

**Sign of Life #7—A true believer will not enjoy living in sin (2 Peter 2:7-8).**

If we are to be followers (imitators) of \_\_\_\_\_ as His beloved \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 5:1), then we must L\_\_\_\_\_ the things that God loves and we must H\_\_\_\_\_ the things that God hates! What does the Lord Jesus love (Heb. 1:8-9)? \_\_\_\_\_ What does He hate (Heb. 1:9)? \_\_\_\_\_ Therefore we are to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ (Amos 5:15). What are believers to abhor and hate (Rom. 12:9)? \_\_\_\_\_ Those who truly love the Lord will do what (Psalm 97:10)? \_\_\_\_\_ Those who truly fear the Lord will do what (Prov. 8:13)? \_\_\_\_\_ If we truly love God's Word then what are three things that we will hate (Psalm 119:104,113,128,163)?

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

When Lot separated himself from Abraham, what city did he pitch his tent towards (Gen. 13:11-12)? \_\_\_\_\_ How are the men of this city described (Gen. 13:13)? \_\_\_\_\_ What kind of a man was Lot (2 Pet. 2:7-8)? \_\_\_\_\_ What is the one thing that the Lord hated about Sodom and Gomorrah (Gen.18:20)? \_\_\_\_\_ Would God destroy the city if there were found 50 righteous people living there (Gen. 18:23-26)? \_\_\_\_\_ Can the righteous Judge ever be unfair (Gen. 18:25)? \_\_\_\_\_ Would God destroy the city if there were only 10 righteous people (Gen. 18:27-32)? \_\_\_\_\_ Did the Lord destroy the city (2 Pet. 2:6; Jude 7)? \_\_\_\_\_ How did He destroy it (Gen. 19:24—25)? \_\_\_\_\_ Since we know that God destroyed the city, what does that tell us (compare Gen. 18:32)? \_\_\_\_\_ What did the Lord do for Lot (2 Peter 2:7; Gen. 19:15-16)? \_\_\_\_\_ Did Lot enjoy living in Sodom (2 Pet. 2:7-8)? \_\_\_\_\_ What were 2 things that disturbed him and caused him to be troubled within his own soul as he lived in that city? 1. (verse 7) \_\_\_\_\_ 2. (verse 8) \_\_\_\_\_

What advice did Lot give to the men of Sodom (Gen. 19:7)? \_\_\_\_\_ Did this help the situation? \_\_\_\_\_

When God's child sins, the Holy Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph. 4:30) and God must \_\_\_\_\_ His child (Heb. 12:5-11) and that child must \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Jn. 1:9). What was Peter's great sin (Luke 22:57)? \_\_\_\_\_ How do we know Peter was a true believer (Luke 22:62)? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your attitude towards sin in your life?

**"EXAMINE YOURSELVES WHETHER YE BE IN THE FAITH."**

**Sign of Life #8—A true believer is a person who performs good works****(3 John 11).**

Read Ephesians 2:8-9 and Ephesians 2:10 and answer **True or False**:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Good works are necessary for salvation.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ If salvation were of works, then it would be possible for a man to boast before God.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Some people will someday be able to glory and boast in the presence of God (1 Cor. 1:29-31; Rom. 3:27).
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Good works are the fruit of salvation because God will work in the life of the true believer to produce good works.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Only true believers can perform good works that are pleasing to God (compare Romans 8:8-9).
6. \_\_\_\_\_ God's perfect plan for the believer is that he might walk in good works and live a fruitful life (compare John 15:16).

What 2 verses in Ephesians chapter 2 teach the same truth as Titus 3:5? Verses \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. What verse in Ephesians chapter 2 teaches the same truth as Titus 3:1,8,14? Verse \_\_\_\_\_.

What is true about the person who truly belongs to God?(3 John 11)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ What do we know about the person who keeps on (present tense) doing evil (3 John 11)? \_\_\_\_\_ According to 1 John 3:6, the person who has not seen God is the person who has not \_\_\_\_\_ God. Is this person saved? \_\_\_\_\_

Our Lord Jesus warned His disciples about what group of men (Matthew 7:15)? \_\_\_\_\_ What are these men like according to their outward appearance (Mt. 7:15)? \_\_\_\_\_ What are they really like on the inside (Mt.7:15)? \_\_\_\_\_ Find the verse in Acts 20 where Paul warns about this same danger: Verse \_\_\_\_\_ How can these men be known and recognized for what they really are (Matt. 7:16,20)? \_\_\_\_\_ Will a thorn bush bring forth grapes? \_\_\_\_\_ Will a grapevine bring forth thorns? \_\_\_\_\_ What should we expect from a grapevine? \_\_\_\_\_ What should we expect from an apple tree? \_\_\_\_\_ What should we expect from a good tree (Mt. 7:17)? \_\_\_\_\_ What should we expect from a bad tree? \_\_\_\_\_ What will a corrupt tree produce (Mt. 7:17)? \_\_\_\_\_ It's impossible for a good tree to produce \_\_\_\_\_ and it's impossible for a \_\_\_\_\_ to produce \_\_\_\_\_ (Mt. 7:18). What kind of tree does not bring forth good fruit (Mt. 7:18-19)? \_\_\_\_\_ What will happen to every corrupt tree (Mt. 7:19)? \_\_\_\_\_ Therefore what will happen to such false teachers and false prophets (compare 2 Pet. 2:1)? \_\_\_\_\_

