

EXAMINE YOURSELVES

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Webster's 1828 Dictionary

ADMONI'TION, n. Gentle reproof; counseling against a fault; instruction in duties; caution; direction.

THE ADMONITION: **EXAMINE YOURSELF** (1 Corinthians 11:28-32)

- For anything that defiles you (Daniel 1:8).
- For imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God (2 Cor. 10:5).
- For things that have caused you to stop walking in the light as He is in the light (1 John 1:7)
- For actions that have cut you off from the True Vine (John 15:1-8).
- For the cause of God's chastisement (correction, discipline). (1 Cor. 11:32).

RESULTS OF BEING DEFILED:

- Christ's promises, revelations, blessings, and assignments will be withheld (James 4:2-3).
- Loss of fellowship with the Lord (Rev. 3:20).
- Forgiveness is withheld until confession is made (1 Jn. 1:9).
- You will be fruitless (Mark 11:12-14, Luke 13:6-9, John 15:2). You will be of no use in God's work until you repent and confess.

*The greatest effort of the believer's sanctified soul
is exerted in his determined watch over his own soul's relationship to God.*

Sickness and disease = PHYSICAL abnormality.

Sin and disobedience = SPIRITUAL abnormality.

- God does not intend for either of these conditions to be our normal daily experience.
- If you say, "*I can't stop sinning,*" that is a denial of God's Word and God's promises.
 - "**If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**" (2 Cor. 5:17)
 - "**As many as receive Him, to them gave He POWER to become the sons of God; even to them that believe on His name.**" (John 1:12).
 - "**He shall save his people from their sins.**" (Matthew 1:21)

SYMPTOMS OF A WRONG INWARD RELATIONSHIP TO GOD.

1. **LOSS OF PEACE** (Colossians 3:15, John 14:1)
2. **A DEAD BIBLE:** (John 7:17, 12:40, Hos. 14:9). "*The BIBLE will keep you from SIN... or SIN will keep you from the BIBLE.*"
3. **THE FEAR OF EVIL** (Prov. 28:1, Heb. 10:26-27, Rom. 13:4, Deut. 31:16-17). Adam and Eve hid themselves when they sinned against God (Gen. 3:8).
 - "Perfect love casteth out FEAR!" (1 Jn 4:18).
 - "GOD hath not given us the spirit of FEAR...but of power and of love and of a sound mind." (2 Tim. 1:7).
4. **POWERLESS PRAYER** (Psalm 66:18, Matthew 5:23-24, 1 Peter 3:7, Isaiah 1:15, Proverbs 15:8).

- 5. PHYSICAL WEAKNESS** (Psalm 27:1). Note the distinction between sickness and weakness. (1 Cor. 11:28-30). Physical weakness means you're not at your very best (drained, fatigued, less effective).
- Sickness is also one result of sin in the life.
 - So called "healers" never deal with a person's sins.
 - When you're cut off from the vine, it stands to reason that you'll immediately begin to weaken. (John 15)
 - Your iniquities separate you from God (Isaiah 59:2).
- 6. SICKNESS** (3rd John 2) God sends sickness to chasten His wayward children back to the way of life and health (1Corinthians 11:30).
- Health is the believer's norm!
 - Sickness should immediately prompt us to examine ourselves.
 - Upon examination, you may find that sin is not the cause.
 - It may be a test of your faith (Job chapter 1-2)
 - It may be a satanic attack aimed at hindering your work for God.
 - God provided Christians with a biblical directive for dealing with sickness in James 5:14-16.

SYMPTOMS OF A WRONG INWARD RELATIONSHIP TO GOD.

How the Holy Spirit brings an individual under conviction of their wrong relationship with God.

