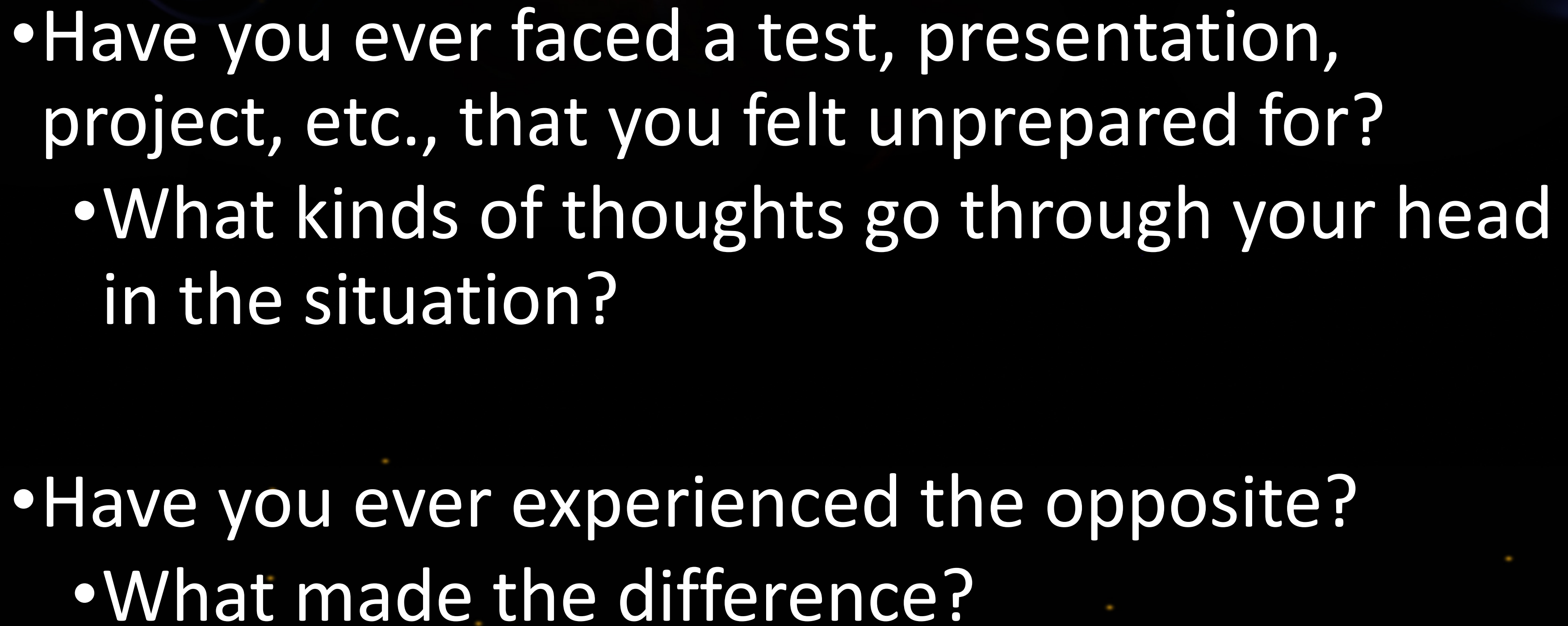


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- Have you ever faced a test, presentation, project, etc., that you felt unprepared for?
 - What kinds of thoughts go through your head in the situation?
 - Have you ever experienced the opposite?
 - What made the difference?



Eternal Life

A Study of I John



1 John 3:1-3

- In love, God calls us His children
- When God's Son appears, we will be like Him
- “everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure”
 - 3:4–5:3 – what being a child of God looks like and how to purify ourselves as He is pure
 - *Practicing righteousness / loving (3:10)*



1 John 4:12

- “...if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us.”
 - God abides in us – 4:13-16
 - His love is perfected in us – 4:17-21



1 John 4:17-18

- *Perfected Love?*

1. Perfected Love Brings Confidence (17)
2. Perfected Love Banishes Fear (18)

1. Perfected Love Brings Confidence

- “By this, love is perfected with us”
- Our *abiding in love* (4:16b; cf. 4:12b)
- Obeying -> loving (2:5; 3:24a)
 - “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love” (John 15:10a)
 - “This is My commandment, that you love one another, ...” (John 15:12-17)

