

Why must we examine and test ourselves as to whether we're truly in the faith and live to abide in Christ as Lord?

James 1:23-24, "For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was."

As such:

James 2:17, "Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

What's more?

2 Chronicles 16:9, "The eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of *those* whose heart is loyal to Him."

James 1:25, "The one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing."

Therefore:

Psalms 139:23-24, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if *there is any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Lamentations 3:40: "Let us search out and examine our ways, and turn back to the LORD."

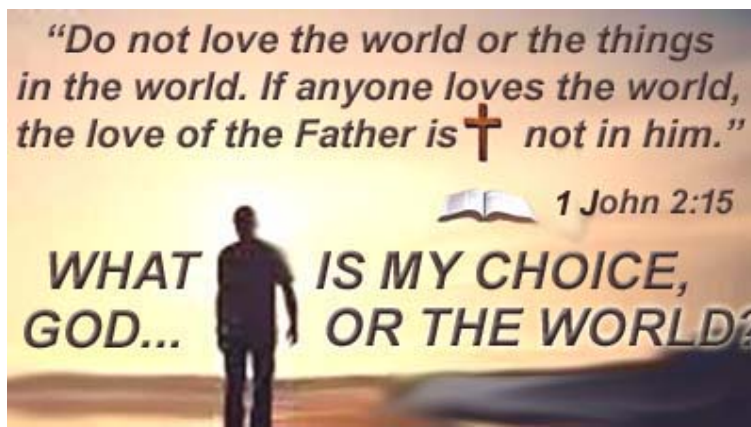
And as Jesus clearly said:

John 8:31-32, "If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Introspection:

If Jesus appeared to me and asked, "Are you really Mine", what would my answer be?

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In choosing to honor God as our Creator and follow Christ as Lord, where does our spiritual strength come from?

2 Corinthians 4:5, "The weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

And the purpose is:

Philippians 2:15, "That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world."

How is that achieved?

James 1:22, "Be doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

Why?

1 Corinthians 6:20, "For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

What's more?

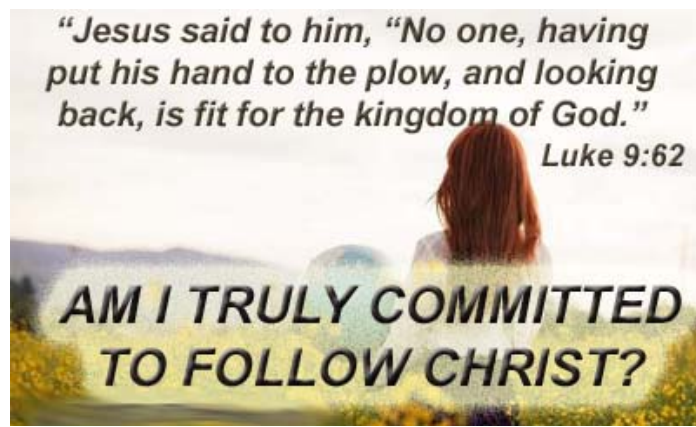
Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."

Therefore:

1 Peter 1:13, "Gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

In examining my life right now, do I choose God and follow Christ as Lord, or am I in bed with the world?

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If we choose to follow Christ, obviously we must make a true commitment to honor Him as Lord of our lives.

What does following Christ imply?

Mark 8:34, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."

Why?

Mark 8:35, For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it."

James 2:26, "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

Psalms 15:1-2, "LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart."

As such:

Galatians 5:24-25, "Those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

Ephesians 6:24, "Grace *be* with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity."

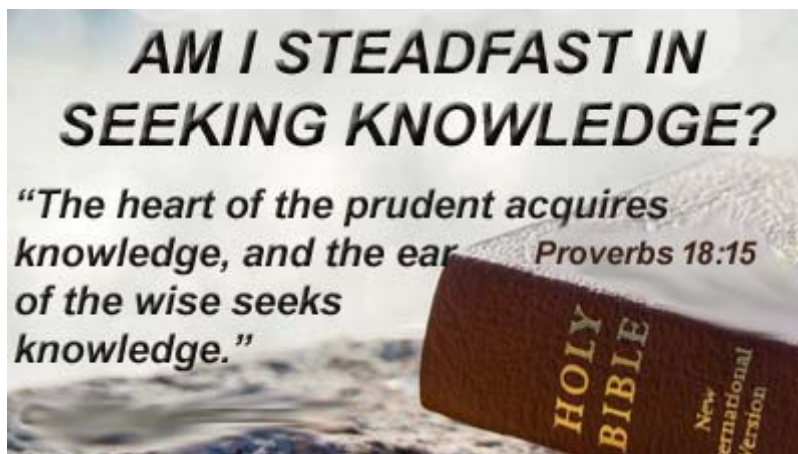
Therefore:

1 John 3:18, "Let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth."

1 Kings 8:61, "Let your heart therefore be loyal to the LORD our God, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments."

How committed am I to follow Christ from the heart and abide by His Word?

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How can we follow through with our commitment to follow Christ?

Romans 12:2, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

How then do we renew our mind?

2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

As such:

Hebrews 4:12, "The Word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Therefore:

Psalms 1:1-3, "Blessed *is* the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper."

Do I steadfastly renew my mind through the Word of God, so as to truly live in the perfect will of God?

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Our commitment to follow Christ as Lord definitely requires vigilance so we are not swayed left and right by the world.

Here's what the Word of God says on this:

1 Corinthians 15:58: "My beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 16:13, "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong."

Galatians 6:9, "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

2 Peter 3:17, "Beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked."

What's more?

1 Peter 5:8-9 "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world."

As such:

Jeremiah 29:13, "You will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart."

And as Jesus warned us:

Matthew 10:16, "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves."

Therefore:

Psalms 51:10: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

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