

TESTED TO LAST THE DISTANCE



WARM UP

A young boy walked into a chemist one day and asked to use the telephone. He dialed a number and said, "Hello, Dr Anderson, do you want to hire a boy to cut your grass and run errands for you?" After a pause he said, "Oh, you already have a boy. Are you completely satisfied with the job he's doing?" Another pause, "All right then, good-bye, Doctor".

As the boy thanked the chemist and prepared to leave, the chemist called to him. "Just a minute, son. I couldn't help but overhear your conversation. If you are looking for work, I could use a boy like you."

"Thank you, sir," the boy replied, "but I already have a job".

"You do?" the chemist responded. "But didn't you just try to get a job from Dr Anderson?"

"No, sir," the boy said. "I already work for Dr Anderson. I was just checking up on myself."

A self-disciplined individual looks for ways to improve performance and avoid mistakes. Ask those with whom and for whom you work to give you suggestions on how you might do better, achieve more, and grow to the next level. When you check up on yourself, others won't feel it necessary to do so!

BACKGROUND

In all areas of life, the proof of a thing is in the testing. It is the test that gives authenticity. Paul says here that we should check the authenticity of our personal faith regularly. If we check our faith and know it is real then we are proactively able to resist the devil when he seeks to undermine or cause doubt in our faith. A good way to examine ourselves is to practise sharing our faith.

"Be active in sharing your faith so that you have full understanding."

Philemon 6 (NIV)

READ 2 Corinthians 13:5; Galatians 6:4



QUESTIONS

1. How do you examine yourself in your personal faith?
2. Why can this examination be useful in your life?

3. Which part of the Christian faith stretches you the most?

4. Are you able to identify the basics of our faith?

CONSIDER THIS

In *1 Corinthians 15* Paul outlines those things that are of first importance and finishes by saying "this is what we preach and this is what you believed". Examine yourself to be able to simply explain the foundation of what you believe.



WRAP UP

Discuss with one another about the times you have shared your faith and the impact this has had on your own faith journey.



IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER

I will regularly examine my faith by allowing myself to be challenged by scripture.

I will share my faith with another person at least once a month.

