Examine Yoo**r**selves

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bringing forth the fruits we believe a Christian ought to bring forth, but we cannot judge another person because we all have different tendencies. One of us has no difficulty whatever in resisting certain temptations, but another man is tremendously drawn to it. A man who has no difficulty in resisting a certain temptation does not deserve any great credit that he does not fall into it. While a person who has a tremendous pull in that direction may fall occasionally and may repent and turn to God in terrible remorse for having fallen and in the end may be a far better Christian, far more true to the Lord than the man to whom that was no temptation at all! That particular thing just did not bother him.

fruits

We have to test others by their faith because we have to make judgments about others as to whom we can trust, who we can work with but our judgments are always fallible. It is only God who knows the heart. But I believe we have a right to know about ourselves to know whether we are in the faith or not.

"In the faith" may be taken in two ways. Ordinarily faith means trust, confidence, belief. There is a derived meaning that has developed-- to use the word faith to mean that which you believe. Some are very careful in testing others: Do you believe this, doctrine? Do you believe that doctrine? Do you understand these phases of this doctrine? I believe it is very important that we truly stand on the great doctrines of Scripture. I believe it is very important we take a correct stand on them. But I believe there are many points in theology on which equally good Christians differ, and I believe on those things we should be charitable and we should study together in order to learn what God has a for us and perhaps even more whether God has revealed that particular matter. When you find two groups of Christians striving over some