

**CLASS 4**

# Examining Yourself: Self-Evaluation

**CLASS OVERVIEW**

In this class we will review:

- Reasons why leaders must continually evaluate themselves.
- The importance of goal-setting for church leaders.
- The need for church leaders who desire to continue their personal and spiritual growth.
- The impact of leaders who demonstrate the skill of self-examination.

**Opening Group Questions:**

- Why must godly leaders be in a constant state of self-examination or self-evaluation?
- Can you tell when a leader evaluates himself or herself? How?

**I. Introduction**

"But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ..." (2 Peter 3:18). Christ told His apostles that true leaders in His Church would be identifiable by their "fruits" (Matt 7:15:20). One of the fruits of godly leaders is that they have a mind and heart set on personal, spiritual growth—striving for and working towards perfection (Matt 5:48). These individuals have a desire to become more like Christ, actually desiring to develop and put on His mind (Phil 2:5). Consequently, godly leaders are humble, knowing from where they have come and understanding their own weaknesses and need for overcoming.

Paul admonished Church members in Corinth (and ultimately each of us) to examine/test/try themselves whether they were in the faith (2 Cor 13:5). Paul admonished the Church to get in the habit of this self-examination or self evaluation, because without doing this, it is impossible to continue to grow and overcome.

No one on earth is perfect—we all have areas in which we need to grow. Self-examination is key to our personal growth. If we fail to recognize where we fall short, we cannot focus on overcoming in these areas.

So it is with leadership. People have different strengths and talents, but even the best and most effective leaders recognize that they must not become complacent and assume that they have perfected their jobs. Leaders constantly seek feedback and strive to improve their leadership skills. They recognize their limitations and then work to overcome those limitations by building new skills and perspectives.

**II. Biblical Examples of Self-Examining Leaders**

Prov 2:2-4—King Solomon strongly advised his son (and consequently us) to seek out wisdom, understanding, and discernment—displaying an attitude of teachability.

Psalm 25:4-5—David asked God to show him His ways, teach him His paths, lead him in His truth.  
v. 12—David revealed that the person who fears God should be led and taught by God.

Psalm 27:11—David again asked God to teach him His ways and lead him in the smooth path.

Kind David was the leader of the nation of Israel—God's nation. David, in all of his wisdom and experience, continued to look to God to lead him, to teach him, and to guide him. David realized that, left to himself to lead, he would lead God's people in the wrong direction.