

The Graces of a Christian #7 — TRUST

A Study on 2 Corinthians

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I. _____ yourself

2 Corinthians 13:5-6

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? [6] And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test.

Score yourself on this little test. Circle YES, NO, or SOMETIMES.

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| 1. Do you care about other peoples' needs and concerns? | YES – NO – SOMETIMES |
| 2. Do you forgive others even before they ask? | YES – NO – SOMETIMES |
| 3. Are you easily defeated and discouraged? | YES – NO – SOMETIMES |
| 4. Do you live and react out of the passion of the moment? | YES – NO – SOMETIMES |
| 5. Do you push through and finish what you start? | YES – NO – SOMETIMES |
| 6. Do you whine and complain when things don't go well? | YES – NO – SOMETIMES |
| 7. Are you in a close relationship with a non-Christian? | YES – NO – SOMETIMES |
| 8. Do you avoid questionable movies, magazines, etc.? | YES – NO – SOMETIMES |
| 9. Do you give more than 10% of your income for the Lord? | YES – NO – SOMETIMES |
| 10. Are you quick to help others who are in need? | YES – NO – SOMETIMES |
| 11. Do you think only about good and pure things? | YES – NO – SOMETIMES |
| 12. Do you read and follow instructions? | YES – NO – SOMETIMES |
| 13. Do you whisper a prayer at the first sign of trouble? | YES – NO – SOMETIMES |
| 14. Is the Bible your first answer for every situation? | YES – NO – SOMETIMES |

Score yourself 3 points for every YES answer, 0 points for every NO answer, and 2 points for every SOMETIMES answer.

MY SCORE: _____ (35- 42 You're doing great; 28-35 You need some help with Christian graces; Below 35 - Pray hard and seek God's grace.)

II. _____ for perfection

2 Corinthians 13:11

Finally, brothers, good-bye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.

1. Compassion

2 Cor. 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

2. Hope

2 Cor. 4:16-18 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. ¹⁸So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

3. Endurance

2 Cor. 6:4 Rather, as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: in great endurance; in troubles, hardships and distresses;

4. Purity

2 Cor. 6:14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

2 Cor. 7:1 Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

5. Generosity

2 Cor. 8:7 But just as you excel in everything...see that you also excel in this grace of giving.

6. Obedience

2 Cor. 10:5b ...and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

7. Trust

2 Cor. 1:20a For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

2 Cor. 12:9a But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

What grace does God need to work on in your life? _____

III. _____ for others

2 Corinthians 13:9

We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is for your perfection.

WHAT DOES A GRACE-FILLED CHRISTIAN LOOK LIKE?

CHRISTIAN GRACES #8 – Discussion Guide

- Socrates said, “The unexamined life is not worth living.” How often do you take time for reflection and self-examination? What have you learned about yourself in the past through times of personal reflection? Why do you think we’re reluctant to take an honest look at our lives? Why is self-examination so difficult? Why is it important?
- How did you do on the self-evaluation quiz? Are you satisfied with the results? What areas do you need to work on most? What would it take for you to excel in that area? Are you willing to do what it takes?
- Have you ever seen the bumper sticker “Christians aren’t perfect, just forgiven”? In what way is that a true statement? In light of the many places in Scripture where we’re told to be “perfect,” what’s the problem with such a slogan? Why do people often bristle at the expectation of being “perfect”? How does the Bible’s definition of perfection affect our interpretation of Jesus’ command for us to be perfect as God is perfect? Why do so many Christians prefer to be “good enough”?
- Why does Paul say we should pray for each other’s perfection? What might be included in such a prayer? How often do you pray for other Christians to grow in the Christian graces? Why do you think we’re more apt to pray for others’ physical needs than their spiritual needs? What might be the result in God’s Church if we prayed more for each other’s perfection?
- Take some time to share prayer requests with each other — things that would help you to aim for perfection. Take turns praying for one another, that God’s grace would work in each of you in such a way that you would all be grace-filled.
- Make a list of 5 friends or relatives that you will pray for this week. Pick a Christian grace for each one as the focus of your prayers for them. Share your list with your group and explain why you are praying for that specific grace. What grace will you pray about for yourself?