Are all true believers fruitful (Matthew 13:8,23)? \_\_\_\_\_ Are some believers more fruitful than others (Mt.13:8,23)? \_\_\_\_\_ God desires that His children might bring forth \_\_\_\_\_ fruit (John 15:2) and that they might bear \_\_\_\_\_ fruit (John 15:8, also v.5). What is this fruit that the Lord was speaking about? In Galatians 5:22 we are told that the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ is 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_ (just give the first 3). Let's find out if this is the same fruit that the Lord Jesus was speaking of in John chapters 14-16. In John 15:9-10 what fruit is being considered? \_\_\_\_\_ In John 14:27; 16:33 what fruit is being considered? \_\_\_\_\_ In John 15:11; 16:20,22 what fruit is being considered? \_\_\_\_\_ Is this the same fruit as in Galatians 5:22? \_\_\_\_\_

Faith without works is \_\_\_\_\_ (James 2:17,20,26). Please match the following:

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. _____ Dead Faith         | A. Faith and works                     |
| 2. _____ Living Faith       | B. Body only (body without the spirit) |
| 3. _____ Dead Body (v.26)   | C. Body and spirit                     |
| 4. _____ Living Body (v.26) | D. Faith only (faith without works)    |

James teaches that a man is justified (declared righteous) by \_\_\_\_\_ (James 2:21,24) and Paul teaches that a man is justified by \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 5:1). James teaches that Abraham was justified by \_\_\_\_\_ (James 2:21) and Paul teaches that Abraham was justified not by \_\_\_\_\_ but by \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 4:1-5 and compare Romans 3:26-28). Does the Bible have any contradictions or mistakes (Jn. 17:17; 2 Tim. 3:16; Psalm 119:89,160; etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_ If we really understand what Paul was teaching and what James was teaching, we will find that there was no contradiction at all.

How was Abraham saved? What does the Bible teach (Romans 4:3)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Therefore, was Abraham saved by faith or by works? \_\_\_\_\_ Find the verse in Genesis 15 that teaches us that Abraham was justified (declared righteous) by faith: Verse \_\_\_\_\_. Do Paul and James both quote this verse (Romans 4:3 and James 2:23)? \_\_\_\_\_ When was Abraham justified by works (James 2:21)? \_\_\_\_\_

Did this event take place before or after Abraham was justified by faith (compare Genesis 15:6 with Genesis chapter 22)? \_\_\_\_\_ Answer **True or False**:

\_\_\_\_\_ Abraham was first justified by works and then later he was justified by faith.

\_\_\_\_\_ Abraham was first justified by faith and then later he was justified by works.

\_\_\_\_\_ In God's sight Abraham was declared righteous the moment he believed on the Lord (Gen. 15:6; Rom. 4:3-5).

If it were true that Abraham earned his salvation by works, then what would it be possible for him to do (Eph. 2:9; Rom. 4:2)? \_\_\_\_\_

Did the Lord know that Abraham was a true believer (Gen. 15:5-6)? \_\_\_\_\_ Does the Lord know whether or not you are a true believer (2 Tim. 2:19; John 6:64)? \_\_\_\_\_ Who is the only person who really knows our hearts and is able to see if we really have faith in Christ (Jeremiah 17:10)? \_\_\_\_\_ The question we must answer is this: How did **men** know that Abraham was a man of faith? Was there anything in Abraham's life that **showed** that he had genuine faith in the Lord? How did Abraham **demonstrate** that he had a living and vital faith in his God? We will now seek to answer these questions.

In Genesis 12:2 God promised that out of Abraham would come a \_\_\_\_\_ What problem did Abraham have which made the promise seem as if it would not be fulfilled (Gen. 15:2-3)? \_\_\_\_\_ What great promise did the Lord give Abraham in Genesis 15:5? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Did Abraham believe this promise (15:6)? \_\_\_\_\_ Was he justified (15:6)? \_\_\_\_\_ Was he justified by works or by faith? \_\_\_\_\_

What problem do we find in Genesis 16:1? \_\_\_\_\_

What did God promise to make Abraham (Gen. 17:5)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Did the Lord promise to give Abraham **seed** (descendants, children)--see Genesis 17:6-8? \_\_\_\_\_ What did the Lord promise to give to Abraham in Genesis 17:15-16? \_\_\_\_\_ When Abraham heard this promise, what was his initial reaction? (see Gen. 17:17)? \_\_\_\_\_

In Genesis 17:19 God again promises to give Abraham a \_\_\_\_\_ and his name would be \_\_\_\_\_. Did the Lord promise to give Isaac seed (17:19)? \_\_\_\_\_ Therefore Abraham knew that Isaac must have children! How was it possible for Sarah to have a son in her old age (Gen. 18:14)? \_\_\_\_\_ (compare Luke 1:34-37). Did the Lord keep His promise (Gen. 21:1-2)? \_\_\_\_\_ Read Romans 4:16-22.

