

How can I discern the authenticity of my Christian faith and align my actions with my beliefs?

2 Corinthians 13:5, "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you, unless, of course, you fail the test?"

In other words, is my profession of faith in Christ simply from the mouth, without any true change of the heart?

The reason why the prophet said:

Jeremiah 17:9, "The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked; who can know it?"

As such:

James 1:23-24, "Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like."

The truth being:

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?

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

Therefore:

2 Corinthians 5:21, "He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Am I in Christ as I proclaim to be, and as such, does my life reflect my identity in Christ?

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How did Jesus address the importance of having a pure heart with God and not live like hypocrites?

Matthew 5:8, “Blessed *are* the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

And...

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.”

To hypocrites He declared:

Matthew 23:28, “You also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

As such:

Romans 8: 28-29, “We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to *His* purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

To true believers the Word says:

1 Peter 2:9, “You *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

Therefore:

Psalms 139:23-24, “Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if *there is any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

Do I understand the importance of having a pure heart at all times?

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**DO I LIVE TO PURSUE THE  
SUCCESS OF THE WORLD  
OR RATHER EXCELLENCE  
IN CHRIST?**

***“Every prudent man acts  
with knowledge, But a fool  
lays open his folly.”***

***Proverbs 13:16***

How does the world define success in this life, as opposed to the excellence in attitude that God expects from us?

Success is fueled by status, while excellence directs us to do our best. Success relates to how we fare compared to others, while excellence is in relation to our potential.

Success focuses its attention on the external, while excellence focus on the internal, our spiritual attitude on life.

Success drives people towards the pot of gold, while excellence focuses on doing our best through our God-given abilities.

Success draws people to compromise while excellence cultivates the principle of integrity.

Success might involve shortcuts, lies and prompt some to use people as a means to their end, while excellence ensures we treat them as valuable as ourselves.

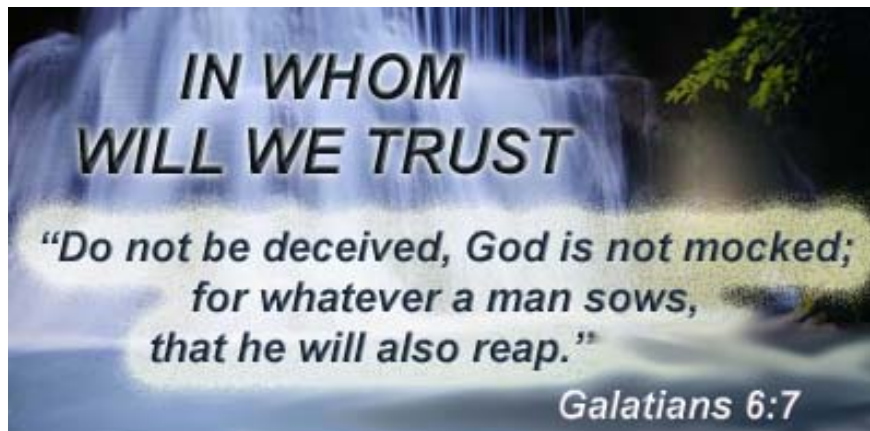
Success is the dream of multitudes while excellence is adopted by few. Success, while providing materialistic rewards, will disappear as the seasons of life overcome us. Excellence, on the other hand, will follow us throughout this life and into eternity.

The big question then is, what do we desire to accomplish in this life, success or excellence?

Therefore and as Matthew 16:26 says:

“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?”

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What are the core principles we should pursue and hold onto, so as to not be deceived by the world?

Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

2 Peter 1:5-8, "Add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, *you* will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

What's more?

James 1:5, "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."

Hebrews 12:14, "Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord."

Why?

Acts 13:47, "I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth."

