

“Evidence’s of being a Christian”

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John the Baptist came preaching the message of the Kingdom of God saying: “every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” In studying the statement that this Prophet of God uttered we noticed the words ‘bear good fruit’. We also know that trees produce or bear fruit and that is what we call a standard for the tree. Now as born-again Christians we must have evidence in our lives that is concurrent with the nature of Christianity.

There are many professing Christians today that are not giving any evidence to God or to the world that they are Christians. Our Christianity is not a title nor is it a status symbol. Our Christianity is a life-style but it is more than that. It is about a complete change of our hearts. Our entire being is transformed by the glorious power of God. For us to profess to be Christians and not be yet changed out of our worldly, carnal lifestyle is false Christianity.

Just as there are true and false Prophets there are true and false converts to Jesus Christ. We must study the Word of God and know what the evidence’s of being a Christian are.

We are going to take a look today and possibly next week at various evidence’s of being a born-again believer. We are not categorizing these evidences, only studying them so that we ourselves might test ourselves.....

2 Corinthians 13:5

5Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

KJV

• **Complete Separation from the World**

2 Corinthians 6:17

17Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

KJV

Paul was addressing a carnal Corinthian Church in his letter. The Corinthians had entangled themselves with vile affections and idolatry. Paul exhorts them to leave the filthy works of the flesh and come out of its grasp. God’s Word says that we are the ‘temple of the Holy Ghost’ of God.

2 Corinthians 6:16

“...for ye are the temple of the living God;...”

The temple of God is to be revered and it is to be a holy sanctuary for the dwelling of God’s Spirit. We must not allow idolatry to enter into the holy of holies and bring its vile corruption. When we continue to fellowship with unbelievers and the world we are corrupting and desecrating the most sacred ground in the universe.

Genesis 19:15-17

15And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

16And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

17And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

God's Word is absolute and He means what He says and says what He means. We want to come to Jesus so that our names will be written in the Lamb's book of life but we don't want to walk away from the old vile lifestyle. God did not give Lot and his family a choice to stay or to leave Sodom. They had to separate themselves from that city of iniquity lest they be destroyed along with the wicked. They were not allowed to stay in Sodom and serve God there. They were told to come out from among them and be ye separate. They were told not to touch the unclean thing. God was so absolute in His instructions that they were told not to even look back.

We know that Lot's wife turned back and she was consumed and turned into a pillar of salt. It is impossible for a man to receive Christ as his or her personal Savior and still be entangled in the world. The world will consume all whom abide within her boundaries. When we come to Christ we must come to Christ Jesus with absolute surrender to His conditions. We must come to Christ on His terms and His terms alone. We cannot think that we can receive the benefits of salvation while we are yet attached to the world that is enmity towards God.

Why do we think that we can go into the Holy of Holies with stained hands and sinful hearts and an idol in our pocket? We want to have the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in a contaminated environment! Never! God's dwelling place will be holy and this is absolutely true.

2 Corinthians 6:15

And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

God gave Lot clear precise instructions to come out from Sodom and be set apart from that wicked city and not even to look back. As Christians we have been summoned by God to come out from among the world and be set apart from them. The Jewish Bible Translation says: 'Go out from their midst;' Wuest Translation says: 'Wherefore come out at once from their midst and separate yourselves at once!' We must not even look back!

Luke 9:62

62And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

Why did Jesus make such a rigorous demand for us? Because looking back towards the world is a sign that there is a seed of the world within the heart that has not been repented of and it will render the heart of the man unfit for the presence of the Holy Spirit. True repentance as we

know is a complete change of heart in regards to sin and worldliness. We know that repentance is the forerunner to salvation; i.e. Without repentance there can be no salvation. Jesus is only pointing out that the heart is not repentant therefore there can be no impartation of the Holy Spirit. He cannot dwell where there is corruption; therefore the heart is not fit for the kingdom of God.

Also looking back denotes a love for the world. This is why Lot's wife looked back towards Sodom. Sodom is a type of the world and Lot is a type of the Church. She looked back towards Sodom because there was a seed of unrighteousness within her that lusted after the affections she enjoyed in Sodom. She was not repentant for the abominable act she partook of. She lusted after these vile affections and desired to return to them and this seed within her heart caused her to turn back towards Sodom. This rendered her unfit for the Kingdom of God! She, as we know, was turned into a pillar of salt!

2 Timothy 2:4

4No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

It is mandated by God's Word to flee from the World. We cannot manipulate it nor can we bend it to make it fit our situation. God does not care if your worldly friends are good people. It does not matter to God if you have had a relationship with these worldly men or women for years. His mandates are forever true and they apply to everyone who calls upon His name. Your case is not special and there is no appellate court to hear your case. You submit or rebel. It is black and white your either submit or rebel against His Word. We seem to think that it is okay to linger around our old worldly friends and acquaintances and then call ourselves Christian. We make excuses and manipulate the Word to meet our need. We twist the mandates of God to apply to everyone else except us. We don't see that it will hurt anything to continue to hang around our old worldly friends but.....

Proverbs 6:27

*27Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?
KJV*

It is an impossibility for us to cling to the world and to Jesus at the same time. This is one of the evidences of being born-again. It is complete separation from the World and its ways.

1 John 3:14

14We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

This sums up what we have been talking about. This is the evidence that we have been born-again. We now love the brethren. Loving the brethren denotes an inner desire to be with the brethren and not with the world. If I have the Spirit of Christ abiding within me then who will I associate with? Disciples of Jesus! We notice that Jesus ministered to the world but He did not entangle Himself with the world. He Himself was separate from sinners!

Hebrews 7:26

*26For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;
KJV*

Now in closing let me clear up some questions that you might have about this message.

1. I work with sinners; should I quit my job?

Let me answer this by Scripture. We are in this world but not of this world! We cannot escape worldly men. The earth is filled with sinners and there is no escape. But we do not have our fellowship with the world. Jesus ministered to the world but separated Himself from them and retreated to His own for communion. Notice what it says in Second Corinthians: What communion is there between Christ and belial? The key word is communion. That word means agreement and fellowship, partnership. We should not have agreement or fellowship with the world or worldly people. In actuality we are bringing contaminants into the Holy Temple of God.

2. How do I treat my old friends when they come around me?

In love! This is how the world knows that we are His disciples. We love them and pray for them but we cannot have communion or fellowship with them. What do I do if they come to my house? You love them and witness Jesus to them. If they don't want to hear about Jesus they most likely won't come back as often. If they do you will lead them to Jesus. You treat them with love and respect but minister the Word to them. You must know that you cannot allow yourself to become intimately involved with sinners or have communion with them.

