

## **WHO WILL YOU EXAMINE?**

*Lev 6:6 And he shall bring to the priest his trespass or guilt offering to the Lord, a ram without blemish out of the flock, valued by you to the amount of his trespass;*

In the Old Testament under the Law people had to bring a trespass offering to the Lord when they sinned. The trespass offering was brought to the priest for sacrifice. This animal had to be without blemish or defect. To uphold the Law the priest would have to examine each animal to see if it indeed met the requirements. They did not just take the word of the offerer that their animal was without blemish! The priest spent a considerable time looking the animal all over to make sure it was a worthy sacrifice for the person's sin and guilt. It had to have no defect! The sin and trespass offerings were necessary to remove the guilt from the person who sinned. This would open the way for the Lord's blessing to come into their lives. I think it is important to note that when people under the Law brought their sin and trespass offerings to the Lord that the priest spent **ALL** his time examining the sacrifice and **NONE** of his time examining the offerer who brought it to see if they were worthy of God's blessings. No, the focus was all on the sacrifice. If it was a worthy sacrifice the way was made for the blessings of God to rain down from heaven upon the forgiven person.

All too often when we approach God to receive of Him we tend to look within and examine ourselves to find sufficient reason in ourselves for God to give us what we are asking from Him. Once we cast our eyes within we will find our faith leaving. When we look at our blemishes and defects it is readily apparent that our works and performance are undeserving of the least of God's provisions. When we do this our eyes are on the wrong person! Our eyes need to turn to another One in these situations. If we would but place our eyes upon our sacrifice for our sins, the Lord Jesus Christ, we would find One who is altogether worthy in every aspect to receive from God. Jesus Christ freely offered up Himself as our sin and trespass offering. Just as Pilate and Herod examined Jesus and found no fault in Him, so our Heavenly Father has examined His Son in stunning detail and found Him faultless and holy. This Jesus has become our sacrifice for sin and guilt. He has removed that which kept God from blessing us. When a person presented their offering in the OT they would place

their hands on the head of the animal and confess their sins onto the animal. Then the animal was killed. The sins of the person entered into the innocent sacrifice and the innocence of the animal came back upon the one offering the sacrifice. When Jesus died on the cross our sins went into Him. He bore our sins in His body on the tree. (1 Pet. 2:24) In return His innocence and righteousness came into us! We now are heirs of all the bounty of Heaven because of the perfections of our sacrifice. God sees our sacrifice and His blood when we approach Him. Who we examine in coming to God will determine what we will receive from Him. If we look within our faith will falter and we will not receive. Instead of looking at our life we should look at Christ's death! If we look to our sacrifice for sin, Jesus, and His worthiness given to us, then our faith will be strong to receive from God.

*Heb 12:2 **looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.***

Looking at Jesus is the starting point for our faith and the place where it will grow and finally find its fulfillment and finish in receiving from God. Many are given to self introspection. They feel it is the only way to find what is wrong in their lives and to change. However the Word of God teaches us that when we look to Christ, who is the Word of God, then we are transformed into the same image, by the Spirit of God. (2 Cor. 3:18) Looking at Christ will cause us to be like Him! If our steady gaze is within ourselves we will get more of what we have- darkness and depression!

**2Co 13:5 (Amp) Examine and test and evaluate your own selves to see *whether you are holding to your faith and showing the proper fruits of it.***

We are told by Paul that we are to examine ourselves but in what aspect are we do it? Are we to look for all the sin we can in our lives and try to find a shred of worthiness in our lives to merit God moving for us? NO! Paul says that we are to examine ourselves to see WHETHER WE ARE IN FAITH and see the fruits of it! There are several gauges to our faith to examine if we are in faith or not.

*Rom 15:13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all **joy and peace** **in believing**, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

How do we examine ourselves to see if we are in faith? It is by the fruits of the Spirit, namely joy and peace! When we are in faith we will have joy. When we are in faith we will have peace. I guarantee if you look within yourself and your own track record to receive from God you will get depressed and you will be agitated and nervous! When we look to the Christ our faith will rise and we will find joy and peace in believing!

Who will you examine the next time you go to God with your needs? The One you examine will determine what you will receive from God. Look to Christ and receive!