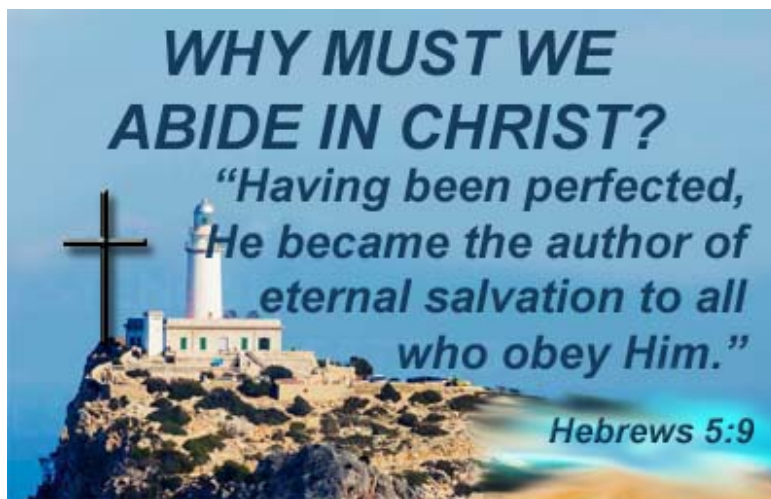
Therefore:

James 1:22, "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves?"

And as Jesus clearly said:

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."

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How must our daily attitude of the heart be so as to truly abide in Christ?

1 Peter 4:1-2, "Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of *his* time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God."

As such:

1 John 2:4-6, "He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked."

Why?

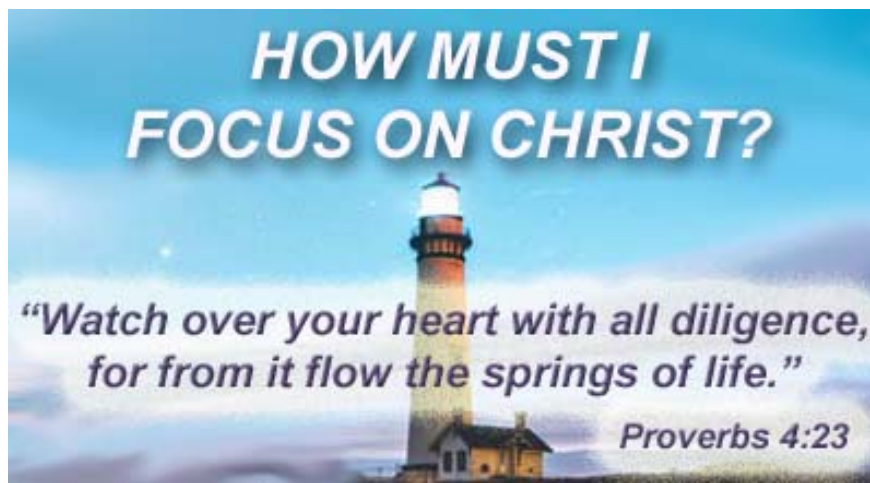
John 15:5, "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."

What's more?

2 Corinthians 10:3-5, "Though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ." Therefore:

1 Peter 1:15, "As He who called you *is* holy, you also be holy in all *your* conduct."

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How must I live to truly focus on Christ?

Matthew 6:33, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness."

Colossians 3:16, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Colossians 3:1-2, "Seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

Why?

Colossians 3:3, "For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

Romans 8:14, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."

What's more?

Romans 12:1-2, "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Therefore:

Colossians 3:10, "Put on the new *man* who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him."

Proverbs 16:3, "Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established."

Do I truly live to focus on Christ so He is truly Lord of my life?

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# AM I READY AND FULLY COMMITTED?

**“Behold, I am coming quickly,  
and My reward is with Me,  
to give to every one according  
to his work.”**  
*Revelation 22:12*

What rewards can we expect from God for living to abide in Christ wholeheartedly?

Romans 6:23, “The gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

As such:

Matthew 17:27, “The Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.”

2 Timothy 4:8, “There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.”

1 Peter 5:4, “When the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.”

The reason why:

Philippians 3:14, “I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Romans 8:18, “I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

Therefore:

1 Corinthians 15:58, “Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

Colossians 3:23-24, “And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”

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