In whom would Abraham's descendants be called, in Ishmael (Hagar's son) or in Isaac (Sarah's son)?--see Genesis 21:10-12 and Romans 9:7 \_\_\_\_\_ This means that the seed of Abraham promised in Genesis 15:5 would be the descendants of Isaac and not Ishmael. Who served as slaves in Egypt for 400 years, the seed of Ishmael or the seed of Isaac (Gen. 15:13)? \_\_\_\_\_ **True or False:** \_\_\_\_\_ Because of God's promises in Genesis 17:19 and 21:12, Abraham knew that Isaac must have children.

In Genesis 22 God put Abraham's faith to the test (see verse 1) and He gave Abraham an opportunity to **prove** to everyone that he was indeed a man of faith. James says that this was when Abraham was \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ (James 2:21). Here in Genesis 22 Abraham showed the world that his faith was not a dead faith, but his was a faith that worked (a living faith)!

What command did God give to Abraham (Gen. 22:2)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (In other words, God told him to sacrifice and put to death His only son, which would involve slaying him with a knife and burning him with fire). When God gives a command, how does the man of faith respond (Heb. 11:8)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Did Abraham obey God's command right away (Gen. 22:3)? \_\_\_\_\_ We know that God prevented Abraham from killing his son (Gen. 22:10-13), but did Abraham know that God was going to do this? \_\_\_\_\_ What did Abraham **intend** to do when he came to the place where God had told him of (Gen. 22:9-10)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Did he actually intend to **slay** his son upon the altar? \_\_\_\_\_ **Thus, Abraham faced an impossible problem:**

1) God had given him a **PROMISE**:

**Isaac will have children.**

The man of faith must believe the promise. Abraham **did** believe the promise and Abraham knew that Isaac would have children because he was "fully persuaded that, what God had \_\_\_\_\_ He was \_\_\_\_\_ also to \_\_\_\_\_" (Romans 4:21).

2) God had given him a **COMMAND**:

**Kill your son!!**

The man of faith must obey the command. Abraham **did** start to obey the command and as far as he was concerned he was going to put the knife to his son. Abraham knew that he intended to kill his son!

**Thus the impossible problem:**

## **HOW CAN A DEAD SON HAVE CHILDREN?**

Such a thing is unthinkable! It is impossible! But God had given Abraham experience with the impossible! What else was impossible (Gen. 18:11-13)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Was God able to bring forth life out of death (Romans 4:18-19)? \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham knew that it was impossible for dead Isaac to have children, but what else did he know (Genesis 18:14)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**(To avoid confusion, please use a King James Bible as you do these worksheets. Thank you!!)**

Abraham knew that Isaac must die and he also knew that Isaac must have children! How can this be? By FAITH Abraham saw the solution!! He **believed** that God was \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ even from the \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 11:19, read also verses 17-18). Look carefully at Genesis 22:5. Abraham told these men to wait behind because he and Isaac were going to go and worship (to Abraham "WORSHIP" meant that he would go and do exactly what God said, namely, sacrifice his son). In other words, Abraham was saying, "I and the lad will go yonder. I will then sacrifice my son, and "**we** will \_\_\_\_\_ to you" (Genesis 22:5—the first person plural "we" is made clear in the Hebrew text). "I'm going to put my son to death, but **we** are going to return to you alive!" Abraham believed God would raise him up and bring him back to life! What tremendous faith this man had! God tested his faith and Abraham gloriously passed the test!

This account in Genesis 22 is only a mere F \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb. 11:19) of a much greater sacrifice and a much greater resurrection. God prevented Abraham from delivering up his only son whom he loved (Gen. 22:12). But what did God eventually do many hundreds of years later (Rom. 8:32)? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ But the Lord Jesus could not stay dead (see Acts 2:24) because He must have **SEED** (Isa. 53:10) and He must bring \_\_\_\_\_ unto glory (Heb. 2:10). So what did God do (Acts 4:10)? \_\_\_\_\_

Let us now return again to James 2. Is James 2:14 talking about a person who **has** faith or about a person who **says** he has faith? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Is it possible to actually **see** a person's faith? \_\_\_\_\_ If you were to meet a total stranger, could you tell whether or not he was a believer just by looking at him? \_\_\_\_\_ In order for a person to **prove** that he has faith, he must perform the good works which accompany genuine saving faith (see Ephesians 2:10 and Titus 3:8).

Did the person described in James 2:16 demonstrate that he had a living faith? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What did he really prove (1 John 3:14)? \_\_\_\_\_

Even though he claimed to have faith, what kind of faith did he really have (James 2:17)?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Verse 18 teaches us that a person **shows** his faith by whether or not he performs good works! Saving faith is a faith that works! John Calvin once said, "Faith alone saves, but the faith that saves is not alone." Works are the fruit of justification! The world is sick and tired of Christians shouting about grace and living like the devil! True believers need to **know that they are saved** and they need to **show that they are saved!**

Did the Apostle Paul teach that faith and works should go together (Ephesians 2:8-10 and Titus 3:8)? \_\_\_\_\_ Did Paul and James both agree that Abraham was justified by faith (Rom. 4:2-3 and James 2:23)? \_\_\_\_\_ Did the writer of Hebrews (maybe Paul?) and James both agree that Abraham was justified by works when he offered his son (Heb. 11:17-19 and James 2:21)? \_\_\_\_\_ Do the Scriptures contradict or do they harmonize perfectly?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

A person with dead faith can easily believe there is one God, but who else believes this (James 2:19—"devils" = demons)? \_\_\_\_\_ Where are they going to end up (Matthew 25:41)? \_\_\_\_\_

Consider James 2:26. To tell if a body has life in it, you must look for signs of life! What are some signs of physical life?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

To tell if a person really has saving faith, you must look for signs of life also! What are some signs of spiritual life? 1. (1 John 3:14) \_\_\_\_\_

2. (1 John 2:3) \_\_\_\_\_
  3. (1 John 3:9) \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Is your life fruitful or is it barren (see 2 Pet. 1:8)? Are you careful to maintain good works? Do you prove by your works that you are a man (or woman) of faith?

