

Fan the Flame and Be Accounted Worthy

A Personal Assessment for Spiritual Growth

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PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE

On Pentecost we were challenged to fan the flame of God's Holy Spirit — to stir up the gift within us and bear lasting fruit. A personal assessment chart was distributed, but time did not allow us to walk through it together. Today we complete that work. We will look at why God commands self-examination, establish a rhythm for doing it throughout the year, and then use the assessment as a practical tool to see where we are and chart a course forward.

I. INTRODUCTION — WHY MUST WE EXAMINE OURSELVES?

We begin with the goal, then the command, then the stakes — three texts that funnel toward one conclusion: honest self-examination is not optional.

A. The Goal: Be Counted Worthy — Luke 21:34–36

"But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and the cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly like a snare... Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Greek: **kataxioō** — to be deemed fully worthy, to be reckoned deserving. This is the destination. Christ tells us to pray toward it — but prayer without honest self-assessment is wishful thinking. How do you know if you are on track unless you look?

B. The Practice: Examine Yourself — 1 Corinthians 11:28

"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup."

God already built a self-examination season into our annual calendar — the Passover season. This is not a suggestion. It is a prerequisite. Paul connects honest self-assessment directly to how we approach God. The pattern is clear: before drawing near, look honestly at where you stand.

C. The Stakes: Don't Be Adokimos — 2 Corinthians 13:5

"Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you are disqualified [reprobates]."

Two Greek words in this one verse deserve close attention:

- **Dokimazō** (δοκιμάζω) — to examine, to test, to prove. The image is of assaying metal: applying heat and pressure to determine whether it is genuine. God calls us to apply that kind of honest scrutiny to ourselves.
- **Adokimos** (ἀδόκιμος) — the negative form of dokimos: failing the test, disqualified, not approved. The same root word used in:
 - **1 Corinthians 9:27** — Paul disciplines himself lest he become adokimos — disqualified — after preaching to others.
 - **Titus 1:16** — Those who claim to know God but deny Him in works are adokimos — unfit for every good work.
 - **Hebrews 6:8** — Ground that produces only thorns is rejected — adokimos — and close to being cursed.

The connection is powerful: **the word for the examination (dokimazō) and the word for failing it (adokimos) share the same root.** Paul is saying: run the test on yourself now — voluntarily — or risk being found failing the test you didn't know you were taking.

II. NOW WHAT? — PUTTING PENTECOST INTO PRACTICE

We have just come through Pentecost — the annual reminder that God has given us His Holy Spirit. That gift is extraordinary. But a gift unused is a gift wasted. The question Pentecost leaves us with every year is: ***What are you going to do with it?***

In the Pentecost message "Fanning the Flame," we anchored on **2 Timothy 1:6–7** — Paul's charge to Timothy to stir up, rekindle, bring back to full blaze the gift God placed in him. The Greek word *anazoprein* pictures a fire that has banked low being fanned back to full flame.

In "Sustaining Zeal for God — Part 2," we built a seven-element daily blueprint from Deuteronomy 6 — the daily practices that create the conditions for spiritual growth.

Today we bring those two frameworks together into one practical tool — a personal assessment that asks both ***who you are becoming*** and ***what you are consistently doing***. But a tool only works if you use it. And you will only use it if you have a plan.

III. WHEN TO DO YOUR ASSESSMENT — FOUR ANCHOR POINTS

Random self-assessment rarely happens. We need anchor points — specific, meaningful times built into the rhythm of our year. Three of these four are tied directly to God's Holy Day calendar. The fourth meets us where we already are culturally. Together they create a roughly quarterly cycle that keeps our spiritual inventory from going stale.

1. Pentecost (Late May / Early June)

We are here right now. Pentecost is the season of firstfruits and the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is the natural starting point for this assessment: we have received the Spirit — how are we growing in it? What fruit is being produced? What daily practices are in place? This is where the cycle begins.

2. Fall Holy Days (September / October)

The Fall Holy Day season — from Trumpets through the Last Great Day — is the most sobering and prophetically charged season of the year. Trumpets announces the return of Christ. Atonement calls us to afflict ourselves and examine our standing before God. Tabernacles looks forward to the Kingdom. Before entering this season, ask: Am I growing? Am I ready? Am I watchful?

Connect back to **Luke 21:36** — this is the season that most directly applies to being counted worthy to escape and to stand.

3. New Year (January 1)

This is the one point not anchored to the sacred calendar, but it is the cultural reset point your congregation already experiences every year. The entire world pauses to ask: how did the past year go, and what do I want to change? We can redeem that instinct. January 1 also falls roughly midway between the Fall Holy Days and Passover, making it a natural midpoint check-in. How are your New Year commitments holding up?

4. Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread (March / April)

This is the commanded self-examination season. Paul makes it explicit in **1 Corinthians 11:28**: examine yourself before partaking of the Passover. Unleavened Bread calls us to put out the leaven of sin and malice and replace it with sincerity and truth. This assessment at Passover is not a new idea — God built it into the calendar. We are simply making it more intentional.

Taken together, these four points mean you are never more than three months from your next spiritual inventory. That is close enough to course-correct before drift becomes a pattern.

IV. HOW TO USE THE ASSESSMENT

The assessment that follows has three sections:

- **Section 1** — Fruit and Character: Who am I becoming? Drawn from the nine fruits of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:22–23**) and the eight-rung ladder of divine character (**2 Peter 1:5–7**)
- **Section 2** — Daily Application and Practice: What am I consistently doing? Drawn from the seven daily habits in "Sustaining Zeal for God — Part 2" (see that message for full development of each habit)
- **Section 3** — Discipleship: Am I growing outward? Six markers of active, outward-facing discipleship

Rate yourself honestly using this scale:

- 1 — Never
- 2 — Seldom

- 3 — Sometimes
- 4 — Usually
- 5 — Consistently

Be brutally honest. The goal is not a high score — it is an accurate picture. A score of 3 that reflects reality is worth more than a 5 that flatters you. God already knows where you are. This exercise is for **you**.

Total your score for each section, then total all three sections for your grand total out of 150. Track your score at each of the four annual checkpoints to see your growth over time.

V. CLOSING — THE CALL TO ACTION

You have two messages to return to as resources:

- **"Sustaining Zeal for God — Part 2"** — for the full development of the seven daily habits in Section 2 of your assessment
- **"Fanning the Flame of the Holy Spirit"** (Pentecost 2026) — for the full development of the fruit of the Spirit and the call to stir up the gift

The assessment chart on the following pages is yours to keep. Complete your first column — Pentecost — this week. Be honest. Then set a reminder for the Fall Holy Days and do it again. Watch what God does in you between now and then.

Close with **2 Timothy 1:6–7**:

"Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

Fan the flame. Do the work. Be found worthy.

PERSONAL SPIRITUAL GROWTH ASSESSMENT

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Daniel Deininger | Polson, Montana | June 6, 2026

Assessment Area	Pentecost(June 2026)	Fall Holy Days(Oct 2026)	New Year(Jan 2027)	Passover/ULB(Apr 2027)
<i>Rating Scale: 1 = Never 2 = Seldom 3 = Sometimes 4 = Usually 5 = Consistently</i>				
SECTION 1 — FRUIT & CHARACTER Who am I becoming? (Gal. 5:22–23; 2 Pet. 1:5–7)				
<i>— Fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22–23) —</i>				
Love (agapē)				
Joy				
Peace				
Longsuffering / Patience				
Kindness				
Goodness				
Faithfulness				
Gentleness / Meekness				
Self-Control / Temperance				
<i>— Peter's Ladder of Character (2 Pet. 1:5–7) —</i>				
Faith (pistis)				
Virtue / Moral Excellence				
Knowledge				
Self-Control (enkrateia)				
Perseverance / Steadfastness				
Godliness				
Brotherly Kindness				
Love (agapē — the capstone)				
SECTION 1 SUBTOTAL (max 85 pts)				
SECTION 2 — DAILY APPLICATION & PRACTICE What am I consistently doing?				
<i>From "Sustaining Zeal for God — Part 2" — the seven-element daily blueprint</i>				
1. Morning Anchor — prayer and Scripture before the day begins				

Assessment Area	Pentecost(June 2026)	Fall Holy Days(Oct 2026)	New Year(Jan 2027)	Passover/ULB(Apr 2027)
2. Meditation — carrying a verse or passage throughout the day				
3. Prayer at Intervals — intentional prayer at set points in the day				
4. Mind Management — actively guarding and directing your thoughts (Phil. 4:8)				
5. Evening Review — gratitude, reflection, and honest accounting before God				
6. Sabbath Rest — using the weekly Sabbath as a deep spiritual reset				
7. Environmental Design — shaping what fills your home and your attention				
SECTION 2 SUBTOTAL (max 35 pts)				
SECTION 3 — DISCIPLESIP Am I growing outward?				
Reading all articles in the Beyond Today magazine				
Sharing God's way of life with others				
Praying for God to send more laborers into the harvest (Matt. 9:38)				
Praying for church leadership, national leadership, and Christ's soon return				
Attending Sabbath services, online Bible studies, or listening to recorded sermons				
Serving others in the congregation — helps, prayer for others, and outreach				
SECTION 3 SUBTOTAL (max 30 pts)				
GRAND TOTAL (max 150 pts)				

Notes / Commitments for this assessment period:

