

Faith in action starts by believing in Christ as Savior, and incorporates surrendering our lives to follow Him as Lord.

How true is that?

John 3:5-7, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'"

Why?

Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

As such:

John 3:17, "God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

2 Corinthians 5:17, "If anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

What's more?

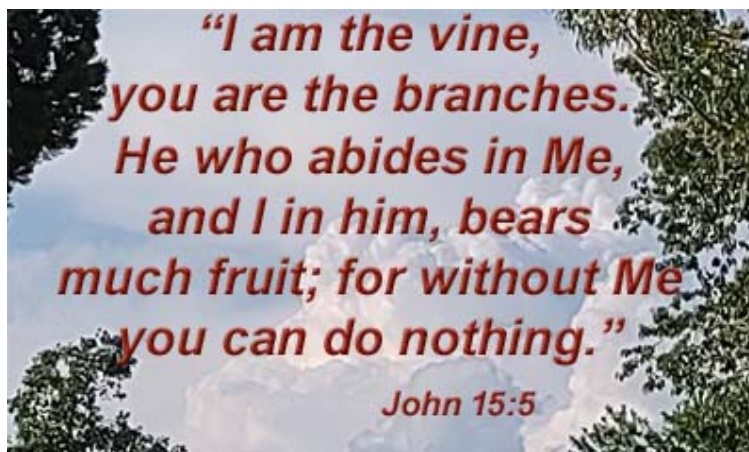
John 1:12-13, "As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

Therefore:

John 3:36, "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Do I truly believe in Christ, and have I surrendered my life to follow Him as Lord?

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If we truly believe in Christ as Savior, He must become Lord of our lives. Therefore, we must live in accordance to His Word.

Who is Christ the Lord?

John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 1:14, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

As such Jesus clearly said:

John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 17:3, "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

What's more?

Colossians 1:18, "He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence."

Acts 4:12, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

That's why Peter said:

John 6:68, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

Therefore:

Matthew 4:4, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

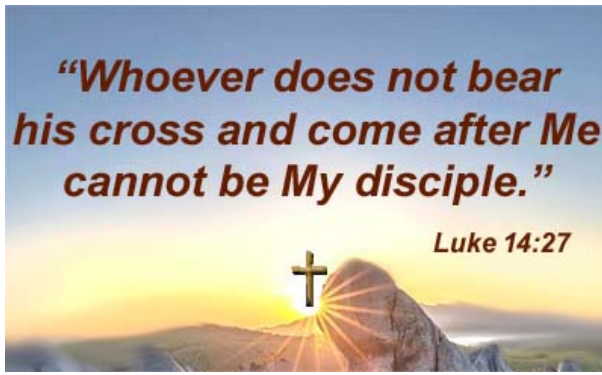
Is my faith in God pure and true, so I live to wholeheartedly abide in Christ, my Savior and Lord?

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***“Whoever does not bear  
his cross and come after Me  
cannot be My disciple.”***

***Luke 14:27***



What does bearing our cross imply as believers in Christ?

John 12:26, "If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor."

Why?

Matthew 10:38, "He who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me."

Luke 9:24, "Whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it."

Luke 14:33, "Whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple."

As such:

1 Corinthians 1:18, "The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

Luke 9:25, "What profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?"

What's more?

John 15:6, "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned."

Matthew 7:21, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

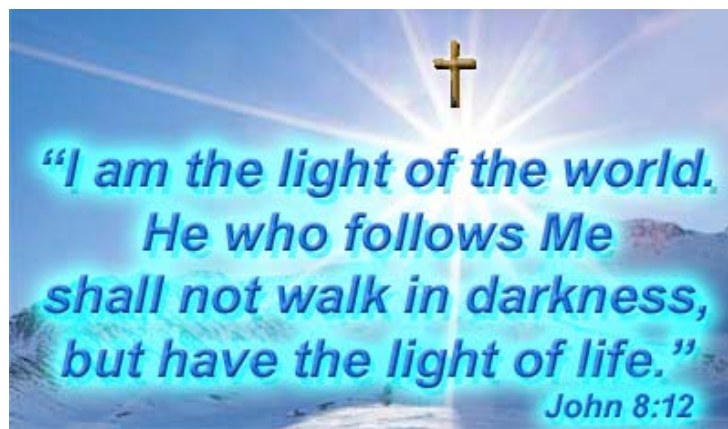
Therefore:

John 15:8, "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples."