**"EXAMINE YOURSELVES WHETHER YE BE IN THE FAITH."**

**9. A true believer confesses Christ (Romans 10:9-10).**

The word **confess** comes from the Greek word **homologeō** (homo=same; **legeō** from a verb **legō**=to say) and therefore it means "to say the same thing as another, to agree with another person." The believer in Christ is to C\_\_\_\_\_ the Lord Jesus with his M\_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 10:9-10) and thus he is to vocally and publicly agree with what God has said concerning His Son (see 1 John 5:9-12).

Just as a label on a can is there to confess its contents, so a believer ought to confess their Lord and Saviour clearly, without being ashamed: "For the Scripture saith, Whosoever \_\_\_\_\_ on Him \_\_\_\_\_" (Romans 10:11). Every true believer should be able to say with Paul, "For I am \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ (good news) of Christ; for it is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God unto \_\_\_\_\_ to everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16). Was Christ ashamed to die for us openly and publicly (Matthew 27:39,54-55)?

Jesus, and shall it ever be, a mortal man ashamed of Thee?

Ashamed of Thee, whom angels praise, whose glories shine through endless days?

Ashamed of Jesus! Sooner far let evening blush to own a star;

He sheds the beams of light divine, o'er this benighted soul of mine.

Ashamed of Jesus! That dear friend, on whom my hopes of heaven depend!

No; when I blush, be this my shame, That I no more revere His Name.

Till then, nor is my boasting vain, Till then I boast a Saviour slain;

And O, may this my glory be, That Christ is not ashamed of me."

—Joseph Grigg

What word means the opposite of "confess" (see John 1:20; 1 John 2:22-23)? \_\_\_\_\_ To confess is to say "YES"; to deny is to say "NO." In Luke 22:57-60 Peter **should** have said, "\_\_\_\_\_, I know Him" (v.57). "\_\_\_\_\_, I am one of them" (v.58). "\_\_\_\_\_, I was with Him" (verses 59-60). But Peter did not say YES. Peter \_\_\_\_\_ Him (verse 57). Even though Peter had a serious lapse of faith, what indication is there that Peter was a true believer (verse 62)? \_\_\_\_\_

Did Peter later CONFESS the Lord publicly before thousands of men (Acts 2:14,22-24, 29, 36, 41)? \_\_\_\_\_ If someone were to ask you this question, "Do you claim the Lord Jesus as your very own Saviour and Lord?", how would you respond? \_\_\_\_\_



The **confession** of our mouth must agree with the **conduct** of our life. Titus 1:16 describes a group of PROFESSORS (confessors, people who profess to know God). Please match:

1. _____ The message of their lips.	A. "We do not know God!"
2. _____ The message of their life.	B. "They are an ABOMINATION!"
3. _____ God's feeling towards them.	C. "We know God!"

Their walk is in conflict with their talk and this is an abomination to the Lord. Though they **claim** to know God, they are \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ is *not* in them (1 John 2:3-4). May the world see that the Christ we name with our lips is the God we serve with our lives!

**TRUE or FALSE:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ An unbeliever will never say that he is a Christian. Only true believers claim that they know the Lord and that they belong to Christ (Titus 1:16; 2 Timothy 2:19; 1 John 2:4,6,9).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Every true believer will confess Christ and claim Him as his very own Saviour and Lord (Romans 10:9-11; 1 John 4:15).
- \_\_\_\_\_ It is possible for a true believer to have a momentary lapse of faith and even deny the Lord (Luke 22:57-60).

What promise did the Lord give to those who would confess Him before men in Matthew 10:32? \_\_\_\_\_

In Luke 12:8? \_\_\_\_\_

In Revelation 3:5? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the overcomer of Revelation 3:5 according to 1 John 5:5? \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** There is a cost involved in confessing that Jesus is the Messiah (John 9:22) and because of this cost many fail to confess Him (John 12:42). During the great Christian persecutions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries by the Romans, those believers who would not deny the Lord even at the risk of great suffering were known as **CONFESSORS**. They were not ashamed to identify themselves with Jesus Christ even if it meant their own death.