James 4:4

*4Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.
KJV*

3. I am just trying to reach them.

This is an excuse that many carnal Christians use. We are trying to be a witness with these worldly people. First I must say that we are to be witnesses of Jesus Christ to the whole world. But there is a great difference between witnessing and fellowshiping. When Jesus was ministering to the world He was reaching out with His Word and life to minister to them to bring them to repentance and salvation but He withdrew and rested and communed with His disciples.

We want to try to cover up our worldly desires and affections by covering it with this excuse. The fact is that there are many carnal Christians that are unwilling to cut the ties with the world. They cover and deceive themselves by using this statement "I am trying to witness to them".

Acts 4:23

*23And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.
KJV*

Luke 5:15-16

15But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities.

16And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.
KJV

Mark 3:10-13

10For he had healed many; insomuch that they pressed upon him for to touch him, as many as had plagues.

11And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God.

12And he straitly charged them that they should not make him known.

13And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him.
KJV

- **There is a complete change of nature**

2 Corinthians 5:17

17Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
KJV

As we accept Jesus Christ as our personal Savior there is a complete metamorphose or change of our natures. This is an evidence of being a Christian. We know that we must leave the world or be separated from the world. We also must know that there is a complete change of nature upon our accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

It is a mandatory for all who will follow after Christ Jesus to yield their all to Him. If we are unwilling to yield our all to Him we are not able to receive Him, for He will not come and make His abode with us if we are unwilling to surrender unconditionally to His mandates.

Luke 18:28

28Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee.
KJV

Now it is imperative that we surrender unconditionally to His Lordship and to follow and obey His mandates. This unconditional surrender prepares our hearts to receive His nature. Now to obtain this complete change of nature we must completely surrender our wills to Him. No longer can we have things our way. No longer can we do what we want when we want to do them. We are not driven by our old nature any longer. There is a new, higher, more noble nature driving us and it is the nature of God.

Paul in his letter to the Church of Corinth makes it known that if any man be in Christ Jesus that all old things are passed away; behold all things are become new. What the Apostle is saying is that if we are Christians, we have a complete new nature. Our old nature is passed away by means of denouncement and the nature of God replaces that old nature by acceptance of His own dear Son!

2 Peter 1:3-4

3According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

KJV

The essential portion of this scripture is that we have escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust or the flesh. Now this is speaking of complete separation from the world but look at the second part of the text. That by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature of God.

The order is significant. We are not able to receive the divine nature of God unless we escape the corruption of the flesh. But as we escape the flesh or deny the flesh we are able to receive the divine nature of God and all of His promises.

Now there must be evidence of a new nature within the life of the Christian. We cannot claim to be born-again and maintain a life-style of carnality. If we are born of the Spirit of God we will walk after the Spirit.

John 3:6

6That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

KJV

If I am born of the Spirit of God the old disposition to continue in sin is passed away! There is a total and complete change of nature. If my disposition to continue in sin is within me then I am still born of the flesh. Now I am not implying that if I sin then I am carnal. I am implying that if there is no change in my nature then I am born of the flesh or carnal yet.

Who the Son sets free is free indeed. His power completely disentangles us from the vileness of the flesh. For me to say that I am a Christian and not to produce evidence that is concurrent with Christianity is to say that this good tree is producing bad fruit.

Matthew 7:17-19

17Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

18A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

19Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

KJV

What Jesus is speaking of here is natures producing attributes that are concurrent with their own natures. When Jesus uses the word “trees” He is speaking of men’s hearts. He is only using the word tree to draw comparison. Every heart that good or we might say that every nature that is of God cannot bring forth evil attributes. And every nature that is corrupt or carnal cannot produce attributes that are good. Each nature produces or manifests attributes that are concurrent with their own nature.

This is a definite evidence of being a born-again Christian. The evidence of a change of nature!

Questions

- **Christ has saved me. I have been translated out of darkness and into the light but I mess up at times and fall back into sin: does this mean I am not a Christian?**

By no means am I implying that we are a completely sin free being. But on the other hand I am not saying that we can continue in sin. There is a difference between living a lifestyle of sin and committing a sin under temptation. When I am born-again I have left the world behind. I am a new creature in Jesus Christ. I have taken on His nature because He lives in me. Yet, I understand that there is a devil that is seeking whom he may devour. He tempts with thoughts and situations to lure me away from Christ. There are times in the Christian life that the duress of temptation is very great and many are temporarily lured away and they fall into sin. This does not constitute what we are talking about. The nature of Christ still abides within the heart of the Christian but the Christian yielded to the wiles of the enemy. This is why we have the Word of God.

1 John 1:9

9If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

KJV

1 John 2:1-3

2:1My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

2And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

3And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

KJV

- **I go to Church but I cannot tell the difference between my life now and what I used to be. I still live the same way and have the same friends. I will go to heaven, won't I?**

Going to Church does not purchase salvation for you. Our salvation is not of works lest we should boast. Our salvation is purchased by Christ, and it becomes available to us as we put our faith in Him and live the life of the righteous. If I continue in the same life that I was living and there is no change in me then I can come to the conclusion that I am still living in darkness.

John 12:46

*46I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.
KJV*

If we believe (salvation by faith in Jesus Christ) in Him we must abide in the light. If we abide in the darkness or live in sin the way we lived in sin before we were saved then our salvation was false and we are still abiding in darkness. Who the Son sets free is free indeed.

Our master must be Jesus Christ for we can not serve two masters. I cannot live the same way I lived before Christ came into my life and say that I am of His righteousness. I am of my father the devil and the truth is not in me.

- **There is no change in me. My nature is still the same as always and I want a change. What can I do to receive this nature of Christ?**

Romans 10:10

*10For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.
KJV*

Heart belief leads to righteousness and confession is made to salvation. One of these aspects is internal and the other external. Believing is something that happens in the heart. God gives us the ability to believe. But believing is only half of the process. Confession is what leads to salvation. Confession is action. We must have that internal change of heart that leads to external change of actions. For me to say that I believe in my heart and not exhibit an external change of conduct is to bring my heart belief to naught.

To receive the nature of Christ you must first leave all to follow Him.

Luke 18:28

28Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee.

