

"SPIRITUAL INVENTORY"

Leviticus 23:23-27

Companies **take inventory**: They pause trading so they can focus on counting to determine where they are at. What they count determines what they do. Our text speaks of Spiritual Inventory. We need to do this.

Leviticus 23:23-27 ²³Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ²⁴"Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. ²⁵You shall do no customary work on it; and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.' " ²⁶And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²⁷"Also the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls, and offer an offering made by fire to the LORD.

I. THE UNEXAMINED LIFE

A. Human nature is to be caught up with the busyness of life

1. Our time tends to be consumed – and our minds tend to be consumed
 - a. We work jobs/take care of house-bills/work at our ministries/work with new converts
 - b. In our free time we often fill our minds: News/internet/reading/music

B. The result is we often have no time for reflection (looking within)

1. It is possible that we are not doing what we should do
 - a. Things Christians need to do/Disciples need to do/God told us to do
2. It is possible that we are doing wrong
 - a. Allowing unhealthy thinking patterns/habits/actions – even sin to creep into our lives

C. So we can be drifting away from our calling/relationship with God: *But not realize it!*

Have you ever had a conversation/read a book/heard a sermon – realized you are not where you should be?

II. TAKING INVENTORY

A. God knows human nature – so he built into relationship with Him a way of helping us

1. Feasts of Israel: Times of reflection (This was called the feast of Trumpets)
 - a. *you shall have a sabbath-rest...* not a normal Sabbath Day:
2. A deliberate pause: Stop – and think! Deliberately review – and take inventory
 - a. If you don't do this – you may never realize you are drifting/you are far from where you should be
 1. *The unexamined life is not worth living*

B. Questions for reflection/taking spiritual inventory

1. **What things does God expect believers to do?** Are you doing those?
 - a. *Prayer/Bible reading/Evangelism*
2. **What things do disciples need to be doing?**
 - a. *Studying/learning to find revelation/working with new converts/being fruitful/supernatural dimension*
3. **What has God told you to do specifically?** Are you doing that?
4. **What are you doing that is wrong/unhealthy?**
 - a. **V27** *Day of Atonement. It shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls*
5. **What are your areas of weakness?** *What causes struggles/problems?*

III. MAKING ATONEMENT

A. Our text speaks of Atonement: **V27** *the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement*

1. *Atonement: Reconciliation/fixing things*

B. How do you make Atonement? (*Ultimately this is salvation through the blood of Jesus Christ*)

1. **This begins with the heart:** **V27** *you shall afflict your souls*
 - a. You have to care about the state of your heart/life – this is not OK!
2. **There must be practical decisions:** **V27** *offer an offering made by fire to the LORD*
 - a. *I will come to prayer/read my Bible/witness/work with people/work on my marriage/discipline...*