Do you publicly confess Christ before your family, friends, loved-ones and neighbors? Do you gladly embrace Him and own Him as your Lord and as your God (John 20:28)? Are you unashamed to speak of Him and to tell others what He has done and what He has said? "*Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith!*"

**"Now I've given to Jesus everything! Now I gladly own Him as my King!  
"Now my raptured soul can only sing of Calvary!"**

—William R. Newell

We have been studying nine signs of spiritual life. If a person is really saved, then he should **know** that he is saved and he should **show** that he is saved. His life should point clearly to his wonderful Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. His life, as a child of God, should be distinctively different from those who do not know the Lord (see 1 Thess. 4:5). If I really have God's **LIFE**, then that **LIFE** should be manifested. "If any man be in \_\_\_\_\_ he is a \_\_\_\_\_ [or new creation], old things are passed away, behold all things are become \_\_\_\_\_" (2 Cor. 5:17). The following **matching problem** will help you to remember what we have been studying:

A TRUE BELIEVER.....	
1. _____ ...believes the Word of God.	A. 1 John 3:14
2. _____ ...has a hunger for God's Word.	B. 1 Peter 2:2
3. _____ ...prays to his Heavenly Father.	C. 2 Peter 2:7-8
4. _____ ...loves the brethren.	D. 1 John 3:7-8
5. _____ ...obeys the Lord (keeps His Word).	E. 1 John 5:9-10
6. _____ ...does not continue in sin but lives a righteous life.	F. 1 John 2:3-4
7. _____ ...does not enjoy living in sin.	G. Romans 8:15-16
8. _____ ...performs good works.	H. Romans 10:9-10 Matthew 10:32-33
9. _____ ...confesses Christ before men	I. James 2:14-26

These things ought to characterize the life of a true believer. If you are a true child of God, then you ought to SHOW IT and LIVE IT. You ought to bear the family image (1 John 3:9-10). As someone has asked, *If you were arrested for being a Christian would there be enough evidence to convict you?* Could a worn and well-used Bible be brought forth? Could witnesses be summoned who could testify that you told them about your Saviour? Is there a Pastor who could testify that you have been an active, healthy, faithful, serving member of a Bible-believing, Christ-honoring local assembly of believers?

If these things do not characterize your life, then this means that there is a serious spiritual problem. Two possibilities exist (as was discussed on page 73): **1) You are spiritually sick.** That is, you are a true believer who is very carnal and in a backslidden state (1 Cor. 3:1-4). You need to get right with God. **2) You are spiritually dead.** That is, you are not a true believer and you don't have God's life. You may have *professed* salvation but you may never have *possessed* salvation. We would urge you to get spiritual help from your Pastor or from another strong, God-fearing believer who would be able to offer sound spiritual counsel and help. Remember, nothing is more important than your relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ, and you need to do whatever is necessary so that you can have a real and right, healthy and happy relationship with the only true God.

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We are now ready to consider one more **sign of life** which has to do with a believer's continuance in the faith. A true believer will struggle with sin and may fail in many ways. Sadly, he can be out of fellowship with the Lord even for prolonged periods of time (though we should confess our sins to God immediately—1 John 1:9). However, a true believer cannot stop believing in Christ. He will not depart from the faith and become a total apostate. He may fall very hard on the deck of the "ship of faith" but he will not fall overboard, nor will he abandon ship. He may have a serious lapse of faith, as did Peter when he denied the Lord three times, but in the end his faith will not totally fail (see Luke 22:32). He will not stop being a believer! This final **sign of life** is discussed on the next six pages: **Sign of Life #10—A true believer CONTINUES IN THE FAITH to the end (Heb. 3:6,14).**

## Sign of Life #10. The True Believer Continues in the Faith to the End

1. **ETERNAL SECURITY** means that the true believer is safe and secure in Christ forever. Eternal security is clearly taught in the book of Hebrews. Find the verses in Hebrews that teach us these facts about our eternal security in Christ (the chapter is given; you must find the verse):

- Hebrews 5: \_\_\_\_\_ Salvation is forever (“eternal salvation”).
- Hebrews 7: \_\_\_\_\_ God is able to save completely (“to the uttermost”).
- Hebrews 7: \_\_\_\_\_ Christ never stops interceding (praying) for His own.
- Hebrews 9: \_\_\_\_\_ Our redemption is forever (“eternal redemption”).
- Hebrews 9: \_\_\_\_\_ Our inheritance is forever (“eternal inheritance”).
- Hebrews 9: \_\_\_\_\_ Christ appears in God’s presence for us (on behalf of His children).
- Hebrews 10: \_\_\_\_\_ Christ has perfected forever His saints.
- Hebrews 12: \_\_\_\_\_ God chastens (not condemns) His children.
- Hebrews 13: \_\_\_\_\_ Christ will never ever leave us and He will never ever forsake us!

Does the writer of the book of Hebrews teach that the true believer is safe and secure in Christ forever?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. **HEBREWS 3:6.** **What** is Christ’s house today (compare 1 Tim. 3:15 and Matt. 16:18)? \_\_\_\_\_ . Christ is the Builder and the Head of this house. **Who** is Christ’s house today (Heb. 3:6)? \_\_\_\_\_ If a person does not “hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end” then what does this prove? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Think of scaffolding which is erected around a building during times of construction or repair. Scaffolding is merely a **temporary attachment**. It is not a real and genuine part of the building. Proof of this is in the fact that the scaffolding does not continue with the building but rather it is taken down and removed. If a person is truly a part of Christ’s house, then what will that person do according to Hebrews 3:6? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. **HEBREWS 3:14.** The verb “are made” is in the perfect tense, meaning that we have become **partakers** of Christ with the result that we are (and continue to be) partakers of Christ. A “partaker” is a partner, one who shares in common, participates with. A true believer is a partaker of Christ. He shares in Christ’s LIFE. He is united to Christ in a unique way. How many believers are partakers of Christ (Heb. 3:14), that is, how many believers have Christ and share in His LIFE (see 1 John 5:12; John 6:47)? \_\_\_\_\_ When did you become a partaker of Christ? **THE MOMENT I**

\_\_\_\_\_

Will a true “partaker of Christ” ever stop being a partaker of Christ (compare Phil. 1:6; 1 Pet. 1:5; Rom. 8:38-39; etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_ If a person has truly become a partaker of Christ, then what will he do (Heb. 3:14)? \_\_\_\_\_ The word “hold” means “hold fast” (it is the same word as in Heb. 3:6). If a person does not “hold fast the beginning of his confidence steadfast unto the end” (see Heb. 3:14), then this indicates that this person never truly became a P \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. He was just a temporary attachment.

