

I. The Evidence of Salvation

God makes it abundantly evident when He does a saving work in a person's life. The Bible tells us to "*Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!*" (2 Corinthians 13:5). How can we know if we are genuinely saved?

A. Potential indicators of true conversion and genuine salvation.

1. Devotion to the hope of the _____ of God (Romans 5:1-2)
2. Loves _____ (John 8:42) and desires _____ (Matthew 5:6)
3. Experiences a decreasing pattern of _____ (1 John 3:4-10)
4. Selflessly _____ others (1 John 2:9-11)
5. Separates himself from the _____ (1 John 2:15-17)
6. Grows spiritually and bears _____ (Matthew 7:17-18; Galatians 5:22-24)
7. Lives a life characterized by _____ (Acts 5:29; John 14:15)
8. _____ the truth about God (John 19:35; 3 John 1:3-4)

B. Potential indicators of false conversion and hypocrisy.

1. More concerned with external religion than the condition of the _____ (Mark 7:6-9)
2. Pursues salvation on the basis of good _____ (Romans 9:31-32)
3. Has never experienced a change in lifestyle as a result of being a new _____ (2 Corinthians 5:17)
4. Has more concern for the _____ than for Christ (James 4:4)
5. Places children, spouse, etc. above _____ (Matthew 10:37-38)
6. Has no desire to read, meditate on, and apply the _____ (1 Peter 2:2)
7. Is _____ to share his faith with the lost (Luke 9:26)
8. Never _____ about Christ and what He has done in his life (Luke 6:45)

If there is not, then, at least a yearning in our hearts to live a holy life pleasing to God, we need to seriously question whether our faith in Christ is genuine... True salvation brings with it a desire to be made holy.¹

¹ Bridges, Jerry: *The Pursuit of Holiness*. Colorado Springs, CO. Navpress, 1996.

^{NAU} **Romans 5:1** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

^{NAU} **John 8:42** Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me.

^{NAU} **Matthew 5:6** "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

^{NAU} **1 John 3:4** Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him. ⁷ Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; ⁸ the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. ¹⁰ By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.

^{NAU} **1 John 2:9** The one who says he is in the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now. ¹⁰ The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. ¹¹ But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.

^{NAU} **1 John 2:15** Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷ The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

^{NAU} **Matthew 7:17** "So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ "A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit.

^{NAU} **Galatians 5:22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

^{NAU} **Acts 5:29** But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men.

^{NAU} **John 14:15** "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

^{NAU} **John 19:35** And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe.

^{NAU} **3 John 1:3** For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, *that is,* how you are walking in truth. ⁴ I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.

^{NAU} **Mark 7:6** And He said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.' ⁷ 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.' ⁸ "Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men." ⁹ He was also saying to them, "You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.

^{NAU} **Romans 9:31** but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at *that* law. ³² Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone,

^{NAU} **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is a new creature*; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

^{NAU} **James 4:4** You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

^{NAU} **Matthew 10:37** "He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."³⁸ "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.

^{NAU} **1 Peter 2:2** like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

^{NAU} **Luke 9:26** "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and *the glory* of the Father and of the holy angels.

^{NAU} **Luke 6:45** "The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil *man* out of the evil *treasure* brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart.