

2 Corinthians 13:3 - 5 (NASB)

³since you are seeking for proof of the Christ who speaks in me, and who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you.

⁴For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we will live with Him because of the power of God *directed* toward you.

⁵Test yourselves *to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!* Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

Verse 3: ³since you are seeking for proof of the Christ who speaks in me, and who is not weak toward you, but mighty in you. *2 Corinthians 13:3. “You have been examining me,” wrote Paul, “but why don’t you take time to examine yourselves?” I have noticed in my ministry that those who are quick to examine and condemn others are often guilty of worse sins themselves. In fact, one way to make yourself look better is to condemn somebody else. But the Corinthians were judging Paul by the wrong standards. Instead of judging whether his message pointed to Jesus as Lord and Savior, the Corinthians were criticizing Paul for his lack of eloquence, his weaknesses, and his timidity (10:1; 11:5; 12:7-10).*

Verse 4: ⁴For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we will live with Him because of the power of God *directed* toward you. *Paul reminded the Corinthians that God’s power demonstrated itself through weakness, not through power (12:9). Paul’s reply was, “Like Jesus Christ, I am strong when it appears I am weak.” On the cross, Jesus Christ manifested weakness; but the cross is still “the power of God” (1 Cor. 1:18). Do not look on the surface of things, but to look deeper. By the standards of the world, both Jesus and Paul were weak; but by the standards of the Lord, both were strong.*

Verse 5: ⁵Test yourselves *to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!* Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

To begin with, Paul told the Corinthians that they should examine their hearts to see if they were really born again and members of the family of God.

- *Do you have the witness of the Holy Spirit in your heart? (Rom. 8:9, 16)*
- *Do you love the brethren? (1 John 3:14)*
- *Do you practice righteousness? (1 John 2:29; 3:9)*
- *Have you overcome the world so that you are living a life of godly separation? (1 John 5:4)*

These are just a few of the tests we can apply to our own lives to be certain that we are the children of God.

Many problems in Corinth were caused by people who professed to be saved, but never repented and trusted Jesus. Churches are filled with such people today. Paul called such people reprobate, which means “counterfeit, discredited after a test.” Paul used this word again in 2 Corinthians 13:6-7, emphasizing the fact that it is important for a person to know for sure that he is saved and going to heaven (see 1 John 5:11-13).

⁵Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!

- *The familiar New Testament terms peirazo (**test**) and dokimazo (**examine**) are used here as synonyms. They convey the idea of putting something to the test to determine its genuineness. The test was **to see if** the Corinthians were **in the faith**. Pistis (**faith**) refers here not to the subjective element of belief, but to the objective body of Christian truth—the Christian faith.*

- Paul's call for self-examination was not a new concept.
 - Job cried out to God, "How many are my iniquities and sins? Make known to me my rebellion and my sin" (Job 13:23).
 - In Psalm 17:3 David declared, "You have tried my heart . You have tested me and You find nothing." "Examine me, O Lord, and try me;" he pleaded in Psalm 26:2. "Test my mind and my heart." "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts; and see if there be any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the everlasting way" (Ps. 139:23-24).
 - Lamentations 3:40 Jeremiah wrote "Let us examine and probe our ways, and let us return to the Lord,". Also, "Consider your ways!" (Hag. 1:5, 7).
 - Paul wrote, "A man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup . But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged" (1 Cor. 11:28, 31).

1 Corinthians 15:1 - 19 (NASB)

¹Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, ²by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.

³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

⁴and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

⁵and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

⁶After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;

⁷then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; ⁸and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

Monday Morning Moment 1

"Come and see, go and tell!" (4 verbs is the Easter mandate for the church)

Matthew 28:6 - 7 (NLT) ⁶He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen. **Come, see** where his body was lying. ⁷And now, **go quickly and tell** his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and he is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there. Remember what I have told you."

Monday Morning Moment 2

The 3 R's of POWER: "Recognize, Return and Repent"

Luke 15:17 (KJV)

¹⁷And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!