This was not only a forsaking the geographical location or leaving of family and friends but this was an internal forsaking of the old nature that wanders around in the valley of death. This is leaving the world and leaving the lower nature by denouncement of its vileness and following the nature of Christ that is available for all who desire it.

If you are here today and you have not had that change of nature within your heart and you still manifest the works of the flesh instead of the fruit of the Spirit you need to ask yourself a question. Do you desire, with all that is within you, to leave your old life and follow Christ whatever the cost? Are you tired of serving the flesh and do you desire to serve Christ?

If you are willing to lay down your life for Christ He will come and breath into you the breath of life. If you are willing to lay your life down. Count up the cost.

Luke 14:27-28

27And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

28For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

KJV

Salvation is a free gift but it will cost you everything. If we are unwilling to bear our cross and follow Jesus stripped of everything except Him we cannot be His disciple. We must add up the cost. It is a tremendous cost but the more it costs the better it is.

- **A true love for God's Word**

1 Peter 2:2

2As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

KJV

We are continuing to speak about the evidences of being a Christian. When the heart of a man is changed by the power of God there are evidence's that prove the change that has taken place in the heart of the man. For we know what the Apostle James said:

James 2:20

20But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

KJV

This series of messages is addressing the issue of necessity for fruitfulness in our faith. Many professing Christians today are deceived. They are clouds without rain; they are creeks without water; they thunder but they produce no rain.

Without exposure this vagrant Christianity will thrive in the darkness of its deadly deception! It is the purpose and intention of this sermon series to expose vagrant Christianity that the truth might set us free! Now we see that one of the first signs of life in a new-born child is an inner desire to be fed! The child is actually born with an inner, natural reaction to partake of food or nourishment once the child is born. When my children were born I noticed that it was almost immediate that they wanted something to eat.

They did not have to be taught to eat. It was naturally in-born within them. God placed the foreknowledge of how to suck on a bottle of milk into my children. I did not have to give them lessons on the three steps to bottle sucking. It just came with the child when they were born. Thank God! There was no instruction manual that came attached to my kids. They were born naked and that was it. But God placed into their mold the inner knowledge of how to suck a bottle and there was also an inner hunger to eat.

Without that nourishment and ability and foreknowledge given by God or placed by God within my children they could not have survived! But praise God, He placed that inner desire within children to desire food upon birth. It is a desire and also it is a necessity!

Now bringing this into a spiritual perspective we must note that when we are born-again God has placed into our hearts the desire for His Word. His Word is the nourishment that is required for all born-again believers. Apart from His Word there is no nourishment to sustain life. Many

professing Christians believe that they don't have to have the Word of God in their lives daily to maintain a victorious Christian life.

Head knowledge conversion is a false conversion. It takes place in the head and not in the heart. Head knowledge conversion does not produce a hunger for the Word of God. It produces an attitude that we don't have to have it. We know enough already and we don't desire anymore. This is false conversion. A true convert of Christ Jesus has a God given inner desire for the Word of the Lord. Peter said in his epistle that as new-born babes "desire" the sincere milk of the Word. In the Greek the text would be rendered "like newborn babes, desire "yearn for with passion or intensely crave possession of" the sincere milk (elementary principles) of the Word of God."

Wuest Translation says: *"As newborn infants do, intensely yearn for the unadulterated spiritual milk in order that by it you may be nourished and make progress in your salvation...."*

The Jewish Bible says: *"And be like newborn babies, thirsty for the pure milk of the Word; so that by it, you may grow up into deliverance."*

It is impossible for a baby to be born and not have that God given inner desire for food and also that God given ability to partake of that food. It is much the same in the spiritual realm. When we step from darkness to light and from death to life in Jesus Christ with that change of heart comes a new God like heart that yearns for or thirsts for the unadulterated truths of God's Word.

Those who claim to be born-again and have no inner desire or hunger for God's Word are still in darkness. Now to bring some clarity to this scripture I must point out that the Apostle is not only addressing those who are babes in Christ. We have mistaken this scripture for ages thinking along these lines. We have Churches full of people that feel much to spiritual to be fed the sincere milk of the Word of God. Thus, we have Churches puffed up and flaky without a solid foundation.

The Apostle is addressing the entire Church, old and young alike. There is no difference! The scripture is rendered as newborn babes not for newborn babes. Just as a newborn infant desires the milk of its mother's breast we should desire the fundamental, non-compromised, full strength Word of God! We all know the scripture that is in Romans:

Romans 10:17

*17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
KJV*

It is not the hearing of the Word that brings faith so much as it is the perpetuation of hearing of the Word of God. The singular act of hearing the Word is not what this scripture represents. It is the perpetuation of hearing of the Word of God that builds us the solid foundation of faith in our lives that quenches the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Back to the scripture in Peter. We should perpetually desire the sincere milk of the Word of God! Now that I have grown up I don't live on Milk alone but I balance my diet with vegetables and meats and breads. But I still have a keen desire for milk! Milk is a necessary component for my physical well being and in relation to my spiritual life the sincere milk of the Word is necessary for a well-balanced spiritual life.

Desire the sincere milk of the Word that you may GROW there by! The milk has the necessary components to nourish that other food groups cannot provide. Milk is necessary for growth. Yet we should not live by milk alone the more mature we become. Yet I notice that my growth “spiritually” is perpetuated by the partaking of faithful portions of the milk of the Word!

As a mature brother or sister in Christ Jesus, if you cease to desire the sincere milk of the Word your growth will be stunted! Yet as we mature we will partake of meat with our milk. We will continue in the foundational truths of Jesus Christ and add the meat to our menus.

Acts 13:42-44

42And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath.

43Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

44And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.
KJV

Paul and Barnabas were preaching in the synagogue at Antioch to the Jews and the Gentiles desired to hear the Word. The Gentiles now were being saved and they had a great desire to hear the Word of the Lord. The next day on the Sabbath almost the entire city came together to hear the Word of God.

An evidence of being a Christian is the desire to grow up into the image of Jesus Christ God’s only Son. Without the Word of God in our hearts we cannot be like Him. It is the Word of God in our hearts that changes us into His image; by the washing of the water by the Word.

It is a God given desire for everyone born of His Spirit to crave His Word. If I do not desire the Word of God then there is no life of God within me!

Acts 2:38-41

38Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

40And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

*41Then they that **gladly received his word** were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*

KJV

- **Without desire for God’s Word there is no entrance into everlasting life**

Acts 13:46

46Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. KJV

The Jews that Paul and Barnabus were ministering to in the synagogue rejected the Word of God. They did not have a desire to hear the Word of Life and thus they rejected or denied the Word. They that do not desire the Word reject the Word and pronounce judgment upon themselves and proclaim themselves unfit for everlasting life!

