

# Teresa's Thoughts

Often times there seems to be a 'subtle little difference' between a Christian and an unfaithful member of the church. Both may attend all the services of the LORD. Unfortunately, we tend to use this as a measuring stick for faithfulness. Let's look at just a few of these differences:

1. One is selfish & the other is selfless: In Luke 12 the rich farmer was richly blessed. But instead of thinking of how he could use his blessings to serve GOD he determined how to keep them all for himself. After all he had worked for them. It may appear he is just a hard workingman. Contrast that attitude with the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:15. Paul was willing to 'spend and be spent' for brethren who showed little love for him.
2. One is prideful & the other humble: In Luke 18:10-12 JESUS tells of two men, the Pharisee and the publican, both are praying to GOD. But it is scary how the Pharisee does not see the pride in his prayer. How could a child of GOD enter before His throne with such an attitude? At the same time the publican feels so unworthy to even have his prayer heard.
3. One changes & the other one does not: Repentance is a matter of change in heart, mind and actions. JESUS tells us in Matt. 7:7-8 that we simply must ask to receive. Forgiveness is a gift given to us by the Father; but we must ask! We must not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of our mind that we may prove what is that good, acceptable and perfect will of GOD! Romans 12:2
4. One obeys & the other does not obey: We can contrast the disciples in John 6:66 who didn't like what JESUS had taught so they turned and walked with Him no more. Let's compare that with CHRIST Himself. We read in Hebrews 5:8, "Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered: and being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him." He is our great Example! Or compare the rich ruler in Luke 18:18-23 who went away sorrowful to Moses, Noah or Abraham who obeyed in the face of many challenges.
5. One has a home in heaven & one will burn eternally: John 5:28-29 " Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth: they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life: and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." We don't have to wait until judgment to find out where we stand. As GOD's children we can examine ourselves and know if we are in the group of the faithful. 2 Corinthians 13:5.

Let's all be sure where we stand with GOD and receive our crown of eternal life together!