

I. Opening Scriptures

A. Romans 12:3

- **NKJV** “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”
- **NLT** “Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don’t think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given you.”
- **CEV** “I realize God has treated me with undeserved grace, and so I tell each of you not to think you are better than you really are. Use good sense and measure yourself by the amount of faith that God has given you.”

1. We are commanded to make an honest evaluation of ourselves.

2. Self-Evaluation:

- a. The ability to step back and look at different aspects of your life.
- b. A judgment made regarding our work and abilities.
- c. Examining one’s strengths and weaknesses.

3. Through self-evaluation we may identify our strengths, weaknesses, and specifically what areas we need more development in.

Pastor’s Note: As new creation people, we need to do a self-assessment often. This will keep us on course – moving forward – and in the right flow of God’s plan for our life.

II. Evaluation of oneself.

A. Evaluation of oneself leads to discovery of the things lacking in our life.

1. **Joshua 13:1 NKJV** “Now Joshua was old, advanced in years. And the LORD said to him: ‘You are old, advanced in years, and there remains very much land yet to be possessed.’”
2. ***While there were certain places that Israel had taken possession of, there were others that were left untaken. What areas of your inheritance have been taken? What areas have you left unattended?***

B. 5 specific spiritual disciplines that need to be evaluated:

1. Faith

- **2 Cor 13:5 NKJV** “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?”
- **NLT** “Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine.”
- **AMP** “Test and evaluate yourselves to see whether in are in faith...”

Pastor’s Note: We know that “**REAL FAITH**”, is faith founded upon the Word of God. **NO WORD = NO FAITH**

a. Areas of development regarding faith

- *Using faith for healing*
- *Using faith for finances*
- *Using faith in trouble and circumstances*
- *Using faith for self and others*
- *Using faith for giving*
- *Using faith for service*

2. Love and Compassion – *Love is connected to every aspect of the Christian life.*

- **Rev 2:4 NKJV** “Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love.”
- **CEV** “But I do have something against you! And it is this: You don't have as much love as you used to.”
- **Eph 1:15 NKJV** “Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints.”

Pastor's Note: Notice that Paul commended the church at Ephesus for their love for all the saints. In Revelation, Jesus corrects this church because their love as diminished. Although, this is interpreted to mean their love for God, when a person's love for God is weak, so goes their love for others.

a. Faith worketh by love

- **Gal 5:6 NKJV** “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.”

b. Areas of development in love

- *Loving those who are difficult to love.*
- *Acting in love*
- *Forgiveness and unforgiveness*
- *Letting go of grudges.*
- *Overcoming hurt.*

3. Faithfulness

a. Faithfulness definition:

- **Being faithful.**
- **To be reliable.**
- **Strong in one's belief and commitment.**

- **Constant in performance of duties.**
 - **True to one's work.**
 - **Reliable and dependable.**
 - b. Gal 5:22-23 NKJV** "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."
 - c. 1 Cor 4:1-2 NKJV** "Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful."
 - **NIV** "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."
 - **GNT** "The one thing required of such servants is that they be faithful to their master."
 - d. Promotion comes to those who are faithful.**
 - **Matt 25:21 NKJV** "His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."
 - e. Things related to faithfulness.**
 - *Church attendance*
 - *Serving*
 - *Christian living*
 - *Prioritizing to put God first*
- 4. Things relating to the Holy Spirit?**
- a. Am I developing in the things of the Spirit?**
 - **Gal 5:16 NKJV** "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."
 - **Gal 3:3 NKJV** "Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?"

b. Things relating to development in the Spirit.

- *Hearing the direction of the Spirit.*
- *Obedience to the Spirit*
- *Receiving correction of the Spirit.*
- *Receiving strength and power from the Spirit*
- *Being used by the Spirit. (Gifts)*

- 5. Giving – 2 Cor 9:1-5 NLT** “I really don’t need to write to you about this ministry of giving for the believers in Jerusalem. For I know how eager you are to help, and I have been boasting to the churches in Macedonia that you in Greece were ready to send an offering a year ago. In fact, it was your enthusiasm that stirred up many of the Macedonian believers to begin giving. But I am sending these brothers to be sure you really are ready, as I have been telling them, and that your money is all collected. I don’t want to be wrong in my boasting about you. We would be embarrassed—not to mention your own embarrassment—if some Macedonian believers came with me and found that you weren’t ready after all I had told them! So I thought I should send these brothers ahead of me to make sure the gift you promised is ready. But I want it to be a willing gift, not one given grudgingly.”

Pastor’s Note: While Paul had confidence that the Corinthians would give, it is clear that he understood their potential for becoming slack in preparing for the offering. No matter how spiritual we are, there are always times we need to be reminded of spiritual disciplines for improvement, growth, and correction.

a. Areas of development regarding giving:

- *Tithe*
- *Offerings*
- *Personal sowing as the Holy Spirit leads*