- 7. A DOUBLE MIND** (James 1:8).
- Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth (Jn 16:13).
 - If you can't make up your mind whether or not to obey God, this is an indication that there is trouble in the mind.
 - You need to examine yourself to find the root cause of that sin trouble.
 - Whenever you feel that you need a counselor, take your troubles to Jesus Christ.
 - He's got advice to give so you can see where the trouble lies (Rev. 3:18-19).
 - Repent, turn to the Lord, hear Him, and trust Him.
- 8. THE RUNNING MIND** (Isaiah 28:16).
- God faces you with an issue, but you avoid it and press forward as if all is well.
 - You may think you've avoided it, but anxiety will result.
 - The Bible says to the Christian, "Be careful for nothing" (Phil. 4:6). Anxiety should have no place in the Christian life.
 - You go your own way, convincing yourself that it is right.
 - The Bible says there is a way that SEEMETH right, but the ends thereof are the ways of death (Prov. 14:12, 16:25).
 - Your mind is FULL of the many things you must accomplish and you RUSH to get it all done.
 - The Christian who is trusting God knows that the Lord orders our steps and plans our ways (Ps. 119:116; 17:5; 32:8; 121:3, 1 Sa 2:9). There's no need to be anxious about it.
 - If you love the Lord, all things will work together for Good (Rom 8:28).
 - If you abide in Christ, you will not be in a big rush; you will be calm and focus on the matter at hand; not on the matters of tomorrow (Mt 6:34).
- 9. A CONFUSED MIND** (2 Timothy 1:7).
- God has given us His Holy Spirit. There is no excuse for not having a sound mind.
 - Confusion comes from one of two things: ENVY and STRIFE (James 3:16).

- If you can't figure out how God wants you to live your Christian life, examine yourself. There is either envy or strife occupying your thoughts instead of:
 - Jesus Christ (Col. 3:2 Eph. 2:13-14).
 - The Word of God (Psalm 119:11).
 - Things that are pure, honest, lovely, right, and just (Philippians 4:8).
- Repent of the sin of leaning toward your own understanding, trusting your own self, and making your own decisions instead of leaning on Jesus Christ and trusting His Word. (Prov. 3:5-6)

10. A CONFOUNDED MIND (Isaiah 45:17).

- A confounded mind is beyond simple confusion. Here, the mind fails entirely so that we cannot think at all; the mind goes blank or "slips."
- Causes: Fear (Jer. 1:17). Great sin (Dan. 4:30-33). Disobeying God (Rom 1:23-24). A desire to be conformed to this world (Rom. 12:2). Unbelief (1 Peter 2:6).

11. CARNAL CRAVING (1 John 2:16).

- When a saved person gets outside the influence of the Holy Spirit, grieves or quenches the Holy Spirit, or is in rebellion against the Holy Spirit, they will be drawn toward the things of the world.
 - If we abide in Christ, the Holy Spirit makes it possible to avoid the sinful temptations.
 - If you let sin enter, God's supernatural keeping power is hindered by your rebellion.
 - Romans chapter 6 and 7 discuss this battle between the old man and the new man; the old nature vs. the new nature.
 - Feed the spirit, starve the flesh.
 - Starve the spirit, feed the flesh.
 - Make your choice! You cannot serve God and mammon.
 - If you choose sin and disobedience, you resurrect the old man in you.
 - Examine yourself. Find out where you fell. Repent of it. Forsake it. Come back.

12. LACK OF BROTHERLY LOVE (1 John 5:2).

- Disobedience to the Lord will cause us to grow cold toward the brethren.
- Christians who don't go to church don't love the brethren.
- Christians don't love the brethren because there is SIN in their lives.
- 1 John 4:8, 20-21. Your love for the brethren is a reflection of your love for God.

13. HYPER-ACTIVITY (Hebrews 4:9).

- Inability to rest or sit still, impatient with the brethren, skipping prayer and Bible study, eating on the go, fidgeting, impatience. These are all signs of spiritual sickness.
- This is not God's desire for the Christian.
 - "For so he giveth his beloved sleep." (Psalm 127:2)
 - "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

CONCLUSION:

This world needs Spirit-filled, Spirit-controlled Christians to be an example of what Jesus Christ can do in the life of a believer. Are you convincing anyone that Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life by the way you live your Christian life? Examine yourself daily. Let the Holy Spirit point out to you any iniquity in your life that would prevent you from being a proper ambassador and from receiving all the blessing that God wants you to have. **"He shall save his people from their sins."** (Matthew 1:21)