

## Self Evaluation

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A company I worked for in the past gave employees a performance evaluation twice a year. The reason for these evaluations was to determine not only performance, but also to help people improve themselves by exposing deficiencies in their performance. There were three choices given as to how the evaluation was performed; the first choice was for the evaluation done solely by ones immediate supervisor, the second was to have a Peer evaluation done by your co-workers *and* your supervisor, the third choice was to perform a self-evaluation, which was compared to the supervisor's evaluation. Which would you prefer? Those of us who proclaim themselves Christian, and even those who claim Agnosticism or Atheism, according to the Bible, will one day face the ultimate evaluation when we stand before God and He asks us, "Why should I let you into Heaven?" This would obviously equate to the evaluation done solely by the supervisor. Perhaps it is time for a "self evaluation" so that if that day should come, you are prepared with the correct answer. Through a series of questions, comments, and Scripture passages, I invite you to evaluate yourself as to where you stand spiritually from a Biblical standpoint. To counter the skepticism of the Agnostic or the denial of the Atheist, I submit the following Biblical Truth... **Romans 1:18-21 (NKJV)**<sup>18</sup> **For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,**<sup>19</sup> **because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.**<sup>20</sup> **For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,**<sup>21</sup> **because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.** *Just remember the old saying, "There are no Atheists in foxholes." Anyone can deny God but that is not proof there is no God!* We will reveal more proof of God as we progress through this writing.

If you happen to be one of the skeptics or deniers, have you ever considered the *Billions of people over Thousands of years* who were willing to die for their belief in the God of the Bible? Just something to think about... it seems to me there had to be some convincing evidence of God in the lives of so many to make such a radical decision. Some may chalk it off to delusion, but that is unlikely, considering the numbers of people and the timeframe involved, not to mention the educational status and prominence of many of these people. People willing to take their faith to the grave must have experienced some *very convincing proofs of God and His Word* during their experience here on earth! Enough concerning the skeptics - let us now concentrate on those of us who acknowledge God, and claim to be a "follower" of God and His Word. How do we all measure up as to what it means, and what is "*expected*" of people who claim to be Christian according to the Bible? The Bible teaches there will be many who believe they are followers of God, when in fact they are themselves deceived. The most blatant illustration of this is from the mouth of Jesus Himself! **Matthew 7:21-23 (NKJV)**<sup>21</sup> **"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.**<sup>22</sup> **Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'**<sup>23</sup> **And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'** This passage is a good illustration of the difference between being "Religious" and truly having a "relationship" with God. Let us begin with what I would call "step one" by using another quote from Jesus: **John 3:3 (NKJV)**<sup>3</sup> **Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."**

I have spoken with people over the years who have stated to me that they are "Christians" but they do not consider themselves "Born Again!" Like the Pharisee Nicodemus whom Jesus was addressing in this passage, they do not comprehend what it means to be born again. I can understand people being confused by such a statement as most people are at first, but the fact is that Jesus said, **"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."** Think about that... one cannot even *See* much less enter the kingdom of God! This makes being "Born again" an important step in one's relationship with the God of the Bible! So how about you... have you been "Born again?" Now, assuming you claim to have had that experience, think back as to the way you were *before* that experience. Has there been any change in the way you view the

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world and more importantly the Word of God? Is it possible for someone to go from no relationship with God to having a relationship with God and there be no evidence of change in their lives? The Bible states the following through the Apostle Paul from whom we get the majority of the teachings in the New Testament: **Romans 12:1-2 (KJV)** <sup>1</sup> **I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.** <sup>2</sup> **And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.** Paul makes it quite clear that out of sheer gratitude for God's mercy we should do our best to make ourselves pleasing (Holy) to God. We should refrain from former "Worldly desires," we should at least be in the process of replacing those desires with a desire to please God. We renew our minds through the study of God's Word, replacing our Carnal will with the will of God for us, which is reveled in His Word. How about you... can you point out any changes in your life since you claimed to accept God into your life? If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