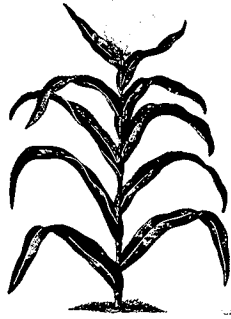
4. **1 CORINTHIANS 15:2.** The expression “keep in memory” means “hold fast” (the same word as in Hebrews 3:6 and 3:14). If a person does not HOLD FAST to the gospel which Paul preached, then this would show us that the person was never really S \_\_\_\_\_. In other words, this person did not believe to the S \_\_\_\_\_ of his S \_\_\_\_\_ (see Heb. 10:39), but he believed \_\_\_\_\_ (see 1 Cor. 15:2). Is there a difference between genuine saving faith and a faith that is IN VAIN? \_\_\_\_\_ If a person really has saving faith, then he will HOLD FAST to the gospel that was \_\_\_\_\_ unto him (1 Cor. 15:2). A person believes in Christ and is saved. Twenty or thirty years later, we should expect this person to say something like this: “I am **still** trusting my Lord Jesus Christ who died for me and rose again for me.” On his deathbed (assuming he still has his mental faculties) he will still echo this truth: “My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness!” If he is trusting something or someone else, then something is drastically wrong.

5. **COLOSSIANS 1:22-23.** True or False: \_\_\_\_\_ God will present EVERY BELIEVER holy and unblameable and unreprouable in His sight (Col. 1:22; see Jude 24-25). If a person does not “continue in the faith” (see Col. 1:23), then what does this indicate (circle the correct answer):

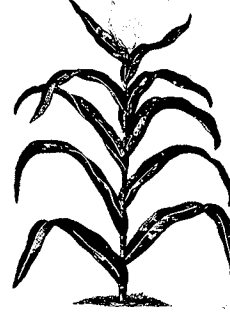
- a. The believer will lose his salvation.
- b. God is not able to keep the believer from falling away (see Jude 24).
- c. The person was never a true believer in the first place (just a temporary attachment) and this is why he did not continue in the faith.
- d. The person will stop being a saint.

Continuing in the faith is one of the marks of a true believer. There are certainly times when we fail and falter, when we waver and wander. Remember Peter who denied his Lord three times. But the Lord prayed for Peter that his faith would not F \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 22:31-32). Peter’s faith certainly faltered, but he recovered, and ultimately his faith did not fail. He remained a faithful believer to the end of his life. This does **not** mean that believers need to keep themselves saved and only those believers with enough stamina and persistence will qualify for heaven. Even Peter knew that believers are “kept by the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_” (1 Peter 1:5). The reason believers continue in the faith is because God keeps His believers faithful. Though we must hold fast to Him and cleave to Him always, yet it is not ultimately our hold upon Him, but His hold upon us that keeps us safe (see John 10:28-29).

6. **LUKE 8:6,13.** What is the one thing that is SIMILAR between the seed that fell on the rocky ground and the seed that fell on the good ground (compare verse 6 and verse 8)? \_\_\_\_\_



Rocky Ground (verse 6)



Good Ground (verse 8)

If you were to walk by these two growing plants (the one on rocky ground and the other on good ground) would you notice any difference *at first*? \_\_\_\_\_ What one thing is needed before you would be able to tell the difference (circle the correct answer):

- Fertilizer would be needed.
- Time would be needed to see if the plant will survive or wither away.
- Sunshine would be needed.

So it is with those who claim to be believers. At first, how do they receive the Word (see verse 13)?

\_\_\_\_\_ Do they CONTINUE to receive God's Word even unto the end? \_\_\_\_\_

For how long do they believe (v.13)? \_\_\_\_\_ Is this genuine saving faith or is it merely temporary faith? \_\_\_\_\_ When things get rough and tough what do these so-called believers do? \_\_\_\_\_ Do they continue in the faith grounded (having deep roots) and settled (compare Col. 1:23)? \_\_\_\_\_ Would you say that their faith is "in vain" (1 Cor. 15:2)? \_\_\_\_\_ They lack deep roots!

Read Luke 8:15. Those on good soil not only hear the Word but they also \_\_\_\_\_ it. This word "keep" (Greek-κατεχω) is the same word which we found in Hebrews 3:6 (HOLD FAST) and Hebrews 3:14 (HOLD) and 1 Corinthians 15:2 (KEEP IN MEMORY). The true believer hears God's Word and KEEPS IT (holds fast to the Lord Jesus even to the end) even as the Corinthian believers HELD FAST to the gospel which Paul preached unto them (1 Cor. 15:2).