Am I following Christ as Lord of my life, so I bear my cross to be His disciple?

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What is the purpose of growing in the knowledge of Christ?

In Jesus' own words:

John 8:31-32, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 10:27-28, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."

John 15:16, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you."

What's more?

Matthew 4:19, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Why?

Ephesians 2:10, "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

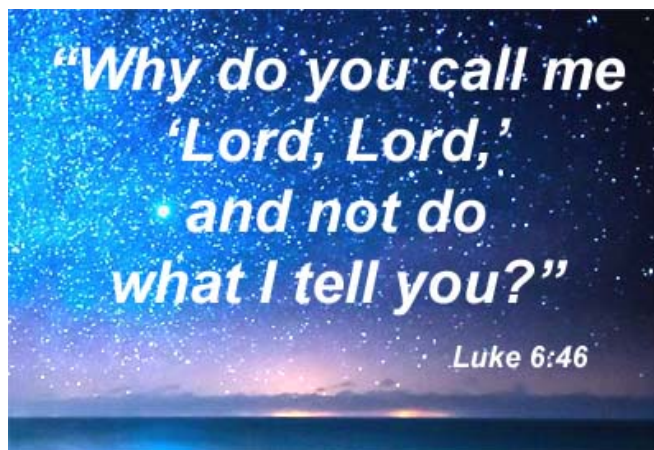
Colossians 2:9-10, "For in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in Him, who is the head of all rule and authority."

Therefore:

Romans 6:4, "We were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

On a scale of 1 to 10, how would I rate my growth in Christ?

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As Christian believers, we know that we will face countless challenges, temptations and even persecution from the decadent world we live in.

As such, how does scripture warn us?

John 16:33, "In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

2 Timothy 3:12, "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."

The solution:

John 15:4, "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me."

1 John 2:6, "He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."

Ephesians 5:11, "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them."

1 John 2:28, "Abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming."

What's more?

Matthew 7:21, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

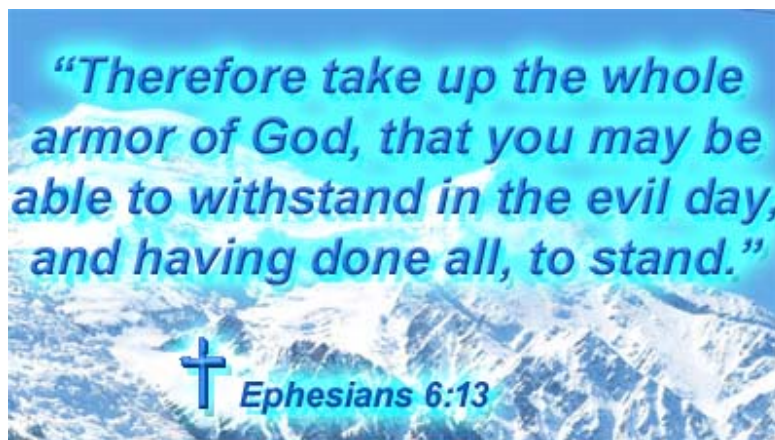
Therefore:

2 John 9, "Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son."

Do I abide in Christ Jesus, so I walk as He walked and bear fruit to the glory of God?

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It's one thing to profess to be a Christian. However, the proof is only found in how steadfast we are to stand for Christ.

As such Jesus clearly declared:

Matthew 16:24, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."

John 6:57, "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me."

Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

How is that achieved?

Philippians 2:5, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 5:25, "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

Colossians 3:17, "And whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."

As such:

1 John 2:3-4, "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him."

Therefore:

Hebrews 12:2, "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith."

Am I wearing the armor of God, and as such follow Christ in living and standing by His Word?

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Where do we find the power to follow Christ wholeheartedly, and trust and stand up for Him no matter the circumstances of life?

Psalm 119:105, "Your Word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

As such Jesus said:

John 6:51, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

John 14:26, "The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

John 16:13, "When He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come."

Therefore:

1 John 3:9, "No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God."

How steadfast am I to wholeheartedly follow Christ as Lord, so I truly live to abide in Him?

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