

Seven Signs of a True Believer

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1. He that believes in Christ has peace and hope in his heart.

The Bible says, "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ," and, "We who have believed enter that rest" (Rom. 5:1; Heb. 4:3).

The believer is a person whose sins are forgiven and all his iniquities are removed. His conscience is no longer burdened with the guilt of his sins. He is reconciled to God and is one of His friends. He can look forward to death, judgment, and eternity without fear. The fear of death is taken away. On the Day of Judgement, when the books are opened, there will be nothing laid to his charge. He will be in heaven in eternity. He has a sure hope of entering heaven; he is going to a city which cannot be moved. He may not fully understand all these privileges yet. He may often have doubts and fears, and at times wonder whether he will really enter heaven. He is like a child who is the heir to a great fortune, though at the moment he may not be aware of it. But, despite all his doubts and fears, he has a real, solid, true hope of heaven (Rom. 5:5).

2. He that believes in Christ has a new heart.

It is written, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!; To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God; Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God" (2 Cor. 5:17; John 1:12, 1 John v.1.)

A believer no longer has the same nature with which he was born. He is changed, renewed, and transformed after the image of his Lord and Saviour. The person who cares only about the things of the flesh has no saving faith. The person who is a true believer is born again; he is a converted person; he is no longer the person he used to be. An unchanged person is not a believer.

3. He that believes in Christ is a holy person in heart and life.

It is written that God “purifies the heart by faith,” and that Christians are “sanctified by faith.” The Bible also says, “Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure” (Acts 15:9; 26:18; 1 John 3:3). A believer loves what God loves and hates what God hates. His heart’s desire is to walk in the way of God’s commandments and to keep himself from all manner of evil. His wish is to follow after the things which are just, and pure, and honest, and lovely, and of good report, and to cleanse himself from all filthiness of flesh and spirit. He falls far short of his aim in many things. He finds his daily life a constant fight with indwelling corruption. But he fights on and resolutely refuses to serve sin. Where there is no holiness, we may be sure there is no saving faith. An unholy man is not a believer!

4. He that believes in Christ works godly works.

It is written that faith expresses itself through love (Gal. v. 6). The person who is a true believer will never be an idle man; he will not be a man who sits still, happy in his Christianity. True faith will move him to walk in the steps of his Master, who “went about doing good” (Acts 10:38). In one way or another, his faith will make him work. The works that he does may attract no notice from the world. They may seem insignificant to many people.

But they are not forgotten by the Lord Jesus. He notices a cup of cold water given for His sake. Where there is no working love, there is no faith. A lazy, selfish Christian has no right to regard himself as a believer!

5. He that believes in Christ overcomes the world.

It is written that “Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith” (1 John v.4).

A true believer is not ruled by the world’s standard of right or wrong. He is independent of the world’s opinion. He cares little for the world’s praise. He is not discouraged when the world turns against him. He does not seek the world’s pleasures. He is not ambitious for the world’s rewards. He looks for eternal things. He sees in Christ the eternal Saviour; he sees the Day of Judgement coming, and he waits for the crown of glory that does not fade away. The sight of these is far more important to him than the things of this world. If a person is ruled by the

world and the desires of the flesh, then he is not a true believer. The man who seeks after the things of this world only and desires the things of this world only is not a true believer.

6. He that believes in Christ has a testimony in his heart that he is a child of God.

It is written that "Anyone who believes in the Son of God has this testimony in his heart" (1 John 5:10). This sign requires very careful handling. The witness of the Spirit is unquestionably a very difficult subject. But I cannot shrink from declaring my own firm persuasion, that a true believer always has inward feelings about himself, feelings which are connected with his faith, and flow from his faith, feelings of which unbelievers know nothing at all. He has the Spirit of adoption, by which he is reconciled to God and knows God as his Father, and looks up to Him without fear. He has the testimony of his conscience, sprinkled with Christ's blood, that, although he is weak, he rests on Christ. He has hopes, joys, fears, sorrows, consolations, and expectations, of which he knew nothing before he believed. It is true that feelings can be very deceitful. But where there are no inward religious feelings, there is no faith. A man who knows nothing of an inward, spiritual Christianity is not yet a believer!

7. He that believes in Christ will regard Christ as very precious.

It is written, "To you who believe, Christ is precious" (1 Peter 2:7). This text deserves special notice. It does not say "Christianity" is precious, or the "Gospel" is precious, or "salvation" is precious. It says Christ Himself is precious.

A believer's religion does not consist in outward things and outward beliefs. It consists of union, communion, and fellowship with an actual living Person: Jesus the Son of God. It is a life of faith in Jesus, confidence in Jesus, leaning on Jesus, drawing out of the fullness of Jesus, speaking to Jesus, working for Jesus, loving Jesus, and looking for Jesus to come again. The person who is a true believer knows Christ as His personal Friend. He that knows nothing of Christ as his own Priest, Physician, and Redeemer is not a believer and cannot call himself a Christian.

Reader, I place these seven signs of a believer before you, and I ask you to consider them well. These are the signs that a person should look for in himself when he examines himself.

Where the seven signs, of which I have just been speaking, are completely missing, the person is not a believer. He may be called a Christian. He may have been baptised in the Christian faith and be a member of a Christian church. But if he knows nothing of peace with God, conversion of heart, newness of life, victory over the world, then he is not a believer. He is still dead in trespasses and sins. Unless he is born again, he will spend eternity in hell.

But the person who has these seven signs in him is a true believer. He may be poor and needy in this world, but he is rich in the sight of God. He may be despised and rejected by man, but he is honourable in the sight of the King of kings. He is travelling towards heaven. He has a mansion ready for him in the Father's house. He is cared for by Christ while on earth. He will be owned by Christ before assembled worlds, in the life which is to come.