In John 3:16 (and numerous other passages) the verb "BELIEVETH" is in the present tense indicating that the action of the verb is continuous: "whosoever believeth (keeps on believing, continues to believe) in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." In light of this verse, circle the answers on the next page that are true:

- a. If a true believer does not continue to believe, then he will lose his salvation (see John 10:28).
- b. A true believer will continue to believe. A true believer never stops being a believer. A true believer never becomes an unbeliever (although he may fail to trust God in many ways in his day by day walk). A true saint keeps on believing on Christ.
- c. A true believer takes hold of Christ, holds on to Christ and never lets go. He is anchored to the living God forever (Heb. 6:19).
- d. From the day he is saved to the day he breathes his last, the true believer must confess that Christ is his Saviour, God is his Father, the Holy Spirit is his Comforter and heaven is his home. There are times when he may not be spiritually healthy, indeed he may be quite carnal and fleshly, but he is able to tell you who his Saviour is. His hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness!

Do the people described in Luke 8:13 continue to believe? \_\_\_\_\_ Are they true believers?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does a true believer draw back unto eternal destruction (Heb. 10:39)? \_\_\_\_\_ The writer of the book of Hebrews speaks for all true believers when he says, "We are \_\_\_\_\_ of them who \_\_\_\_\_ unto \_\_\_\_\_" (Heb. 10:39), but on the contrary, the true saint is the person who believes to the "\_\_\_\_\_ of his \_\_\_\_\_." In Luke 8:15 the word "PATIENCE" means "endurance" (abiding and remaining faithful under the pressures and hardships and trials of life). Only the seed that was on the \_\_\_\_\_ ground HELD FAST to the Word and ENDURED to the end. This brings us to point seven found in the following paragraph.

7. **MATTHEW 24:13** (compare Matthew 10:22). Will the tribulation be a difficult time of testing and a severe time of trial for the true saints of God (Matthew 24:21-22)? \_\_\_\_\_ When the going gets rough, what happens to those who do not really have saving faith (Luke 8:13)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ If the church you attend were suddenly to come under the fires of persecution, do you think it would be more evident who the true believers really are? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you think you might notice a drop in attendance under conditions of persecution (if life and limb were threatened)? \_\_\_\_\_

If a person in the tribulation does not ENDURE (same word as in Luke 8:15—"patience") to the end, what does this indicate (Matthew 24:13)? Circle the correct answer: a. His defection proved that he lost his salvation. b. His defection proved that he was never really saved in the first place.

Those who are truly saints in the tribulation will do what (Matthew 24:13)? \_\_\_\_\_

Answer the following True or False:

\_\_\_\_\_ To be saved an unsaved person in the tribulation must endure to the end (see Acts 16:30-31).  
\_\_\_\_\_ A saved tribulation saint will endure to the end. God will preserve him and carry him through.

\_\_\_\_\_ The reason a tribulation saint is able to endure to the end is because he is saved and kept by the power of God.

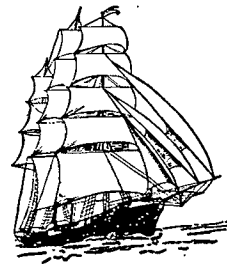
\_\_\_\_\_ If a person claiming to be a believer does not endure to the end and decides instead to identify with the Antichrist and his system (by taking the mark, etc.), this proves that his *profession* was not a true *possession*.

Remember, enduring to the end is not something that a person does to be saved; it is something that a saved person does. It is an *evidence* of salvation not a *condition* of salvation.

## 8. THE SHIP OF FAITH illustration (ACTS 27:22-25,31,44).

**The Ship of Acts 27**

In Acts 27 we have the account of Paul and others in his ship being caught in a violent storm. From every indication it seemed that all the men would perish in the sea. But God had other plans.



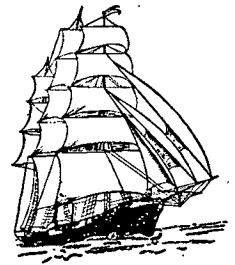
How many of the crewmen would be lost (Acts 27:22)? \_\_\_\_\_

How many would be saved (Acts 27:24)? \_\_\_\_\_ Who said so (Acts 27:25)? \_\_\_\_\_ Although the safety of all on board was promised by God, in verse 31 Paul warns them to \_\_\_\_\_ in the ship. This warning was necessary because in verse 30 we learn that the crewmen were about to abandon ship. If they had left the ship, would they have been saved (verse 31)? \_\_\_\_\_ Did they ALL remain in the ship as Paul told them to do in verse 31? \_\_\_\_\_ Were they ALL saved (verse 44)? \_\_\_\_\_

**The Ship of Faith**

Every believer is on the ship of faith (John 6:47; Acts 16:31). Will any of these believers be lost (John 10:28-30)? \_\_\_\_\_ Who said so? \_\_\_\_\_

Even though the safety of all true believers is promised by God, yet God still gives strong WARNINGS to believers and tells them to TAKE HEED lest they should \_\_\_\_\_ from the living God and become APOSTATES (Hebrews 3:12). God encourages believers to STAY IN THE SHIP (see Col.



1:23—“\_\_\_\_\_ in the faith”; Acts 13:43—“\_\_\_\_\_ in the grace of God”; Acts 14:22—“\_\_\_\_\_ in the faith”).

