1. This passage gives us two tests we must fulfill in order to have assurance that we are saved.

The First Test: We Must Forgive Others

The Second Test: We Must Seek the Forgiveness of Others

1. Jesus explains the true intent of the Law by saying that anyone who harbors anger against his brother would face judgment, anyone who continually insults his brother would face judgment, and anyone who continually curses his brother would face judgment.
2. If we fail in just one point of the Law by committing a sin equal to murder, we have become guilty of breaking the whole Law. So if we are living in a pattern of unbroken sin, we face the judgment of God in Hell.
3. When we put our trust in Christ and repent of our sins we receive new spiritual life through the work of the Holy Spirit and Christ begins to fulfill the Law in us by working in us love for our neighbor. This love is part of the evidence that we have been saved.
4. Hating someone else is equal before God in significance to murdering someone else. Everyone who hates someone else is a murderer and no murderer has eternal life abiding in him. This means if we hold unbroken anger in our heart against someone else, then we are not a Christian.
5. The first test we must pass if we are to have assurance that we are saved is we must forgive others and not harbor anger against them. Jesus warns us that if we harbor anger against someone else we face judgment in Hell.
6. Jesus says that if we are about to worship Him and we know that someone has a legitimate complaint against us, it is more important that we reconcile with that person than that we worship. That means that we must reconcile first and then come and not fail to worship Him.
7. Jesus told us that if there is something in our life that is causing us to sin, we must radically deal with that issue so that we will not face His judgment. If someone has a legitimate complaint before God with us, we must go reconcile with them immediately and completely.
8. We need to do what is honorable in the sight of everyone. If there is anything that depends on our actions, we must be living peaceably with everyone. If there is anything we can do to assure peace between other people and us, we need to do it right away.
9. Jesus warns again of coming judgment if we fail to reconcile with someone we need to reconcile with. If someone gets us thrown in prison we will not get out until we can repay them, but by then it will be too late.
10. The second test we must pass if we are to have assurance that we are saved is we must seek the forgiveness of others when they have something against us. Jesus warns that if someone else has a legitimate complaint against us then we are in danger of Hell.

Application

1. Forgive others their sins against us.
2. Seek to reconcile with others who hold complaints against you.
3. If you know of a brother or sister who is failing to forgive, or who is failing to reconcile with someone else, seek to restore them in a spirit of gentleness.