

Examination of the Man in the Mirror

June 12, 2014 - OFBS



Ask and you shall receive so says Jesus in Mt7:7 but when you don't receive that which you have asked for then why not. James4:3 says we are asking wrongly or could unanswered prayer be a fault on the person who is praying because of a sin in their life since God doesn't listen to sinners – Jn9:31. There could be other factors* such as God's timing as in Jn9:1-3 with the man who was born blind.

- RSV Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.
- RSV James 4:3-4
3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.
4 Unfaithful creatures! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
- RSV John 9:31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if any one is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him.
- RSV John 9:1-3
1 AS HE passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth.
2 And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"
3 Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him.

The first area that one should check when a pray is unanswered is themselves. The bible mentions at least 4 times to test, judge, examine and fix our own problems first – Gal6:4, Mt7:5, 1Cor11:28,31.

- RSV Galatians 6:4 But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor.
- RSV Matthew 7:5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.
- RSV 1 Corinthians 11:31 But if we judged ourselves truly, we should not be judged.
- RSV 1 Corinthians 11:28 Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.

If we are to test, judge, examine and fix our biblical/spiritual short comings then what are those items that we are to fix?

Below are 2 checklists. One lists some (not all) of the characteristics/actions/deeds/works that Jesus wants us to be doing. The second lists some (not all) of the things a Christians should be staying as far away as they are able.

Here's a challenge. Print out both Examination Checklists and carry it around and put in a number of times each item has been done. How many squares would contain a number over the course of a day, week, month or year?

Which checklist would contain more marks on it?

If more marks are made on the Ungodly checklist than on the Godly checklist then that would be an indication that changes from within are required before effective prayer can be offered, heard and granted.

Unless one examines their own life and take out the trash then one shouldn't expect any change to unanswered prayers. King David in Ps 66:17-20 stated that God would not have listened had David had not confess and repented of his sins.

LVB Psalms 66:17-20

17 For I cried to him for help, with praises ready on my tongue.

18 He would not have listened if I had not confessed my sins.

19 But he listened! He heard my prayer! He paid attention to it!

20 Blessed be God who didn't turn away when I was praying, and didn't refuse me his kindness and love.

Realizing you have a problem is the first step in overcoming it. Paul states in Romans 7:7 that he would not know what sin was had it not been for the law. The checklists serve as a rough gauge of one's faithfulness in walking in the way of the Lord.

Regards,
David O'Malley

Called/Chosen + Hear + Believe + Repent + Confess + Baptize + Abide = Salvation -> Proclaim
Mt22:14 + Lk11:28 + Jn3:16 + Mk6:12 + Rm10:9 + Acts2:38 + Heb10:26 = 1 Pt 3:21 -> Mt28:19-20

<p>2014 <u>Completed Bible studies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 1/1/14 – The 3 themes of Christmas- 1/18/14 -The bible vs. the Churches (G)- 1/26/14 - Where are all the miracles? (G)- 2/6/14 - Second round Prophet- 2/14/14 – In the Beginning...- 3/8/14 – Archeology of Genesis (G)- 3/25/14 – The Noah train- 4/12/14 – The best military money can buy (G)- 4/30/14 – The Law before the Law which is the Law – part 1- 5/17/14 – Order of the Narrow Way – Introduction (G)- 6/12/14 – Examination of the man in the mirror	
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*NOTE: even if a person has purged out all sin from within they may still have afflictions and pain – Jesus was the clear example on this. Jesus prayed that the cup be passed from him (Mt 26:39) but the Father didn't grant that prayer.

RSV Matthew 26:39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt."

RSV Matthew 6:2-5

2 "Thus, when you **give alms**, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.
3 But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing,
4 so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.
5 "And when you pray, **you must not be like the hypocrites**; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

RSV James 5:7 **Be patient**, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it until it receives the early and the late rain.

RSV Hebrews 13:15 Through him then let us continually offer up a **sacrifice of praise to God**, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

RSV James 3:13 Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good life let him **show his works** in the meekness of wisdom.

RSV James 3:17-18

17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then **peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, without uncertainty or insincerity**.
18 And the harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

RSV Matthew 25:35-36

35 for I **was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me,**
36 I was **naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.**

RSV Titus 3:14 And let our people learn to apply themselves to **good deeds**, so as to **help cases of urgent need**, and not to be unfruitful.

RSV Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**
23 **gentleness, self-control**; against such there is no law.

RSV Galatians 5:26 Let us have **no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy** of one another.

RSV 2 Peter 1:5-8

5 For this very reason make every effort to supplement your **faith** with **virtue**, and virtue with **knowledge**,
6 and knowledge with **self-control**, and self-control with **steadfastness**, and steadfastness with **godliness**,
7 and godliness with **brotherly affection**, and brotherly affection with **love**.
8 For if these things are yours and abound, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

RSV 2 Peter 1:10 Therefore, brethren, **be the more zealous** to confirm your call and election, for if you do this you will never fall;

RSV Acts 9:31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was built up; and **walking in the fear of the Lord** and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit it was multiplied.

RSV 1 Timothy 3:2-4

2 Now a bishop must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, **temperate, sensible, dignified, hospitable, an apt teacher,**
3 **no drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, and no lover of money.**
4 He must **manage his own household** well, keeping his **children submissive and respectful** in every way;

RSV 1 Timothy 3:8 Deacons likewise must be serious, **not double-tongued**, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for gain;

RSV 1 Timothy 3:11 The women likewise must be **serious, no slanderers**, but temperate, **faithful in all things**.

RSV Titus 1:7 For a bishop, as God's steward, must be **blameless**; he **must not be arrogant or quick-tempered** or a **drunkard** or **violent** or **greedy for gain**,

RSV James 5:9 **Do not grumble**, brethren, against one another, that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the doors.

RSV Matthew 10:8 **Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons**. You received without paying, **give without pay**.

RSV Hebrews 12:14 **Strive for peace with all men**, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

RSV Ephesians 5:11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead **expose them**.

RSV James 1:27 Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to **visit orphans and widows in their affliction**, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

KJV Ephesians 5:3-5

3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

5 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

RSV Jude 1:7-8

7 just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the surrounding cities, which likewise acted immorally and indulged in unnatural lust, serve as an example by undergoing a punishment of eternal fire.

8 Yet in like manner these men in their dreamings defile the flesh, reject authority, and revile the glorious ones.

RSV Jude 1:16 These are grumblers, malcontents, following their own passions, loud-mouthed boasters, flattering people to gain advantage.

RSV Matthew 5:19 Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

RSV Matthew 5:28 But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

RSV Matthew 25:41-43

41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels;

42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,

43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

RSV Matthew 5:22 But I say to you that every one who is angry with his brother shall be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother shall be liable to the council, and whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be liable to the hell of fire.

RSV 1 Corinthians 6:9-10

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor sexual perverts,

10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God.

RSV Galatians 5:19-21

19 Now the works of the flesh are plain: fornication, impurity, licentiousness,

20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, party spirit,

21 envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

RSV Proverbs 6:17-19

17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

18 a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil,

19 a false witness who breathes out lies, and a man who sows discord among brothers.