or to encourage them by sharing how God used it to minister to you?

1. On what occasions do you find it difficult to build other believers up?
2. Have you found yourself being edified (built up) by another believer?
 - a. If so, what was it that they did or said that encouraged you?
3. Have you had an occasion where you were criticized by a believer?
 - a. If so, how did that make you feel about yourself and about them?

D. Do you keep guard over your spiritual well-being?

We all have areas in our life where we are spiritually weak.

1. What are some areas of your life in which you know you are spiritually weak in?
 - a. What do you do to guard those areas of your life?
2. What do you do to keep yourself from drifting spiritually?

E. Are you standing firm in the faith?

Part of standing firm in the faith entails being willing to call sin what it is. It entails being willing to speak the truth even if it is unpopular.

For some, standing for the truth and speaking the truth comes very easy, but they may struggle with how they do that.

1. In what ways do you find yourself being challenged to stand for truth?
2. Do you find it difficult at times to stand for Jesus in loving way?
 - a. If so, what steps can you take to change that?

F. Is what you are doing for the Lord, being done in love?

Serving God by serving others will eventually put you in a position of dealing with difficult or unappreciative people.

1. In what ways do you find it difficult to serve others from a place of love?

G. Are you devoted to serving God?

Most believers between work and family keep busy. It can lead some to view serving God as optional. Some believers find it easier to serve when they are retired.

1. How do you view serving God and what is your devotion to serving Him like?