

Sermon Notes

Title: The Growth Choice
Text: 2 Corinthians 13:5
Date: 04/18/10

Introduction:

- A. This is the seventh week of our study in the Beatitudes called *Life's Healing Choices*.
- B. Today we need to take a step back and reflect on where we are in our growth process with the Lord.
[2 Corinthians 13:5](#)

Body:

- I. Are there hurts, hang-ups, or habits that you want to overcome?
 - A. Four causes of relapse.
 1. We revert to our own will power instead of relying on God.
[Galatians 3:3](#)
 2. We ignore one of the choices.
 3. We try to recover without support.
 4. We may relapse because we have become prideful.
[Proverbs 16:18](#)
[1 Corinthians 10:12](#)
 - B. The victorious life doesn't happen by chance or self-will.
[2 Corinthians 13:5](#)
- II. Examination is the key.
 - A. Honest and humble self examination is a necessary principle of the Christian life.
[1 Corinthians 9:24-27](#)
[Galatians 6:1-5](#)
[1 Corinthians 11:27-32](#)
[2 Corinthians 13:5](#)
- III. Mr. Baker gives us some practical advice on how to carry out this testing.
 - A. Evaluation
 - B. The second part of testing involves meditation on the Word of God.
[Psalms 1:2-3](#)
 - C. The third part of this testing involves another spiritual discipline, prayer.
[Mark 14:38](#)

Conclusion:

- A. Do not let the urgent crowd out the important.
- B. Jesus is here for you.

Life's Application:

- This week, set aside one hour to be alone with your journal, Bible, and the Lord.
- As you pray and read, identify one verse you can memorize to meditate on.
- Examine yourself and test your own heart before the Lord.
- Talk with one other trusted person about your experience.