- **The gentiles embrace the Word**

Acts 13:47-49

47For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

48And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

*49And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.
KJV*

The hunger for the Word of God in the hearts of the gentiles worked eternal salvation. And without desire for the Word of God there can be no salvation. A hunger for the Word of God is evidence of one's salvation.

Acts 17:10-11

10And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

*11These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.
KJV*

- **Questions**

My lifestyle is busy: I don't have enough time to read and study God's Word. God will understand: won't He?

Job 23:11-12

11My foot hath held his steps, his way have I kept, and not declined.

*12Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.
KJV*

I find it interesting that Christian people seem to never have enough time to read and study God's Word. Yet, they can attend soccer tournaments and basketball games. They find time to read the newspaper and go out to eat. They never miss a meal and still they claim to be so busy that they cannot study the Word daily. Phooey!

I find that these Christians that I have spoken about are carnal and have no love for God's Word. We esteem sports more than God's Holy Word! We esteem our stomachs higher than God's Word; we esteem the news more than God's Word; there is nothing within us that craves the food that feeds the soul.

Job claimed that he had esteemed God's Word more than his necessary food. His stomach was not his god. He served the God of the universe and God delivered him out of the mess that he was in.

We have enough head knowledge to get us slaughtered by the enemy. We do not crave and cherish the eternal Word of Life more than physical pleasures. We hear enough of the Word of God at Church during our brief religious duties to puff us up in vain pride. We then have an assault upon our lives and we confess and confess the Word of God that is in our intellectual little minds and then we wonder why God doesn't deliver us like He did Job!

When will we realize that we must have the Word in our hearts not our minds? The Word in the heart produces that which is necessary to provide deliverance. God honors only the Word that is in the heart. Also the Word in the heart denotes action for faith without works is dead!

No time is no excuse! Don't even go there!

- **I don't understand God's Word. It confuses me so I don't read it much. God will understand my dilemma won't He?**

John 14:26

*26But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.
KJV*

God didn't leave us with a Word that we could not understand. When we receive Christ into our hearts we receive the blessed Holy Spirit. His mission is to instruct and teach us the Word of God! For us to use this excuse is to readily admit that we are unconverted to Christ.

God is not the author of confusion. He came that we might understand. God is not a respecter of persons. If He will reveal His Word to me He will reveal it to you. The question we need to ask ourselves is are we converted? Does the Holy Spirit reside within us? If He does then we need to converse with Him and ask Him to teach and instruct us in the Word of God.

Many times Christians use the excuse that I don't understand because they are too lazy to understand. They do not have the desire in their hearts to study to show themselves approved unto God. They want everything handed to them on a silver platter. God is not impressed with our laziness and apathy. He has provided every possible means that we might read and understand His Word. For us to say it is too hard to understand is to doubt the goodness of God.

If we ask God to reveal His Word, through His Holy Spirit, to us, will He refuse to do so? Never! God's nature is benevolent and His love is everlasting and He is good. He will not withhold anything good from them that walk uprightly before Him.

- **How often should I read God's Word?**

How often do we eat necessary food? If we desire to live a progressive Christian life then we must study the Word daily.

Luke 11:3

*3Give us day by day our daily bread.
KJV*

Acts 17:11

*11These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.
KJV*

The converted soul craves daily nourishment. If I am converted then I have within me the hunger for the Word of God and once per week will not sustain my spiritual life. Many Christians are defeated daily because they are malnourished and cannot maintain the spiritual battle because of the weakness caused by spiritual malnutrition.

God's Word is food for our souls. It builds faith that produces works. Without the Word daily we are apt to be defeated daily. A heart that desires the Word of God and loves the Word of God will study the Word daily. Most instances of rejection of the study of the Word of God is due to no desire for God's Word.

- **A true Love for the Brethren**

1 John 3:14

*14We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.
KJV*

This word "brethren" comes from the Greek word "adelphos" which means brothers in Christ. The message the Apostle is relaying is that we know that we are Christians because we now have a love for the brethren, which simply means we love our fellow brothers in Christ.

Now this word "love" is the Greek word "agapeo" which is the verb tense form of the Greek word "agape" in which is a noun. The word "agape" is the Greek word that is used to describe the love that God has for His own Son and the love that God has for us.

John 17:26

*26And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.
KJV*

Now in this passage Jesus is praying to the Father and in conclusion He brings out the issue of love. He states to His Father that the love He has shown to Himself might be in them (the Christians). This is the “agape” and “agapeo” love that the Apostle is speaking of in his Epistle.

We know that we have passed from death to life: This is proof or evidence of true conversion. This word know is an absolute! It is spoken in a past sense form showing that there will be knowledge of passing from death to life. Now this is speaking of spiritual death to spiritual life. We know that we all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. So we all have had our abode within the realm of spiritual death. But there is a passing from death to life by one Christ Jesus. We change our citizenship from being a citizen of darkness to a citizen of light. We see evidence of this change in the manifestation of love for the brethren or other children of God in our hearts.

The Apostle quickly points out to us that he that loveth not his brother abideth in death! Without this agapeo love for the beloved of God we are abiding in death. One of the evidences of true conversion is a God sent love for the body. A love for other Christian people.

In the next verse (15) the Apostle writes “*Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer!*” Wow! What does this mean? How can this be? This word hate is not the same word that we use for hate in this age we now live in. This word “hate” comes from the Greek word “miseo” which means to hate or to love less.

We know what the commandments that Jesus gave are.

Matthew 22:36-39

36Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

37Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38This is the first and great commandment.

39And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
KJV

So in drawing comparison knowing that the word for hate in the Greek is the word miseo which means to love less we can note if we are disobedient to what Jesus gave us command to love our neighbor (brother) as our self, we are abiding in death. In fact the Apostle states that we are a murderer.

This may step on our toes but the fact remains if we love our brothers in Christ less than we love ourselves we are abiding in death! We are groping in the darkness! The Apostle writes in chapter 1 verse 11 that “*he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.*”

How can we say that we are saved and cleansed when we do not have this “agapeo” or sacrificial love for our brothers? Many, many professing believers are deceived even now because they have no love for the brethren. Now our love is not just a vocal love. Many say that they love the brethren but their actions do not show love at all.

