

AVOIDING YOUR WORST NIGHTMARE

Matthew 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will

enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

- There is coming a final day of reckoning or judgment
- On that day the final determination will be made as to who among us gets to enter the kingdom of heaven, and who doesn't
- Many people who fully expected to be ushered in will instead be shocked to find out they are denied entry into heaven
- These people knew who Jesus was, respected Him, and even claimed to have done supernatural things in His name
- For these shocked and surprised people, *their worst nightmare will come true*—they will spend eternity banished from the presence of Jesus

2 Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—Unless, of course, you fail the test?

THE TEST

#1 TRANSFORMATION. Something's different about you now.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

___ NOT REALLY ___ SOMETIMES ___ DEFINITELY

#2 APPETITE. You have a hunger for God's Word.

1 Peter 2:2-3 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

___ NOT REALLY ___ SOMETIMES ___ DEFINITELY

#3 DO THE RIGHT THING. You're obeying God more and sinning less.

1 John 2:3-4 We know that we have come to know him if we obey his commands. The man who says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1 John 3:9 No one who is born of God will continue to sin because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God.

___ NOT REALLY ___ SOMETIMES ___ DEFINITELY

#4 OWNING UP. You admit it when you do sin.

1 John 1:8-9 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

___ NOT REALLY ___ SOMETIMES ___ DEFINITELY

#5 LOVE. You're not just all about you. You have a love in your heart for others, especially those in God's family.

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death.

___ NOT REALLY ___ SOMETIMES ___ DEFINITELY

#6 DISCIPLINE. God corrects you when you need it.

Hebrews 12:6,8 . . . the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son . . . If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.

___ NOT REALLY ___ SOMETIMES ___ DEFINITELY

#7 CONFIRMATION. You have an inner assurance that you're saved.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children
1 John 3:24 . . . and this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

___ NOT REALLY ___ SOMETIMES ___ DEFINITELY

Based on this test, I believe that I am ...

- born again not yet born again not yet born again but ready to be

Brother's Keeper Thought:

Share with your small group or spiritual partner the evidence YOU see in your own life that leads you to believe you are truly born again. And if you're brave, ask others to identify the evidence THEY see!

Bible Reading Plan

- Sunday: Isaiah 56 Monday: Isaiah 57 Tuesday: Isaiah 58
 Wednesday: Isaiah 59 Thursday: Isaiah 60 Friday: Isaiah 61
 Saturday: Isaiah 62 Sunday: Isaiah 63

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