

FINAL EXAMINATION
(The only exam that will ever matter...)

2 Cor 13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you – unless of course, you fail the test?

Lam 3:40 Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the LORD.

I John 5:13 I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Phil 3:3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh –

Only you and God know your heart; and *we* have to be very careful, because our hearts are “desperately wicked” and deceitful.

Evidences that can be counterfeit:

(i.e., they neither prove nor disprove our Christianity)

- *Conversion event or Time of Decision* – Luke 8:13-14. Do not trust your eternal position on the fact that sometime in the past you prayed a prayer, went forward in church, signed a card, got baptized, made a commitment at camp, etc.
- *Living by a Moral Code or Visible Morality* – Mat 23:27, Mat 6:1. There are many reasons why people live moral lives that do not have God the Holy Spirit as their source.
- *Knowledge of the Truth or Intellectual Knowledge* – Rom 1:21-22; Jam 2:19. You can have the head knowledge but not the heart knowledge (Rom 10:10). If the truth that is in our heads has no impact on our lives, then we really don’t believe it. Do you think Judas had head knowledge or heart knowledge?
- *Religious Activity or Involvement* – Mat 6:2, 5, 16. Going to church, lighting candles, being baptized, taking communion, praying, doing pilgrimages, praying beads, etc., religious motions or activities, do not equate to salvation.
- *Active Ministry or Service in the name of Christ* – Mat 7:21-23. You can know and even teach or preach the truth and not be saved.
- *Conviction of Sin* – Acts 24:25. Recognizing our depravity is a step in the right direction, but it is not salvation.
- *Assurance of Salvation* – Mat 23:13, 15, 16, 23, 25, 27, 29. We must be careful that our confidence doesn’t deceive us. Our confidence must be in Christ alone. A “burning bosom” can lead us astray. Jer 17:9.

Marks of a True Christian or Fruits of an Authentic Christian

(Christianity, it's an inside thing...):

- *Love for God, an Overflowing Heart of Worship* – Psa 42:1-2, many psalms, Phil 3:3. Do I love to praise God? Do I love to talk with Him? Do I love to learn from Him in His Word? Do I want to serve Him? Is there something in me that longs to praise, worship, and serve the Lord? Am I prompted by the Spirit? Do I want others to have a relationship with God like mine?
- *Glory in Christ or Devotion to God's Glory* – Matt 5:3, Phil 3:3. All your boasting, all your rejoicing is going to be in Christ because all the credit belongs to God. A true believer will never claim merit or credit. When they look to you, you point to Christ. It's not about me; it's about God. Your life is surrendered completely to God.
- *Genuine Humility or No Confidence in the Flesh* – Mat 5:3, Phil 3:3, Luke 18:13,14, Isa 64:6, Mic 6:8. All our confidence is in Christ. Any good that comes from me is because of God. We come as the prodigal son, "Father, I have sinned against Heaven and in Your sight and I am no more worthy to be called Your son." God gives grace to the humble (Jam 4:6, 10). The true Christian has genuine repentance.
- *Continual Prayer* – Mat 6:6, Phil 4:6, I Thes 5:17. The act of prayer builds your relationship with God, glorifies God by your recognition of His greatness, and shows a deep humility. This is not a work; it's a desire.
- *Selfless Love* – I John 3:14; 4:7. God is love. If you are sealed by the Holy Spirit, you cannot help but to love, even selflessly. Do you feel God reaching the unlovable through you, including your enemies?
- *Separation from the World* – John 17:13-19, Rom 7:7-8:4, Jam 4:4, I Pet 2:11, I John 2:15-17. Do you struggle with how to be in the world but not of the world? Do you combat with your sinful desires? If you think you have no sin, you are deceiving yourself (I John 1:9 *this is written to believers*). If we do not recognize and struggle with our sin, we are not spiritually alive.
- *Spiritual Growth* – John 15:4,5, 2 Pet 1:3-11, Gal 5:22. Do we find ourselves increasing in the things of God and decreasing in the things of this world? Rom 8:29, I Cor 15:49, 2 Cor 3:18 state that we are growing up into the likeness of Christ, in many ways. God the Holy Spirit will get us there, if He is present within us.
- *Obedient Living* – John 14:15, John 15:14. Following a list of rules and regulations is not the measure. We are saved by grace through faith. We are justified by faith. Our faith then is justified by our actions (Jam 2:26, I Pet 1:6,7). As Jesus stated, our motive is our love of and our friendship with God. God the Holy Spirit will urge you incessantly to prove your love.

Do not be afraid of the examination; it may save your eternal life. The key is to surrender to God, unconditionally; He asks nothing more and nothing less.