

A SELF-EVALUATION

inspired by "*Storming The Gates of Heaven*" by Anne Graham Lotz

Ingratitude. List all the favors God has bestowed, before and after Salvation. Which ones have you forgotten to thank God for?

Losing love for God. Consider how devastated you would be if your spouse or children not only were lessened in their love for you, but increasingly loved someone or something else more. Is there evidence you have been lessening in your love for Him?

Neglect of Bible reading. Has your daily Bible reading been pushed aside by an over-full schedule; Or, as you read your Bible, are you constantly preoccupied with other things? How long has it been since reading your Bible was a delight? Do you read it so casually that you do not even remember what it was saying when you are finished?

Unbelief. Refusing to believe or to expect that He will give you what He has promised is to accuse God of lying. What promise have you thought He would not give you? What prayer did you think He would not answer?

Neglect of prayer. Prayers are not spiritual chatter, offered without fervent, focused faith. Have you substituted wishing, daydreaming, or fantasizing for real prayer?

Lack of concern for the souls of others. Standing by and watching friends, neighbors, coworkers, and even family members on their way to hell, yet not caring enough to warn them or pray for them or even admit that is where they will end up if they don't put their faith in Jesus. Have you become so politically correct that you do not apply the gospel to those you know and love?

Neglect of family. Putting yourself and your needs before them. What efforts have you made and what habits have you established for your family's spiritual good?

Love of the world and material things. Assess what you own. Do you think your possessions are yours? That your money is yours? That you can spend it as you choose?

Pride. Vanity about your appearance. More time spent on getting ready for church than preparing your heart and your mind to worship when you get there. Are you offended, or even slightly irritated, if others do not notice your appearance?

Envy. Jealousy of those who seem more fruitful or gifted or recognizable than you are. Do you struggle with hearing others praised?

A critical spirit. First, ask for the gift discernment. Do you find fault with others who do not measure up to your standards?

Slander. Telling the truth with the intention of causing people to think less of a person. Whose faults, real or imagined, have you discussed behind their backs? Why have you?

Lack of seriousness towards God. Showing disrespect for God as though He does not really matter. Do you give Him the leftovers of your emotions, time, money, and thoughts?

Lying. Designed deception. Anything that is contrary to the unvarnished truth. What have you said that was designed to impress someone, but it wasn't the whole truth? Or was an exaggeration of the truth?

Cheating. Treating others in a way you would not want to be treated yourself. Have you stopped short of treating others with the same regard?

Hypocrisy. Am I pretending to be anything I am not?

Temper. Losing patience with a child, coworker, friend, spouse, or staff member. What cross words have you spoken lately?

Arrogance. Have you accepted God's forgiveness while refusing to forgive someone yourself (no matter what they have done to you)?

Now, go back and reread the list, and write down any other sins that come to mind. Then do it a third time.