1 John 3:16

16Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

KJV

In the Greek we would read this as “*hereby we are sure of the love of God, because He laid down His life for us!*”

Wuest Translations says: “*In this we have come to know by experience the aforementioned love, because of that One on behalf of us laid down His soul. And, as for us, we have a moral obligation on behalf of our brethren to lay down our souls.*”

The very essence of these texts show the action or verb tense of this love. It shows this “agapeo” love in its fullest meaning. Faith works by love and without works faith is dead. Love spoken alone is not love. Love is more verb tense than it is noun tense. Love without an exhibition of action is not love at all.

This morning Churches across this great nation of ours are filled full of murderers! People who put on a face and give a cold hug or hand shake and shut up their bowels of compassion towards the needs of the brethren. These are blind and they are groping in darkness not yet converted. All the while they feel secure with their salvation and there is no one to confront their blindness!

As we have covered in previous weeks the evidences of being a Christian we have looked at how we must forsake the world completely. We also must have a complete change of nature and there must be a true love for the Word of God. But this attribute or evidence we are speaking of today is more significant than the others. I feel it is greater or maybe I should say it is the forerunner to the other evidences. Without love “agapeo” we are yet in darkness.

1 John 3:17-18

17But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

18My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

KJV

Churches across this land are filled with men and women that are plenteous in worldly good and they are not afraid to let you know it. Yet there are millions across the world and even in America that are on the brink of starvation as we speak. Yet these professing believers lock their idol’s away safely in a theft proof federally protected canister that we call banks. They call daily to check on their idols and they continue to sacrifice to the great green god and deposit more and more into the canister. Their idol brings them security and a feeling of well-being. Yet their idol is a personal idol for they cannot allow anyone else near. They will tell you all about their idol and how big of a canister it takes to hold their idol but they will not allow anyone to partake of their idol.

The Apostle states that whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? The Apostle then admonishes the brethren not to love in word or in tongue but in deed and truth. It is

not what we say that proves our love for the brethren but it is the actions that speak louder than words.

John 13:35

35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

KJV

Love is the most effective form and the purest form of evangelism. Love is the language that has no barriers. Love is the need that is a common need among all created moral beings. We were created to be loved, and yet, there is so little love in this present wicked world.

We are living in a world that offers sex as a substitute for love but sex is not love nor can it be substituted for love. Our children in this world we live in are crying out for love and expressing it by acting out in dangerous ways just for attention. They are craving love and trying to fill that emptiness with any type of acceptance.

Street gangs have been on the rise since the early 1980's. Young teen-age boys and girls are joining these deadly renegades just to fit in somewhere. They are craving and trying to fill that universal need for love. Yet they are not loved so they continue groping in darkness looking for that miracle of love that they long for.

Moms and Dads are working two jobs each trying to provide that American dream for themselves and their children but their children are crying out in rebellion against this worldly trend that is destroying the home. The children don't care about worldly good. They want love and that is universal.

You parents listen to me! Your children don't care if they wear Tommy Hilfiger or Rustler Jeans from Walmart. They are not concerned about how many square feet your home has. They are not worried about you driving them around in a 78 Caprice Station Wagon or a 1999 Lexus. They want Mom and Dad to be home with them and love them and teach them about Jesus.

Jesus Himself said that the world would know that we are His disciples by the love that we have for one another but today there will be thousands of Church splits in this great land of ours and many Moms and Dads will divorce right under our noses in the Church. Many homeless will remain homeless while many professing believers poke more and more green idol food into federally protected containers not caring a lick for the hurting.

This was not so in the early Church. We see a Church of power 2000 years ago. They operated in gifts of the Spirit and signs and wonders followed and confirmed the Word of God. But we must understand that they operated in a level of love that we do not understand in this day and age. They sacrificed for one another and esteemed each other better than themselves. Their faith worked by their love and the works proved their faith. They had all things in common but we want to have all things and leave out the in common. We want more and more to make us more and more comfortable. We even give with perverted selfish motives in hopes of God giving us back 100 times more than we gave so that we can have more and more to make us happier and happier all the while millions are entering the eternal infernal of hell! We don't think about the lost nor do we care about helping the needy as long as our idol is happy in it's little federally protected container!

Acts 4:33-35

33And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

34Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

35And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

KJV

Apostolic power is proceeded by Apostolic living and Apostolic giving. Verse 34 says that neither was there any among them that lacked! The poor were taken care of by the believers. Those who had worldly good opened up their bowels of compassion and all of the needs were met. There was power accompanying these men because there was love in their hearts and it was not love in tongue and word only but it was proven by their actions and deeds.

You see it doesn't do me any good for you to tell me that you love me while I am starving and you have \$20.00 in your pocket that would buy us both a meal. Now I am not speaking of communism here where the wealthy are stripped down to give to lazy unconcerned people. The Bible says that if you don't work you don't eat. But we have those amongst us today that are working as hard as they can and they are poorer than a Uwanda refugee! I believe that it is the responsibility of the local Church (in which you are a member) to provide for those who are unable to provide for themselves.

Also I want to point out that the Apostle's provided for those according to the need not the desire. We want to have Churches give us money to pay up our cable television. We want money from the Church to pay our utility bills to run our air-conditioners so we won't be too hot while we nap on the couch and eat Pringle potato chips and drink Dr. Pepper. We are spoiled rotten Americans and we don't even have a clue when it comes to hardship.

If you are hungry and have not food I will feed you but don't ask me to pay your cable bill or your cell-phone bill! You pay it yourself! If you are physically able (not in a wheel chair and plagued with cancer or mental retardation) get a job and work like I do for a living and you will be able to buy food for yourself. You see need and desire are two different things.

- **Questions**
- **I need money and I can't find a job**

See me after the service. I will have you one in two days at most. We are living in the land of opportunity. You might not like the work you do or you might not like the amount of the wage but you will make money. Your pride keeps your stomach empty. If you want a job you will be able to find one. Work is plentiful in this land. If you don't have a job it isn't because there is a lack of work. Truth be known, you are lazy! You don't want to work. You want a handout and I would be violating the Scripture to help you when you won't help yourself.

- **I have a job and work hard for my money. I earned it and I keep it!**

My friend who gave you the ability to make that money? Who is supplying the air that you breath to keep you alive so that you might work? Who gave you that job anyway? Who gave you the intellect to perform? Who gave you the physical stature to labor? Who provided for your employer that he might employ you? Your ability is not of your own doing. As easy as it came it can go. This is God's universe and all that inhabit it therein are His! All of the goodness that you enjoy is because of His mercy and longsuffering. It is not your money it is God's and He only made you a temporal steward of the money. How are your faring? How diligent are you? Are you esteeming your brother better than yourself or have you murdered your brother because his sacrifice was better than yours?

