

hear your words. We can make a judgment, but Christ knows. Let us not be rushed about saying yes or no about other's salvation.

I believe most of you, probably all of you have been saved and truly know the Lord Jesus Christ so I am particularly interested this morning in the way this verse applies to you. Examine yourselves whether you are in the faith--test yourselves. There are two important aspects of salvation: there is the aspect of regeneration-- a once for all experience, an experience which comes when you turn ~~from~~ to Christ and receive Him as Saviour. And there is the experience of sanctification which goes on and on and on and on, and no human being can claim to have reached the conclusion of it during this earthly life! We have a long way to go before we become what God wants us to be. But he wants us to test ourselves whether we are in the faith; whether we are truly trusting Him. It is good to test yourself whether you are improving in the gifts of the Spirit; whether you are improving in love, joy, peace, long-sufferings, etc.-- these great virtues described in Scripture. That is good to test yourself in and to see whether you are making progress. But that's not primarily what he is asking here. He is asking whether you are truly in the attitude, in the relationship of thoroughgoing faith in God. All of us to some extent are in the situation of the boy who stood in the high door of a <sup>burning</sup> burning building. The lower story was engulfed in flames. The flames were coming up behind him. He could not see what was below. He stood there with the flames coming behind and he looked out into the darkness and he knew there was a drop there and he could land on the rocks and be terribly injured. He heard his father's voice below saying, John, I see you, jump; I will catch you! But he could not see his father. His father could see him, and his father said Jump! Did the boy have faith in the father that the father would