

Check 14 Spiritual Danger Signals For 1969 Inventory

By JAMIE BUCKINGHAM

"Taking Inventory" is a favorite but often over-worked topic for New Year's sermons. It's a shame it's often limited to this time of year, however, for it should become a part of a person's daily life.

The wise man (or woman) learns to look for danger signals in order to determine whether he is getting closer or farther away from God. Here are 14 spiritual danger signals to look for as you inventory your life at the beginning of the year.

1-4-69
WHEN YOU make a small matter of those sins that were once almost intolerable to you . . .

When you settle down

Perspective

to a course of religion that gives you little to do, that keeps Christ "comfortably aloof" from your life, and requires little or no sacrifice . . .

When your God and Saviour grows a little strange to you and you

find yourself ridiculing those whose personal relationship with Him results in joy, enthusiasm, and "odd" behaviour . . .

WHEN THE Bible becomes difficult to understand and a chore to read, rather than a necessary delight in life . . .

When worship and financial contributions become a matter of duty rather than an inner joy . . .

When you regard too much the eye of man — and too little the eye of God . . .

WHEN YOU grow hot and heated about some disputed point of religion more than those matters which concern the greater cause of Christ . . .

When you grow harsh and bitter toward those who differ with you instead of feeling tenderly toward all who love Christ . . .

When the Lord's Day becomes just another day of work (or recreation) and you lose the consuming joy of public worship and service . . .

WHEN THE prospect of making money takes precedence over the prospect of following the will of God regardless the cost . . .

When you find yourself thinking more of yourself and your own rights than wanting to give all you are and have to someone else . . .

When you find yourself increasingly "right" and others increasingly "wrong" in action and idea . . .

WHEN YOU let the days slip by and don't have time or desire to secrete yourself away for disciplined prayer . . .

When the world grows sweeter to you and death and eternity are distasteful subjects . . .

Make no mistake about it, you are either closer to God than you were this time last year—or farther away. There is no neutral zone in the spiritual life.