- **There is so much hurting humanity where do I start?**

The first important issue is that you realize there is a need. Then secondly your willingness to help. Then seek God and pray and see if there is specific needs that God wants you to assist with. Many of us seek and seek and hear nothing so we spend all of our increase on ourselves. The Bible says that we are to give as we have purposed in our hearts. I don't recollect it saying anything about God purposing it for you.....

When you give do so cheerfully for God loveth a cheerful giver. Know that when you give you are only a trustee over the finances that inevitably belong to God anyway. Use wisdom in the extension of your bowels of mercy. Don't be a fool!

Those that love God extend that love to the brethren.

- **A strict adherence (OBEDIENCE) to God's written Word**

We are continuing in our quest to know what constitutes a true conversion. We have titled this series the "evidence's of being a Christian". There are proofs or fruits that are manifest with every true convert of Jesus Christ. These evidences are concurrent with the nature of the Holy Spirit that indwells every true convert. The Word of God is very absolute in showing the necessity of manifesting these evidences.

We have studied and now we know that a good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. A tree will produce fruit that is concurrent with its nature. Now these evidences of being a Christian we have previously discussed are the good fruits that are grown upon a good tree. We have covered the following evidences in the past weeks.

1. A complete separation from the World
2. A complete change in nature
3. A true love for God's Word
4. A true love for the brethren
5. A strict adherence (obedience) to God's written Word

This series is given to us by the Holy Spirit of God that we might test or examine ourselves to see whether we be in the faith or not. There are many professing converts filling Churches across the land today that are professing something that they are not living. I call this vagrant Christianity. This is a foul stench to God, the Church and the world. The Apostle Paul gave us the orders to perform an examination of our own selves that we might see if we are in the faith or not.

This series of messages will give us the evidences that must be manifest within our lives if we are true converts to the faith. We know what the Apostle James said: "faith without works is dead." These evidences are actually the works that the Apostle was speaking of. Christianity without these evidences manifest in our lives is vagrant Christianity.

Now this morning we are going to speak of the evidence of "a strict adherence or obedience to God's written Word.

1 John 2:3-6

3And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

4He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

5But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

6He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

The Apostle in his Epistle is writing that one of the evidences that prove that we know Jesus is that we keep His commandments. In the 5th verse we see that by this we will know that we are in Him: if we keep His Word!

There are many in the Church in this late hour that are an epitome of verse 4. They do not keep the Word of God except when it is convenient. The Word of God says that they are liars. They say that they know the Lord but they only know the Lord in a historical sense. They do not obey the mandates of the Word. They love but it is conditional. They obey when it is convenient. They will give up nothing nor will they deny themselves and take up their own cross. They are liars and yet they are deceived. I read the following over the Internet.

Funny how a \$20 bill looks so big when you take it to church, but so small when you take it to the market.

Funny how long it takes to serve God for an hour, but how quickly a team plays 60 minutes of basketball.

Funny how long a couple of hours spent at church are, but how short they are when watching a movie.

Funny how we can't think of anything to say when we pray, but don't have difficulty thinking of things to talk about to a friend.

Funny how we get thrilled when a baseball game goes into extra innings, but we complain when a sermon is longer than the regular time.

Funny how hard it is to read a chapter in the bible, but how easy it is to read 100 pages of a best selling novel.

Funny how people want to get a front seat at any game or concert, but scramble to get a back seat at church services.

Funny how we need 2 or 3 weeks advance notice to fit a church event into our schedule, but can adjust our schedule for other events at the last moment.

Funny how hard it is for people learn a simple gospel well enough to tell others, but how simple it is for the same people to understand and repeat gossip.

Funny how we believe what the newspaper says, but question what the Bible says.

Funny how everyone wants to go to heaven provided they do not have to believe, or to think, or to say, or do anything.

Funny how you can send a thousand 'jokes' through e-mail and they spread like wildfire, but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing.

FUNNY, ISN'T IT?

Are you laughing?

Are you thinking?

Why is it that thousands of professing Christians feel that they do not have to obey the written Word of God? They are heavily grace minded by they do not see how the Children of Israel were chastised and punished when they were disobedient to the Word of the Lord.

There is a great deception within the Church in this hour. Our pews are filled with people that fast their spirits and feed their bodies instead of those that fast the body and feed the spirit. We have heads full of the Gospel of Christ Jesus but our actions do not give any evidence of being like Christ Jesus.

Psalms 119:4

4Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently.

This passage of scripture grasps my heart because I believe that it shows the heart of God in relaying His mandates to His people. The inner message is that we as born-again Christians are to keep the "precepts" Hebrew "OT:6490 *piquwd (pik-kood)*" which means commandments or ordinances. But that is not the end of the mandate. God is not only concerned with our obedience. He is equally concerned about our diligence in obedience. This word "diligently" comes from the Hebrew word "*meod---meh-ode*" which means much force, abundance, exceedingly. With might, exceedingly much!

So the will of God not only requires self-denial but it mandates the diligent or exceedingly abundant application of self-denial! Diligent self-denial! This means that we don't crawl towards doing the will of God. We don't murmur and complain and mope as we near the cross that Christ has given us but we run towards this mandate as it lies before us with zeal and fervor and much force!

God is not as concerned about our keeping His commands and statutes as He is with the motive and attitude that we accomplish them. We must take on the nature of Jesus Christ. He did not mope as He accomplished the will of the Father! Listen to this:

Hebrews 12:2

2Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

KJV

This is the essence of what we read back in Psalms 119:4. This is keeping the precepts or will of the Father with all diligence. This is running towards the will of the Father with all force and abundance exceedingly! Jesus not only accomplished the will of the Father but He did it with zeal and force. Who for the joy.....that was set before Him.....endured the cross.....there was no slothfulness nor was their any moaning and groaning. He ran towards the will of the Father even when He knew that it was going to cost Him His life.

You see embracing and or being obedient to the will of the Father and His Word with this kind of enthusiasm and fervor is Christ like. No matter what the suffering, no matter what the cost, no matter what the pain, no matter what the sorrow, no matter where the location, no matter what the situation, you embrace the Word of the Lord with exceedingly great joy!

