



Biblical Counseling **Assurance of Salvation**

Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

2 Corinthians 13:5

I. Evidences that neither prove nor disprove one's faith

- a. Visible Morality (Matt 19:16-21; 23:27)
- b. Intellectual Knowledge (Rom 1:21; 2:17)
- c. Religious Involvement (Matt 25:1-10)
- d. Active Ministry (Matt 7:21-24)
- e. Conviction of Sin (Acts 24:25)
- f. Assurance (Matt 23)
- g. Time of Decision (Luke 8:13-14)

II. The Fruit/Proofs of Authentic Christianity*

- a. Love for God (Ps 42; 73:25; Lk 10:27; Rom 8:7)
- b. Repentance from Sin (Ps 32:5; Pr 28:13; Rom 7:14; 2 Cor 7:10; 1 Jn 1:8-10)
- c. Genuine Humility (Ps 51:17; Mt 5:1-12; James 4:6,9)
- d. Devotion to God's Glory (Ps 105:3; 115:1; Is 43:7; 48:10; Jer 9:23-24; 1 Cor 10:31).
- e. Continual Prayer (Lk 18:1; Eph 6:18; Php 4:6; 1 Tim 2:1-4; Jas 5:16-18)
- f. Selfless Love (1 Jn 2:9; 3:14; 4:7)
- g. Separation from the World (1 Cor 2:12; Jas 4:4; 1 Jn 2:15-17; 5:5)
- h. Spiritual Growth (Lk 8:15; Jn 15:1-6; Eph 4:12-16)
- i. Obedient Living (Mt 7:21; Jn 15:14; Ro 16:26; 1 Pet 1:2,22 1 Jn 2:3-5)
- J. Huger for God's Word (1 Peter 2:1-3)
- K. Transformation of Life (2 Cor 5:17)

The top list is what we can do—it's the content of man-made religion. They aren't bad things, but we have to remember that God sees straight thru such things to the reason, the motive, the motivation--the heart. We should have the top list, but it has to come from the inner work of God in our hearts to be about Him and not us. The second list seems impossible...because it is--on our own. These are the things that God does in the heart of those who truly believe...those who see their rebellious heart, poverty and desperation to be pleasing to God, and in FAITH for His grace and mercy cry out "Abba Father!"

* This list is taken from John MacArthur's NASB Study Bible, p. 1999.