

Self-Checking, Not Self-Demoralization

In many of my teaching articles I've mentioned self-assessment or self-evaluation as a way of keeping a check on ourselves so we can identify where we're drifting away from righteous activity. (Righteous being what our King approves of, not legalism or following rules). The impetus for promoting that introspection has come from prophetic messages that I've received, as well as my experience in working with him to clean darkness out of my life.

However, some of my readers have seen that teaching as a negative endeavour, being legalistic and putting constraints on their liberty as sons. They see it as reverting back to pious ways, where a person is demoralized because they hate themselves for not being able to measure up to Jesus' perfection. Therefore, I need to correct their inference and show that it's positive in nature – if it's done correctly.

Our intimate relationship with the Trinity includes keeping our focus on them, not on life issues or personal problems. The Christian expression for that is “looking to Jesus”, but in reality, it's living in oneness with him in our Internal Kingdom and leaning into him for everything. We don't look upwards to him, we just live with him in a loving partnership, just like an effective marriage. That's why we're known as “The Bride” – his Bride.

That aside, the reality is that the Bride is a transformed set of members of the *ekklesia*, not everyone who calls themselves Christian. That's why there's a qualifier of the Bride: She has made herself ready, and she is spotless, without blemish. That's why Peter stated, “make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him”¹. It's not an hard fact that every believer is part of the Bride, because inclusion involves us working (with effort) on our lives to live righteously. That's in addition to our standing where we're already sinless through the work of the cross that Jesus accomplished through his shed blood. So, it's not trying to get sinless. Instead, it's living life in alignment with his desire.

That means, look ‘outwards’ from ourselves doesn't negate keeping a check on ourselves. In fact it's a requirement of sons to self-assess. The assessment identifies areas where we have thought, acted or spoken unrighteously, areas that need to be eliminated. That elimination work is done in partnership with him – it's a team effort. We identify it, we do our best to stop it, and he works on the inside to weed it out of our soul, heart and attitudes. That's cleaning from the inside-out, not us doing it all, because that just doesn't work. We end up growing and maturing as this process continues, day after day.

Our King made that process very clear in a recent message to us:

“Growth comes when you live close to me with a surrendered heart. Trust me to highlight the areas I want you to work on, instead of walking around with your focus inward, always looking for things that are wrong with you. I have already rescued you from darkness. Everything you need to walk in victory, power, and might is already yours. When you stay in tune with my Spirit, turning your attention to me at all times, you can rest assured that you are growing more and more like me every day. This is a life that pleases me. This is the way you bear fruit for my glory.”²

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)

1 – 2 Peter 3:14 (NIV)

2 – Brian Simmons (13-2-2023) “I Hear His Whisper...” “I am working in your life.” [distributed e-newsletter]

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