With the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit comes the abiding desire and ability to obey the Word of the Lord. Before the Spirit of the Lord comes to take residency in the heart of a believer there must first be unconditional surrender to the will of the Lord. That rich young ruler was not allowed to follow Christ because he was unwilling to surrender all to Jesus. Many today are unwilling to surrender all to Jesus Christ. It is conditional surrender. They will surrender to Jesus Christ as long as He doesn't call them to preach. They will surrender as long as they don't have to talk about Jesus at their jobs. They will surrender as long as they don't have to go to a foreign mission field. Conditional surrender is not acceptable in the sight of the Lord.

Jesus said in Luke 9 that if any man comes after Him they must first take up their cross and deny themselves and follow Him. Self-denial denotes unconditional surrender! That means that what you have planned is not important and what He has planned for you is everything. Whether you are locked up in a jail in a foreign country for the sake of the Gospel or preaching on the streets of New York City you avail. Whether He has called you to work in a small Church cleaning the bathrooms or teaching the multitudes in open-air crusades you are content. His will and not yours. **John Wesley's covenant form** sticks in my mind even to this day.

I am no longer my own but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt, put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee, let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing, I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, Oh glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, thou are mine and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant that I have made on earth, let it be ratified in Heaven.

Self-denial is an attribute of obedience to God's Word. It simply means that we are to do His will and not ours. Adonarium Judson was the son of a prominent Congregational minister in the 1800's. He later was educated and attended seminary and graduated with outstanding honors. He was later offered the pulpit of a large Church in Boston that would afford him comfort and prestige and finances. He would have been known as a prominent minister as well and all of his needs, wants and comforts would have been met. But God had another plan for Adonarium Judson. It was not the will of the Lord for Adonarium to fill the pulpit in the large Boston Church. God wanted Adonarium to evangelize the country of Burma.

God called this well-educated man of the cloth to dangers. He was called to sufferings beyond human perception. He was called to minister 6 years before he saw his first convert. He was called to suffer for two years in prison. He was called to translate the Bible into Burmese. You see obedience to the Word of the Lord may not be as you plan. It may require your life being given to martyrdom at a young age but obedience to the Word of the Lord is a necessary evidence of being a True Christian.

Ezekiel 36:27

27And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

KJV

The Prophet writes by the unction of the Holy Ghost that in that day (the day of salvation) that He will put His Spirit within us and cause us to walk in His statutes and we shall keep His judgments and do them!

This word cause is the Hebrew word “*asah*” which means “to do, to accomplish, to fashion, to make”. The Holy Spirit of God brings with Him the ability to do when He comes! For me to say that I am born-again of the Spirit of God and to say that I cannot be obedient to His Word is to say that God is a liar and the truth is not in Him. How blasphemous!

The Holy Spirit’s nature within us causes us to be obedient to the Word of God and the Will of God. The text concludes by saying that we shall keep His judgments and do them. That word “shall keep” comes from the Hebrew word “*shamar*” and it means “to hedge about as with thorns”. The Hebrew word for “judgments” is “*mishpat*” and it means divine law. And do or accomplish them.

It is not within our natural human ability to be obedient to the Word of the Lord. We all were children of disobedience before we were converted to Christ Jesus. But now we have denied ourselves and laid all down for Christ and upon our bowing and humbly accepting He came and took up residence within us. His Spirit within us causes or accomplish the Will of the Father in complete zealous obedience to His Word and His will!

His Holy Spirit abiding within us guides us into all obedience according to all that is written therein. He is the one that brings our success!

- **An inner desire to “reproduce”**

Genesis 1:26-28

26And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

28And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. KJV

We have been studying for the last several weeks the “evidences of being a Christian”. We know that God’s Word says that our faith must produce works that confirm our faith. James said that faith without works is dead.

Yet there are thousands of Churches today that are filled with satisfied Christians who get their quick fix from the pulpit and go away into their own little world never producing anything good.

The Apostle Paul exhorted us to examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith. We need to perform a personal check-up to see if we are producing the evidences that prove our Christianity. If my vines are void of fruit then I am not converted to Christ. True converts to Jesus Christ have separated from the world; had a complete change in nature; a love for God’s Word; a love for the brethren; a strict adherence to God’s written Word; and a need to reproduce. If I do not manifest these attributes within my own life then I cannot claim to be converted to Jesus Christ. My vine is void of fruit!

The purpose of this series of teachings is to provoke us to examine ourselves to see if we have been deceived. It is not the intentions of this series of messages to make us look at other brothers and sisters because it is hard for us to see the splinter in our brother’s eye when we have a plank stuck in ours. We know that the Word of the Lord says in Peter’s Epistle:

1 Peter 4:17

*17For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God:
KJV*

This is referring to personal judgment. We need to examine ourselves and see if we are producing the evidence that is mandatory for true converts to produce. We cannot lay claim to Christianity by vocal profession only. Our actions must prove our faith and none less is acceptable to God.

Now we see in Genesis that God set forth a principle that is still applicable today. It is the “spiritual” principle of reproduction after it’s own kind. We see that God spoke for the animals to produce after their own kind and also the fruit trees and the grasses of the field. Now this is a perpetual principle that was set in order by God some thousands of years ago.

Then He told Adam to replenish the earth and to be fruitful and multiply! Now this word for fruitful comes from the Hebrew word “*parah*” (paw-row’); a primitive root; to bear fruit (literally or figuratively):

KJV-bear, bring forth (fruit), (be, cause to be, make) fruitful, grow, increase.

So in essence what God told Adam was to bear fruit! Fruit after it’s own kind! You see a tree can only produce fruit after it’s own kind. As we have said in our Thursday night teaching; a peach tree cannot produce oranges! Each tree will produce after it’s own kind. This is a spiritual principle that was placed into order thousands of years ago by the hand of God.

So when God told Adam to be fruitful and replenish the earth He was telling Adam to produce fruit after His own kind and to replenish the earth with the fruit after his own kind. Now it is much the same in the Kingdom of God. We are created in His image and this spiritual principle

is as much relevant today as it was 6000 years ago. God has not changed His mind concerning mankind being fruitful and producing after our own kind.

Now as born-again Christians there is an inner desire to reproduce. Just as a young married couple have that God given inner desire to reproduce offspring we as born-again Believers have been given an inner desire to reproduce in the spiritual realm. God has mandated by spiritual precept the necessity of spiritual reproduction. The Spirit of God that abides within me prompts me and woos me to reproduce in the Spirit realm.

