

If we confess to believe in Christ as Savior, the proof of our belief can only be found if we truly follow Christ as Lord.

Here's what Jesus said on this:

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

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."

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."

1 Peter 2:21, "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps."

As such:

Galatians 5:24-25, "Those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

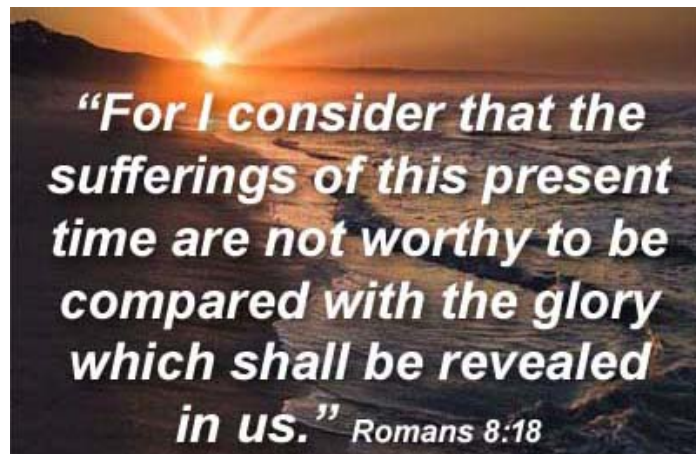
Therefore:

Romans 12:2, "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."

Colossians 3:2, "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

Do I understand the importance of following Christ as Lord, if I profess to believe in Him?

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Why does the new birth in Christ require that we leave the world behind to follow Him?

In Jesus' own words:

John 8:12, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Luke 9:62, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

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

Why?

Romans 8:5, "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit."

As such:

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."

Therefore:

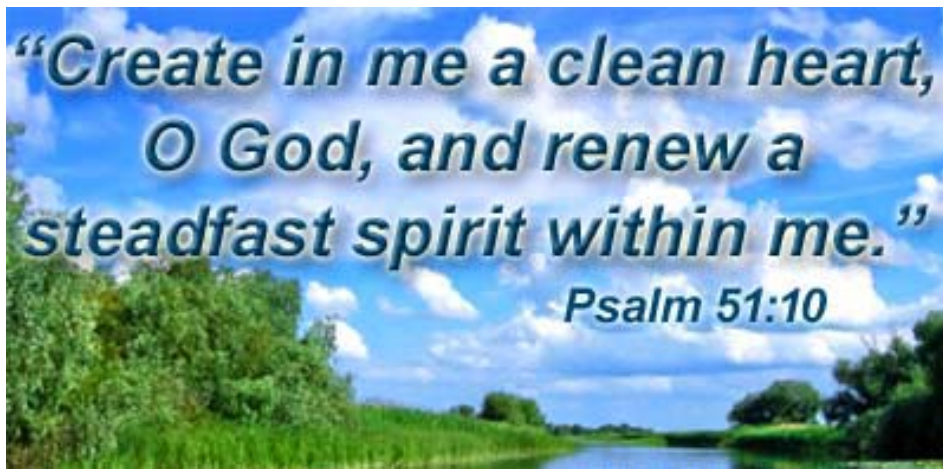
Hebrews 12:1-2, "Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross."

1 Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

Do I understand that if I truly believe in Christ, following Him as Lord is not simply an option, but rather a command?

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How must I live to truly abide in Christ and follow Him as Lord?

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

As such:

Jeremiah 17:10, "I, the LORD, search the heart, / test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings."

Matthew. 6:24, "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other."

1John 1:5-7, "This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

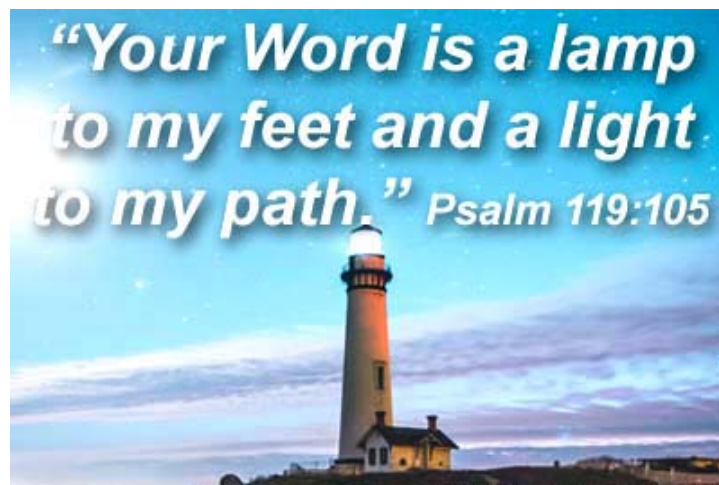
Therefore:

Psalm 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."

Ephesians 5:1-2, "Be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us."

Does my life testify to a true belief in Christ, so I wholeheartedly follow Him as Lord?

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Where do we find the instructions, the guidance and the power to be steadfast to follow Christ?

2 Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

As such Jesus added:

John 16:13, "When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."

What's more?

Matthew 11:28-30, "Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light."

The reason why true believers in Christ confess:

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."

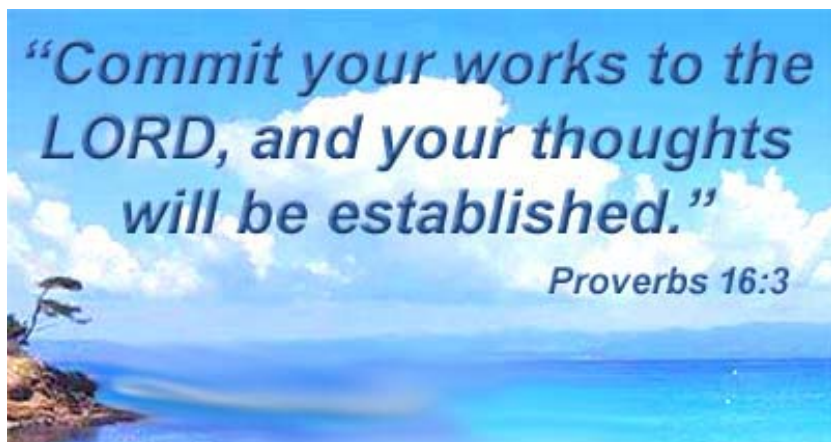
Therefore:

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."

Do I seek guidance through God's Word and power through the Holy Spirit, so I trust and follow Christ?

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How must we focus our lives to steadfastly follow Christ?

1 Corinthians 16:13, "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong."

Why?

2 Corinthians 5:9-10, "We make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

What's more?

Isaiah 40:31, "Those who wait on the Lord shall renew *their* strength."

As such:

Philippians 3:12, 14, "I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me."

¹⁴ "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Therefore:

1 Peter 1:13, "Gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

1 Peter 2:1-2, "Laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby."

What's more?

Joshua 1:9, "Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go."

How committed and focused am I to follow Christ right now?

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Are there warnings we must heed in order to not stray from the faith and constantly move forward with Christ?

1 John 4:1, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

The reason why Jesus declared:

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."

Luke 9:26, "Whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His *own* glory, and *in His* Father's, and of the holy angels."

Matthew 10:33, "Whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven."

What's more?

Matthew 24:44, "You also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Therefore:

Ephesians 5:15-16, "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil."

Today, the world celebrates halloween, a pagan festival with harmful spiritual connections to darkness and the occult. Will I avoid it and honor God, or will I follow the deceiving evil spirits?

In other words, am I following Christ or is my heart with the world?

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