Just as God used Paul's warning as a MEANS of keeping the crewmen safe, so God uses many warnings (such as we find in Hebrews 3:6,12,14; 1 Cor. 15:2; Heb. 10:38; etc.) as a MEANS of keeping the believer safe and secure in Christ forever. In a similar way, a loving parent may give a young child very strong warnings about the dangers of walking out into the street. The purpose of these warnings is to keep the child safe. The parent could reassure the child by saying, "You will not be hit by a car if you stay off the road and don't even go near the road." It would be foolish to say, "You will not be hit by a car so you can go anywhere you want to go." Likewise God would never say, "Since you are saved and eternally secure, you can live any way you please and you can turn away from Christ and abandon the faith if you wish."

Think again of the illustration in Acts 27. Who was it that really kept the crewmen safe (circle the correct answer):

- a. The crewmen kept themselves safe because they remained in the ship (v.31).
- b. God kept the crewmen safe (v.24).

Now apply this to the believer and circle the correct answer:

- a. The believer keeps himself safe and secure in Christ by continuing in the faith.
- b. God keeps the believer safe and secure in Christ (1 Pet. 1:5; John 17:12).

Answer *True or False*:

\_\_\_\_\_ The true believer is like a man on a ship. He may fall again and again on the deck, but he will never fall overboard.

\_\_\_\_\_ Judas' fall (betraying Christ) was fatal, thus proving that he was never a true believer.

\_\_\_\_\_ Peter's fall (denying Christ) was fatal, thus proving that he was never a true believer.

Peter fell hard on the deck, as it were, but did he recover (Luke 22:31-32)? \_\_\_\_\_ Does God keep us apart from faith (whether we keep on believing in Him or not) or does God keep us *through* faith (1 Peter 1:5)? \_\_\_\_\_ God keeps us faithful!

9. **JOHN 10:27-30.** Who are the only ones who can claim the promises given in verses 28-30 (see verse 27)? \_\_\_\_\_ A true SHEEP does two things according to verse 27:

1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ If a person does not listen to God's Word and does not follow Christ, what must we conclude? \_\_\_\_\_

### 10. PRACTICAL EXAMPLES.

A. "I was once a member of a young people's gospel team. We were all saved, and we had some success in preaching the Gospel. But one member of the team got into worldly company. He married a very worldly girl. He denied his Christian profession of faith, and he died a drunkard. Now you see, he was a Christian; he went to heaven; but he was a carnal Christian and he did not have the reward of a spiritual Christian." We know that only God knows the hearts of men, yet, in the light of our study, would you say that this person was probably saved (as the above paragraph claims) or probably unsaved? \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Were the Corinthian believers carnal (1 Cor. 3:1-4)? \_\_\_\_\_ Would these Corinthian believers continue in the faith unto the end (1 Cor. 1:8)? \_\_\_\_\_ Beware lest we use carnality as an excuse. Many who might claim to be carnal believers might be headed for eternal destruction. Paul assumed that the Corinthian believers were HOLDING FAST to the gospel that he preached to them (1 Cor. 15:2). Some who think that they are carnal and think they will be saved so as by fire will really be lost so as by fire (the lake of fire). Some who think they will be saved by the "skin of their teeth" will actually be lost in the lake of fire where there will be "weeping and gnashing" of their teeth.

B. A chapel speaker once said, "Dear young people, there are two ways to go to heaven, the spiritual way and the carnal way. It is so much better to take the spiritual way!" One young person thought to himself, "I am a Christian, but I do not mind sitting in the bleachers. I choose to go to heaven the carnal way!" In light of our study, do you think this is the attitude a true believer should have? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Many people profess to be Christians, but their daily lives do not differ from thousands of unbelievers all around them. They are rarely, if ever, found at the prayer meeting. They have no family worship; they seldom read the Scriptures; they will not talk with you about the things of God; their walk is thoroughly worldly; yet they are quite sure they are bound for heaven! You ask them how they know they are saved and they will tell you that many years ago they "accepted" Christ and "once saved always saved" is now their comfort. Are they really giving evidence that they are truly saved? \_\_\_\_\_ It's true that if a person is once saved, he will always be saved, but each person needs to make sure that he is really saved ONCE FOR ALL, FOREVER by the grace of God!

D. Thomas Cranmer was the moving force of the Protestant Reformation in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century in England. In 1555 he was excommunicated by the Roman Catholic Church in Rome. As pressures mounted Cranmer weakened and he even signed a statement in which he denied the Christian faith. Just before he was to be put to death by Queen Mary (who was strongly Catholic and who caused almost 300 people to be burned, thus earning for herself the name "BLOODY MARY") he renounced his denial, and once more and in the strongest terms declared his faith in Christ. In dramatic fashion he showed how he felt about his denial of the principles of the Reformation. The hand which had signed the denial he held firmly in the flames until it was burned to a crisp. Then the flames scorched his body, and he died the death of a martyr. Do you think you will someday see Thomas Cranmer in heaven (Rev. 2:10-11)? \_\_\_\_\_

*Congratulations!!*

You have just completed 100 pages of doctrinal worksheets! You have looked up hundreds of verses and we trust God has taught you precious truths from His Word. My prayer for you is best expressed in Colossians 1:9-11. May you have and enjoy God's very best in Christ Jesus! Sincerely in Him, *George Zeller.*