Now we have thousands upon thousands of professing converts to Jesus Christ that are seemingly sterile! They feel that it is not their responsibility to reproduce spiritual life. They feel like it is the sole responsibility of the Pastor or the Evangelist or the Prophet or Teacher or Apostle to reproduce spiritual life. This is a mistaken notion and void of scriptural basis! The Apostle Paul stated in his letter to the Ephesians that the 5 fold ministry was given for the perfecting of the saints and not the sinners! Sinners are to be won by Believers as well as ministers!

God has placed into the Spirit of every regenerated man the ability and the need to multiply with fruit after it's own kind. Every woman that is fertile or barren is in torment because God has placed into every woman the desire and need to reproduce and a woman that is sterile is in torments!

1 Samuel 1:1-2

1:1 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim, of mount Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah, the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephrathite:

2 And he had two wives; the name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah: and Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.

KJV

1 Samuel 1:10

10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.

Barrenness is bitterness for a woman that was created to reproduce. God created us as born-again believers to reproduce after our own kind but there are many that are as barren as Hannah. Yet they are not broken like Hannah was broken over her barrenness. How can we be casually comfortable to sit idly by and fight against a spiritual principle that is on the inside of us?

Women that are barren are thus because of some deficiency or abnormality in the flesh or body. There is something that is within them that is disrupted or disengaged that will not allow their bodies to reproduce as God had intended them to reproduce. The torment rests in two areas: 1. The body was intended and designed to reproduce. Barrenness is contrary to the intent and design of the body. 2. The need! God placed into the moral fibers of mankind the need to reproduce. Hannah was in bitterness of soul and she was sorely vexed. Why? Because God had placed into her inner parts and soul the need to reproduce and the desire to nurse a youngster after her own kind.

Any created moral being is in torment when they are operating beyond the scope of their purpose and design in creation. There are many seekers in the Church in this hour. There are many running from revival to revival and from Church to Church seeking rest from this distress of soul.

They are vexed in soul and they are weeping bitterly in discomfort but the very antidote that brings the fulfillment their souls long for is not to be found.

They attend one service after another in search of rest and they feel there is something missing and thus they go away yet distressed. They lay blame on the Church or the minister but they are only vexed because they are operating beyond their creation and design. They have that God given inner desire and need to reproduce after their own kind and they are neglecting that desire and need and repressing it back and avoiding it. Yet they are barren and the vexation of soul cannot and will not go away. These jump from meeting to meeting and from service to service and from Church to Church. They criticize and blame but yet they are to blame. The relief came to Hannah when she wept, fasted and prayed and produced fruit after her own kind!

Barren mothers look at other fruitful mothers with great longing and possibly jealousy. Sometimes they are bitter towards those that are fertile and producing fruit. They may sit and watch a mother hold and caress her new-born baby with great gushings of sorrow and pain. Holding another woman's child is not enough. The fruit of another woman's womb will not satisfy the inner desire and need or craving deep within to produce of her own kind.

This is the great distress on a great and many numbers of distressed believers. They look at the fruitfulness of another ministry and with great yearning they long for this fruitfulness. They attend meeting after meeting and revival after revival and Church after Church only to be more and more irritated. They see these spiritual births and these new mothers bouncing their offspring on their knees with great joy and fulfillment. Jealousy rises up within many of these and they storm off to another meeting in hopes of being satisfied but satisfaction will not come.

The only thing that will fulfill the longing of soul that is embedded deep within the heart of man is to produce after its own kind! When will these men and women realize that they can produce themselves? Why don't they produce? There are many reasons but the most are unwilling to travail in labor! They are unwilling to wrestle with God and travail in the Spirit for these births. No woman gave birth without travail! Travail is lonesome, painful, relentless, unforgiving, uncaring, merciless. It produces great distress and great painfulness but it produces children.

Matthew 25:14-30 *The Parable of the Talents*

In these scriptures we see the parable of the Talents. The Lord had given to one man 5 talents and to another 2 and another 1 talent. The men that were given 5 and 2 talents reproduced after their own kind. The man with 5 produced 5 talents. The man with 2 produced 2 talents but the man that was given one talent hid that talent and did not allow the course of reproduction to run its course. The steward was foolish and he was not fruitful nor did he multiply.

We see the disgust of the Lord in the end of the parable. This servant was called a slothful, wicked servant. Why? He gave back all that the Lord had given to him. He did not take away from what the Lord had trusted him with. Why was he labeled a wicked servant? Because he was operating outside the scope of His design and purpose. We have been created by God to be fruitful and to multiply or reproduce.

Reproduction is the evidence of the Holy Spirit!

Acts 2:4

4And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, KJV

Acts 2:41

“and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

KJV

We hear our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ admonishing the Apostles to tarry in Jerusalem until they be endued with power from on high. Then we see the Holy Spirit being given to men and immediately the reproduction process starts. Where the Holy Spirit is manifest there is a reproduction of souls.

For us to claim to be filled with the Spirit of God while we are yet barren is to say that the Holy Spirit has changed and His power and mission is different than it was then. We have been given the commission to go into all of the world to be fruitful and multiply and replenish.

All through out the ages the men that have walked with God the closest and who have known Him in the most intimate way have been the most fruitful. Are you a wanderer? Are you looking for fulfillment in all of the wrong places? Are you critiquing the Church and the minister when you are the one living outside the scope of your creation? Are you barren? Are you reproducing for the Kingdom of God? Have you made any effort to increase the talent the Lord has given you? Or do you sit in Church week after week hearing the Word of the Lord without giving it out freely? Are you feasting your body and fasting your spirit? Are you a sluggard?

We are responsible for every word spoken in these messages. We are responsible for all of the Christian books that we read. All of our teaching and knowledge will raise up against us in judgment. Many of you have been given much over the many years of your adult Christian life but you have not produced anything with that which you have been given. Much is going to be required of you because much has been given.

As we end this series of messages we must know that these six evidences are not the only evidences of being a true covert to Jesus Christ. We must know that there are many other evidences that show one's faith but these were prevalent and necessary to bring to the surface. These are the test questions. Did you pass or fail the test? Are these evidences in your life? Are you: Completely separate from the world; completely changed in your nature; in love with the written Word of God; in love with the brethren; adhering to God's written Word; reproducing after your own kind?

If you have answered these questions yes then there is fruit on your vines. If you cannot answer these questions with complete honesty and sincerity saying that this fruit is coming from your life then you my friend are unconverted and the light is not abiding within you.