

EYE EXAM?



Christ calls us to make radical choices between two treasures (rewards on earth or rewards in heaven), two visions (focus on the earthly or on the heavenly), and two masters (worldly riches or God). In the following is a brief exam to help us determine the focus of our lives. Answer the questions sincerely and pray for the grace to make the necessary changes:

E.Y.E. EXAMINATION

SECTION 1

How often are your thoughts directed toward God, His glory, and His praise?

1. Does Psalm 42:1 reflect your own desire to seek after God? "As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for You, O God."
2. Does Psalm 27:4 reflect your own passion for being in God's presence? "One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple."
3. Does Psalm 145:5 reflect your own daily thought life? "On the glorious splendor of Your majesty and on Your wonderful works, I will meditate."
4. Does Psalm 63:6 reflect your own thoughts before sleep? "When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches."
5. Does II Timothy 2:15 reflect your relationship to the Scriptures? "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth."
6. Does I Thessalonians 5:1 reflect your relationship to prayer? "Pray without ceasing..."
7. How much of Matthew 15:8 is reflected in your participation in public worship? "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me."

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SECTION 2

How many competing loyalties are in your heart? These are often difficult to identify. It is often helpful to ask ourselves how others (even our enemies) would view us if they studied our actions and had privy to our thoughts.

- Wealth:** Do you think more about the attainment of wealth than the doing of God's will? Do you work harder at wealth or godliness? Do you and your spouse work out of absolute necessity, or simply to have more things or a more affluent life-style?
- Power:** Do you desire to be up front and in control? Must things go your way? Do you consider yourself greater, more gifted, or more important than others?
- Reputation/Respectability:** Do you show more concern for your reputation before men than before God? Do you work harder to please men than to please God?
- Security:** Do you hoard wealth in preparation for a life of ease, rather than preparing for retirement so that you can live the rest of your days in service to God?
- Food:** Are you a glutton? Do you live to eat rather than eat to live? Do you eat to the detriment of your health and weight?
- Clothing:** How important is it for you to be in style? Do you go shopping when clothes are needed or do you shop to see what you can find? Are your clothes marked by extravagance and sensuality rather than simplicity, elegance, and frugality? Do you own clothes that you rarely wear?
- Houses:** Is your home marked by extravagance and luxury, rather than by quality, simplicity, and frugality. Does your home require a large debt that has no financial benefits or makes you a slave to a mortgage? Does the financial burden of your house lead to strife in the home or limit your service to God and family?
- Hobbies:** How much time and money do your hobbies demand? Do you invest more thought, time, and money in your hobbies than in personal growth in godliness and the work of God's kingdom? Do you invest more thought, time, and money in your hobbies than you do in the cultivation of love and godliness in your spouse and children?
- Children:** Do you invest more thought, time, and money in your children's participation in sports than in their training in godliness? Are you more concerned about giving your children the "things" and "opportunities" you never had than in instructing them in the Scriptures and leading them to godliness?

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SECTION 3

How great is your concern for the advancement of God's kingdom among the nations?

1. How often do you pray for God's name to be hallowed among the nations, for His Kingdom to come, and for His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6:9-10)?
2. How often do you pray for the Lord to send forth missionaries to the unevangelized people groups of the world (Matthew 9:38)?
3. How often do you make entreaties, prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that there might be peace and an open door for the preaching of the Gospel to all men (I Timothy 2:1-4).
4. How much of your monthly finances are designated to missions?
5. How often do you share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with another person?

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