

WHY DO I NEED...

● Diagnosing -

- To identify the problem that keeps something from working properly by examining the symptoms
 - *2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you ^[a]are disqualified.*
 - We know a computer is acting up when it fails to do it's primary functions.
 - We know a car is struggling to function when it can no longer push itself down the road
 - How do we know when a Christian is malfunctioning?
 - It stops doing it's primary functions. It fails to achieve it's purpose
 - 1st The most important function of a christian is to know God, be in an intimate relationship with him, bring him glory and attention
 - 2nd is to make Jesus known on the earth.
 - Desire to read bible, spend time with God and other Christians
 - Desire to experience the deep things of God and be used by God in the gifts of the spirit
 - If we are not doing these things we are malfunctioning.
 - If we are satisfied to attend a church and not be moved by God, if we are comfortable not attending a church we need to examine ourselves
 - Paul says to examine and test ourselves
 - Examine is to look closely, observe with purpose
 - Test means to try
 - *2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you ^[a]are disqualified.*
 - Why are we examining ourselves to make sure that we are actually in the faith.

● **Emergency Response**

- We only take the time to examine something when it truly interrupts our life.
 - We don't check the oil on the car until the car gets bad enough to get our attention
 - We don't go to a marriage conference or see a counselor until someone brings up the word divorce
 - We don't have hard conversations and take a look at our priorities until our family is falling apart
 - We don't surround our kids/teenagers with mentors and connect them to a kids/youth ministry until they began to exhibit troubling signs.
 - We're so comfortable and busy that we neglect things that should never be neglected.
 - We park an ambulance at the bottom of the cliff instead of putting up the proper road signs and guard rails at the top of the cliff.

○ **Paul Says examine yourself**

- When something isn't working we should look it over, take it to the authority or it's creator so it can be fixed.
- Car messing up, you'll take it to the mechanic, diagnose
- When we don't want to read our bible, when we don't want to have Christian friends, when we resent biblical correction, we need to go back to the authority, God's word, our creator and have ourselves diagnosed.
- How is your life running? How is your family doing? How is your marriage. Are you surviving? God has called us to be overcomers, we should have life and life more abundant. We should be growing closer to God, our spouse, our kids and family. When you are surviving you aren't worried about growth, you're in survival mode.

● **There are a lot of people in survival mode**

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- People who claim to believe in Jesus, who even attend church
 - Struggling with their emotions, mental health
 - Struggling with depression
 - Priorities are out of balance
 - Distracted by media and social media
 - Losing touch with our kids
 - Focused on possessions
- *2 Timothy 3:1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God*
- People can spend years of their life wrapped up, consumed in cycles of self, loneliness and needless struggle.
- If you have ever tried to drive in the snow, or go mudding. You'll know there are time when you can pull yourself out, there are times that you have to have outside help to get free

● Why Do I need Community

- You have to have outside help? That's why we're examining ourselves, our lives, our fruits. If we are stuck and living in a cycle of shame and defeat we need outside help.
- We're asking ourselves, Why do I need community?
 - That's real Christianese way of speaking so what do we mean?
 - Why do I need Godly friendships?
 - Why do I need Godly mentors?
 - Why do I need to pray with other believers?
 - Why do I need to be vulnerable or open to other believers?
 - Why do I need to be held accountable and corrected by others.
- Let's look at a couple of those quickly
 - Why do I need Godly friendships?
 - True friendships will be intimate, you'll be the real you, you won't wear a mask. When you are in close friendship with other believers your true self can be corrected, encouraged, and pulled out of self-condemnation and shame.
 - Why do I need Godly mentors?

- We are easily capable of self deception.
 - We can find a dieting fad online and buy into it and believe that if we eat this special herb we will begin to have more energy.
 - It's no different. Spiritually we can deceive ourselves into believing lies, harmful lies. Like this sin won't have consequences, missing church won't effect our marriage and kids, lies about our self worth our value to God. WE are easy to believe lies and that's why we need Biblical leaders in our life. We need mentors, people who will be blunt with us, who have more experience than we do. People who can offer insight and perspective.
- Mentors are important because We need to be accountable to someone.
 - God made man and gave him dominion or authority over the earth. Kids are commanded by God to honor their father and mother. We are told to love the lord our God with all of our heart, mind and soul. There is always a level of submission.
 - When we just attend church and we keep out Godly friendships and mentors we can get off into the weeds and we can begin to worship self, make an idol of our thoughts, desires.
 - Submitting and being open to correction is biblical. We aren't talking about unhealthy or toxic church leaders. We may have mentors that aren't even recognized church leaders. We just need sincere, experienced Godly individuals who will hold us accountable to the things that God has showed us and that we have shared with them. Hold us accountable to scripture when we are deceiving ourselves or lying to ourselves.
- Christian relationships and mentors are a God designed system to produce growth and correct the issues in our lives.
 - Correction, being provoked to good works, accountability are biblical things that produce growth

in us and they come from having Deep relationships with Christians and mentors.

- Paul corrected Peter in the book of Acts
- Paul held him accountable
- Paul charged the church to hold those who were openly sinning inside the church accountable.
- This wasn't a small part of a few churches. This was the culture of the church. Correction wasn't seen as a bad thing.
- **Hebrews 10:24** And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,
 - Provoke stimulation, provocation, irritation, angry dispute.
 - **Word Origin:** Derived from the Greek verb παροξύνω (paroxunō), meaning "to provoke" or "to sharpen."
 - **Corresponding Greek / Hebrew Entries:** The Hebrew equivalent often associated with similar concepts of provocation or stirring up is Strong's Hebrew 3707 (קָאָס, ka'as), meaning "to provoke" or "to anger."
 - **Usage:** The term "paroxusmos" refers to a sharp contention or provocation. It can denote a strong emotional response, whether positive or negative.
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