

TEST IT

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“No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”

II Tim. 2:4.

All Christians are inducted by faith into the army of the Lord. We became a family of believers the moment we accepted Christ. As such we are accountable for the atmosphere we allow to surround us, the places we go, and our actions day by day. Satan constantly distracts our minds in numerous ways, and tempts us to get involved in worldly things. Success or defeat depends on our reaction to those temptations. They are many and surround the soldier of the Lord on every side. We can be defeated by them or rise in victory by making careful decisions. The ultimate test of right and wrong is the infallible Word of God. Let me suggest some tests to apply to your daily life that will help you to know right from wrong. I want to give you at least a dozen ways to measure and test what you will do. **(1). The Personal Test:** *“No man that cares entangleth himself in the affairs of this life”* II Tim. 2:4. Before you make a decision or take a step ask yourself, if doing it will make you a better person. Anything you might do, that would harm your testimony before others, is clearly off limits. Whatever we do must bring honor and glory to our Lord. We are to excel and not limp through our daily lives, by doing that which is totally right. **(2). The Social Test:** *“Judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother’s way”* Rom. 14:13. Remember, we are indeed to be our brother’s keeper. Ask yourself in making your decision, will others be helped or hindered? If your worldly actions

tempt others to do the same, it is sin. We have to set a standard, set goals, and live above the beggerly things of this world. Every word and action has an affect on other believers and sinners around us. Stop and think what will others think if I pursue this path. **(3). The Practical Test:** *“Whatsoever is not of faith is sin”* Rom. 14:23. Ask, will doing this be likely to bring desirable or undesirable results? Every word from your mouth has an affect on others. Every action has its consequences. You must not allow anything that is doubtful to hinder your example. You are being watched closely by a number of people. What you do will affect their opinion of God. We just can’t take the chance. If it is not praise worthy it is unworthy. **(4). The Universal Test:** *“For we are laborers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building”* I Cor. 3:9. How about asking, suppose everyone did this? What if everyone had your temper or chose your path of disobedience. What if everyone else had this attitude, or refused to do the right thing? The right decision will be the best decision before our God and people around us. **(5). The Scriptural Test:** *“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me”* John 5:39. Ask the question, Is what I want to do forbidden by the Word? The Bible is full of warnings about those things that are sin. Its restrictions are given for our own good and to ignore them is asking for tragedy and defeat to take over. Oh please don’t fool around with forbidden fruit. If the Bible clearly forbids, it then forget it. No act blesses the heart like obedience. When your words or actions are wrong your joy will be gone. **(6). The Stewardship Test:** Will it waste the talents God has given to me? *“Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God”* I Cor. 10:31. Time is too short for you to miss doing His will. He gives talents and opportunities that are priceless. Your lifelong record will be faced at the judgement throne of God. Oh, we will all wish we had invested our

time better. How about seeing sinners condemned to used our carelessness to help them refuse Christ as Saviour. How sad and how true, it really matters what we do. (7). **The Family Test:** *“Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee”* Exodus 20:12. Many of you reading this, have a rich heritage, because of your parent’s faithful upbringing your neighborhood was acquainted with the actions of your family often before you arrived on the scene. Will your actions or plans dishonor your father and mother who sought to lead you in the paths of righteousness. How dare you rebel and discredit your family name with any sinful, rebellious, foolishness. Your parents may be already in heaven, but I believe in the spirit may still know our earthly actions. (8). **The Missionary Test:** *“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him”* Colossians 3:17 Will my actions help or hinder the plan of God? We are to be examples of the believer to all who will know and see us. An army and it’s achievements depends upon the character and faithfulness of it’s troops. The battle against sin and the spreading of the Gospel requires diligent investment of our lives. If your words and actions do not help the program of God you are a traitor to His cause. (9). **The Spiritual Test:** *“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption”* Ephesians 4:30. If you are a born again child of God there is nothing you can hide from His indwelling Spirit. He hears all the words of your mouth and knows every thought. He looks through your eyes and hears through your ears. Be very careful of the TV programing you watch and the music you enjoy. You cannot hide anything from His presence for He dwells in you. You live in front of the surveillance camera of His presence and all is being recorded. Your words and actions are known by the Holy Spirit living

within. (10) **The Worldly Test:** *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him”* I John 1:15. It goes on to warn about the lust of the eye. All sinful TV programing will tempt and draw you away from God. Warning is added about the lust of the flesh. We men all have times of trouble with this and now women can be much aroused by what they see. To make excuse and enjoy looking at evil is the same as approving it. Hours spent in the garbage dump will destroy our purity of thought and actions. That pride also mentioned, wraps us in the wrong covering of things desired instead of the will of God. (11). **The Eternal Test:** *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness”* Matt. 8:33. Earthly sinful things will rob us of time needed to be used for the Lord.. One day we will stand at Jesus feet, accountable as His servants. There will be no hidden secrets or excuses to hide behind. Our days will be examined and our works will be revealed. How foolish we will feel about the things that we allowed to pollute and waste our time and destroy our testimony. Stop and make sure everything you do has eternal value Live in the light of eternity. (12). **The Common Sense Test:** *“Happy is he that condemneth not himself.in the thing which he alloweth”* Rom. 14: 22. Does what you are doing make good, plain, ordinary, common, everyday sense. God does not want us to be a restrained, weird, person trapped in a life of do’s and dont’s. We have far more than a religion, we have a love for our Saviour. He never asks us to avoid that which is good for us. He stands guard wanting to protect us from all the things that will hurt us. Why not copy these tests on a fly leaf of your Bible and learn them. A spiritual ruler of 12 inches, with which you can measure all things. I believe they will solve every question and help you avoid the sins of today.