

Take a personal Inventory. What do you see in yourself Spiritually?

Text: [2Co 13:5 KJV] 5 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?

[2Co 13:5 ESV] 5 Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?-- unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

[2Co 13:5 NLT] 5 Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you; if not, you have failed the test of genuine faith.

Personal Spiritual Inventory

Do you see a disciple of Christ in Yourself?

[Mat 10:24 KJV] 24 The disciple is not above [his] master, nor the servant above his lord.

[Luk 14:27 KJV] 27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

[Luk 14:33 KJV] 33 So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

Do you see within your spiritual life an increase in:

Your prayer life?

How is the quality of your prayer life compared to the beginning of the year?

Your fasting?

Have you fasted more this year than you did last year? Do you understand the purpose of faster better than you did last year?

Bible Study?

Has the quality of your Bible Study increased this year?

Are you closer to God now than you have ever been?

Do you spend time with Him more often?

Where is your trust in the Lord today compared to January 2024?

[Amo 6:1 KJV] 1 Woe to them [that are] at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, [which are] named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came!

Are you discipling Others?

What is discipleship? Barna offered a definition when they set out to study the practice among churchgoers: "Being disciplined means someone is intentionally walking alongside you to help you grow spiritually and live out the disciplines of the Christian faith." Using this definition, nearly two-thirds of churchgoers (64%) tell us they are presently being disciplined.

Have you let the Lord examine you?

[Psa 26:2 KJV] 2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.

[1Ch 29:17 NLT] 17 I know, my God, that you examine our hearts and rejoice when you find integrity there. You know I have done all this with good motives, and I have watched your people offer their gifts willingly and joyously.

Jesus knows the doubters and betrayer

[Jhn 6:63-65 KJV] 63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, [they] are spirit, and [they] are life. 64 But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. 65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Some of Jesus' Disciples Doubted

[Mat 28:17-20 KJV] 17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen.

What about the church inventory?

How many new believers have come into the church this year and are still with us?

How many members have left us this year? Do we have any idea why they left?

What are we doing to offer Christian mentorship to those in the Church now?

[Mat 10:16-23 KJV] 16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves. 17 But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues; 18 And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them

and the Gentiles. 19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. 20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. 21 And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against [their] parents, and cause them to be put to death. 22 And ye shall be hated of all [men] for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. 23 But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.

Barriers to Discipleship Community

A lack of time: A main cause of reluctance among churchgoers who are not part of small groups is one you may know well: busyness. “I am too busy and don’t have time” is the number one reason a churchgoer isn’t currently engaged in a group (19%). Similarly, and just below this option, 15 percent choose “I can’t meet when small groups are offered.”

A lack of commitment: Busyness is tied with one other response as the top hurdle: One in five selects “I am not that active in my church.” Church leaders also sense the impasse of low engagement. Pastors who feel their small-group ministry is weak single out “a lack of commitment” as the top reason a small group might do poorly, even more so than other operational issues or failures.

A lack of comfort: Compared to older generations, younger generations are more likely to say they aren’t in a small group because they don’t think they would fit in, are intimidated, fear getting hurt and worry people wouldn’t like them. These patterns are true for both men and women, though young men especially feel they wouldn’t fit in or even that people wouldn’t get along with them, while young women especially say, “I don’t know anyone who goes to a small group and I don’t want to go alone.”

A lack of awareness: Among churchgoers who aren’t presently part of a small group or Bible study, more than one-fifth (22%) tells Barna they actually aren’t sure if their church offers such a thing. This uncertainty climbs among younger churchgoers and among those in smaller churches.