1. Perfected Love Brings Confidence

- “By this, love is **perfected** with us”
 - *Perfect – mature; reaching its intended goal*
 - God’s goal is loving intimate fellowship with and amongst His children (1:3, 7)
 - God initiated & demonstrated *love* (4:7-10)
 - In response, we ought to love, too (4:11)
 - As we love, God’s love reaches its goal

1. Perfected Love Brings Confidence

- “so that we may have **confidence** in the day of judgment”
 - *Confidence – boldness (in speaking)*
 - 2:28 – abiding -> boldness at His coming
 - 3:21-22 – obedience -> confidence in prayer
 - 5:14 – confidence in prayer

1. Perfected Love Brings Confidence

- “so that we may have confidence **in the day of judgment**”
 - Not eternal destiny (John 5:24; 1 John 3:14)
 - “For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ... So then each one of us will **give an account** of himself to God.” (Rom. 14:10b, 12; cf. Matt. 25:14-30)

1. Perfected Love Brings Confidence

- What will we be judged for?
 - “The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring **every act** to judgment, **everything which is hidden**, whether it is good or evil.”
(Eccl. 12:13-14)

1. Perfected Love Brings Confidence

- What will we be judged for?
 - Our words (Matt. 12:36-37)
 - Our *deeds in the body* (2 Cor. 5:9-10)
 - Our mercy (James 2:13; cf. Matt. 25:31-46)
- Bottom line: Our stewardship of all God has given to us (Matt. 25:14-30)

1. Perfected Love Brings Confidence

- By what standard?
 - “So speak and so act as those who are to be judged **by the law of liberty**.” (James 2:12)
 - *the perfect law / the word* (James 1:22, 25)
 - “If, however, you are fulfilling **the royal law** according to the Scripture, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself,’ you are doing well.” (James 2:8)

1. Perfected Love Brings Confidence

- “because as He is, so also are we in this world”
- The reason for confidence: *being like Him*
 - As we obey Him, love is perfected with us (we love more like He loves), and we become more like He is
 - He is the Standard, so our being *as He is* gives us confidence that we measure up

1. Perfected Love Brings Confidence

- “because as He is, so also are we in this world”
 - The reason for confidence: *being like Him*
 - What is He like?
 - He is *Light* (1:5-7)
 - He is righteous (2:29; cf. 2:1)
 - He is pure (3:3)
 - He is love (4:8; cf. 3:16)

1. Perfected Love Brings Confidence

- We will be judged according to *love*
- The more we practice love now, the more we meet the standard
- The more we meet the standard, the more confidence we can have when we are judged (cf. Matt. 25:19-23)

2. Perfected Love Banishes Fear

- “There is no fear in love”
 - Fear in general? (e.g. – spiders or snakes)
 - God’s love for us vs. our being *afraid* of Him?
 - Emphasis is on how we ought to love (4:11)
- *Fear of the Lord?*
 - It is commanded (Luke 12:4-7; 1 Pet. 2:7)
 - It is tied to loving God (Deut. 10:12; 13:3-4)

2. Perfected Love Banishes Fear

- “There is no fear in love”
 - Fear of judgment
 - “...abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming.”
(2:28)

2. Perfected Love Banishes Fear

- “There is no fear in love”
 - If we are loving/keeping His commandments, we have no reason to fear His sudden appearing or the judgment to follow (Luke 12:35-48; cf. Mark 13:33-37)

2. Perfected Love Banishes Fear

- “but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment”
 - *Perfect love* -> our loving as God intends (11)
 - *Fear* -> the judgment
 - Fear brings with it it's own torment, as we anticipate the expected outcome

2. Perfected Love Banishes Fear

- “and the one who fears is not perfected in love”
- Contrast with *confidence at judgment* (17)
 - Our fear of judgment shows we are not fully loving as God intends
 - No neutral: either *loving* or *hating* (3:14-15)
- God gives His love, and He calls us to love Him and our brothers, in order to *perfect* us

So What?

- God wants:
 1. His love brought to *completion* in fellowship
 2. His children brought to *completion* in love
 - E.g. - Eph. 4–5; 1 Cor. 13:4–7; Gal. 5:6, 13–15
- Think through your relationships; how do you measure up?