

How does the bible define how true belief in God translates into the life of a believer?

Matthew 16:24-25, "Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

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."

As such:

Luke 22:37-39, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is *the* first and great commandment. And *the* second *is* like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

What's more?

Galatians 2:20, "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Therefore:

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."

Colossians 2:6, "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him."

Does my life echo the truths of scriptures listed above,?

Would my neighbors be surprised to hear that I am a believer in God and follower of Christ, whether through my actions or words?

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**“If anyone loves Me, he will keep
My word; and My Father will love
him, and We will come to him
and make Our home with him.”**



What is the difference between true faith and shallow faith?

In the parable of the rich young ruler of Matthew 19:16-22, Jesus described how this young man said he had obeyed God all his life. However, when asked to sell all he had, give it to the poor and follow Jesus, verse 22 says “he went away sorrowful because he had great possessions.”

As such:

Luke 8:13, “Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.”

Ezekiel 33:31, “So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, *but* their hearts pursue their *own* gain.”

In Jesus’ own words:

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.”

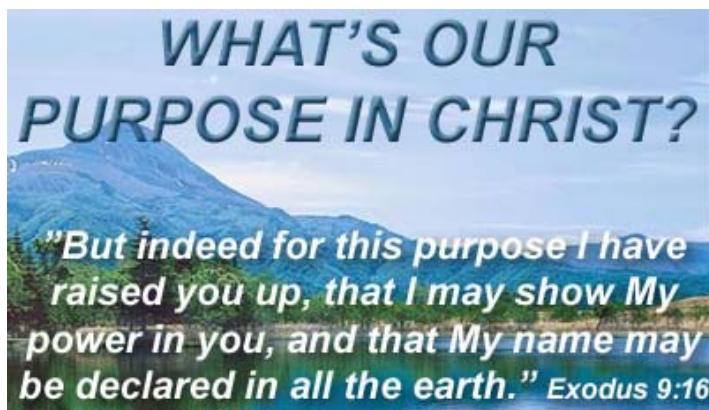
John 14:23, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word.”

Therefore:

2 Corinthians 13:5, “Examine yourselves *as to* whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.”

How genuine is my faith in God in following Christ right now?

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As born again believers in Christ, how did Jesus state what our mission is?

John 15:16, "I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit."

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."

As such:

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, "Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

1 John 5:4, "Everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world."

What's more?

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."

Ecclesiastes 12:13, "Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind."

Therefore and in Jesus' own words:

Matthew 28:19, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

How faithful am I to carry out the mission to bear fruit and be His witness to the world?

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DOES MY LIFE AFFIRM MY CONFESSION OF FAITH?

***“He who says, “I know Him,”
and does not keep His
commandments, is a liar,
and the truth is not in him.”***

1 John 2:4

How does scripture warn us about the hypocrisy of claiming to be followers of Christ, and yet live our lives by the standards of the world? Romans 16:18, “Those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.”

As such:

Titus 1:16, “They profess to know God, but in works they deny *Him*, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work.”

What’s more?

1 John 2:4, “He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”

In Jesus’ own words:

Matthew 15:8-9, “These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with *their* lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”

Matthew 7:21, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

Luke 6:46, “Why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?”

Therefore:

1 John 1:6, “If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”

Do I follow Christ, so I truly abide in Him in living by His word?

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As true believers in Christ, what attitude of the heart **MUST** we pursue? John 8:12, "Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Why?

1 John 5:3-4, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome. For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith."

As such Jesus added:

John 14:23, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

Therefore:

Romans 12:1-2, "I appeal to you therefore brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

What's more?

1 Kings 8:61, "Let your heart therefore be loyal to the LORD our God, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments."

Proverbs 4:23, "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it *spring* the issues of life."

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“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them.” 1 John 2:15

**DO I LIVE TO FOLLOW CHRIST
OR DO I FOLLOW THE WORLD?**

How must I live to be on guard against the traps and deceptions of the world, and truly follow Christ as Lord?

Colossians 2:8, “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.”

Galatians 6:7-8, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”

Why?

Romans 8:8-9, “Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”

Romans 8:13, “If you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”

As such Jesus said to the Pharisees:

Luke 16:15, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.”

Therefore:

Mark 8:35, “Whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel’s will save it.”

What’s my choice... Christ or the world?

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