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# ***Essential Christianity:*** ***Don't Be Deceived***

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*New Hope Community Church  
Dr. Jack Bracy, October 14, 2018*

## **Too Easy to Deceive**

“Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons.” **1 Timothy 4:1, NLT**

## **What Makes Christianity Christian?**

Authentic Christianity...

### **1. Centers on Jesus and the Cross**

“There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.” **Acts 4:12, NLT**

“For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes...” **Romans 1:16, NLT**

### **2. Claims That the Bible and Only the Bible as Our Source of Authority**

**“We” The Church Are To...  
Test the Spirits**

“Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.” **1 John 4:1, NLT**

<sup>24</sup> So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father.

## Search the Scriptures

“And the people of Berea ... listened eagerly to Paul’s message... searched the Scriptures day after day to see if Paul and Silas were teaching the truth.” *Acts 17:11, NLT*

## Abide in the Word

“Jesus said to the people who believed in him, “**You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings.** And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” *John 8:31–32, NLT*

### The Word of God and the Spirit of God Protect Us from Deception and Lead Us into Eternal Life

“Anyone who wanders away from this teaching has no relationship with God. But anyone who remains in the teaching of Christ has a relationship with both the Father and the Son.”  
*2 John 9, NLT*

<sup>24</sup> So you must remain faithful to what you have been taught from the beginning. If you do, you will remain in fellowship with the Son and with the Father.

### 3. Seeks to Be A Community of Faith

*A Community of Faith Has These Characteristics...*

#### Walking in The Light

A Living Faith

Changed Lives

Loving People

Making Disciples

How Do I Know It’s the Holy Spirit?

<sup>27</sup> But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ.

“But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.” **John 14:26, NLT**

1. He Will Always Confirm What the Bible Has Already Said
2. He Will Lead You to A Closer Relationship with Jesus
3. He Will Lead You to Proclaim Jesus