



## Preacher's Pen by Gene McCoy

### Taking Spiritual Inventory

“Taking stock” is an idiom that expresses the idea of examining a situation carefully or to appraise your resources. In terms of a situation, taking stock relates to analyzing pertinent factors in order to formulate a course of action. In a business context it means to physically count and record all items owned by the business. It is commonly referred to as “taking inventory.”

A wise man will frequently take stock of his life. He evaluates his relationships and priorities in light of his values and morals. He also measures his progress toward desired goals, noting deficiencies that need greater attention.

The Christian constantly evaluates his life to measure compliance with biblical teaching. Whenever the Bible is read, a sermon preached or a lesson taught, the disciple of Jesus welcomes the Holy Spirit's evaluation as He searches the inner recesses of his soul to find evidence of the divine nature.

As we analyze our personal spiritual development we also have a responsibility on the corporate level. We should take stock of our role in the family context at the same time that we are taking inventory of our own spiritual growth. How am I contributing to the church's growth and development?

The January 2007 issue of this newsletter featured a “year end inventory” I submitted for consideration by our readers. It is a valid checkpoint that should be helpful in this current exercise. What growth step does the following prompt you to take?

- I honor the weekly Supper appointment with the Lord. My attendance indicates the priority of that Supper over everything else.
- My hungering and thirsting after righteousness is displayed by my participation in a small group study.
- The purity of my religion is verified by my ministry to widows and orphans (Ja. 1:27).



- My diligence in Bible study qualifies me as an approved and unashamed workman (2 Tim. 2:15).
  - My participation in church activities indicates my strong desire for this church to grow.
  - My schedule and checkbook testify to the fact that the Lord and His church is my top priority in life.
  - My service and involvement indicates that I am more interested in what I can do for my church than what my church can do for me (Matt. 20:28).
  - My involvement indicates that I want our church to do more than have Sunday morning worship services.
  - I display the perspective of having more concern for the benefit of others than for self (Phil. 2:3).
  - I think as much or more about how my involvement influences others than how much I may benefit personally.
  - Our church would ignite with enthusiasm and growth if everyone followed my lead.
  - I am doing all I can to help our church be a dynamic force in the community.
  - My example of sacrificial service and faithful attendance is laying the foundation for a stronger church.
  - My emphasis upon spiritual riches above material wealth is evident to my family and peers.
  - I build up the body, providing vocal encouragement and a visible example of faithfulness.
- The preachers hope to visit in the home of every family in the congregation during the month of January to deliver a brief challenge relating to a corporate approach of spiritual development. Please be prepared to schedule a thirty-minute visit by the preachers to your home. The suggested inventory above will help you do on a personal level what we hope you will help us do on a corporate level. 