Many people calling themselves Christian have told me that although they believe in Jesus and the Bible, they "prefer to keep their faith to themselves!" I have heard this from both new and "seasoned" Christians alike. I realize there are many different types of personalities; some people like myself, are very "outgoing" in nature, they can jump into the middle of a group conversation with complete strangers without hesitation. On the other hand, there are others so introverted they require time to get the nerve to make eye contact, or to simply say hello! Is your faith in God and the Bible something that you can, or should, keep to yourself? Once again, I will refer to the words of Jesus. After His resurrection, Jesus spent 40 days among His eleven disciples including hundreds of others. Just before He ascended back into heaven He gave the disciples the following command: **Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV)** <sup>19</sup> **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:** <sup>20</sup> **Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.** The question is, "Does this command include all Christians to this day?" One could argue that verse 16 makes a direct reference to the "Eleven." **Matthew 28:16 (KJV)** <sup>16</sup> **Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.** However, keeping everything in context, this passage implies that all disciples, including those in the future are subject to this directive given by Jesus. He tells His disciples to bring the Gospel to "All nations Teaching to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." All things means, ALL Things... this includes spreading the Gospel to the nations. The latter part of verse 20 states that this should continue until **the end of the world**, which would be long after the eleven had joined Him in Heaven! So, what does this all say about you keeping your faith to yourself? I have mentioned this before that I have "Close Relatives" who claim to be believers in Jesus and the Bible who have never shared the gospel with anyone... not even their spouses in some cases!

There are many reasons, or should I say, "Excuses" why people who claim faith in God do not share the gospel as Jesus directed His Disciples. In my opinion, the biggest reason is "Fear." Some say they feel unworthy to share their faith because of their past. Others say they are not qualified. What is your excuse? Who is "Qualified" to share the gospel? The short answer surprisingly is everyone who is a Born Again Believer! I remember reading an ad for a Hospital Chaplin years ago... the list of required qualifications was not only extensive, but it would have disqualified the Apostle Paul, all the Disciples, and even Jesus Himself! Sometimes man comes up with more stringent requirements than God Himself! As previously mentioned, the only real qualification for one to share the gospel is to be a born-again believer. Every believer has their own story as to what led them to their faith otherwise known as their testimony. The bottom line is that no one can refute your testimony – it is yours and yours alone, so if God and His Word had a positive influence on you, why wouldn't you want to share it with people, especially with those you care about? The word "Gospel" means "Good News or Glad Tidings," do you know anyone who might need, or like to hear some good news? The next time you have an opportunity to share the Gospel, keep the following passage in mind...

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### Romans 10:13-14 (KJV)

**13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. <sup>14</sup> How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?** If you are “Saved,” I feel confident that someone, at some time, must have proclaimed the Gospel message to you, which prompted you seek relationship with God. It may have been a Pastor or Evangelist it may have been a friend or relative; what if whoever it was didn’t say anything to you; would you be a Christian now, especially if you were on a path away from God? Jesus directed His Disciples to share the Gospel to draw people unto Himself, if you identify as a Christ Follower, that directive applies to you as well. Whether you share the Gospel with others or not, doesn’t make God love you any more or less... sharing the Gospel is not so much an obligation as much as it is an act of love on your part towards others. The same act of love that was in the heart of the person that shared the Gospel message with you. Who needs to hear the Gospel, everyone on the planet! The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only hope of salvation for everyone... how do you suppose you would feel knowing you had an opportunity to share the Gospel with someone but didn’t only to find out their life was cut short? **John 14:6 (KJV)** <sup>6</sup> **Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.** This is the ultimate message of the Bible, and it is up to us to share it.

I pray that this brief “Self Evaluation” was both enlightening and challenging for you. As I was writing, I was also evaluating myself. I too have let opportunities to share the Gospel slip by leaving me only with the hope that someone else confronted those individuals I neglected. As I stated earlier, “Everyone needs to hear the Gospel.” I have been “Born Again” since 1972 and over the years, I have challenged many with the Gospel message. I declare to you that there is no greater feeling then when someone thanks you for doing so, especially when you see a change in his or her life for the better, and see them sharing the Gospel with people they encounter as you did with them. If this self-evaluation exposed shortcomings in your walk with the Lord, as long as you still have breath, there is time to make adjustments. Get right with God, and pass Him on to others every chance you get! God Bless All My Readers.