
Essential Christianity: Am I Really a Christian?

*New Hope Community Church
Dr. Jack Bracy, October 21, 2018*

The Test of Authentic Christianity: Change

^{2:29} If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who practices righteousness has been born of him. *ESV*

True Salvation Begins with The Character and Righteousness of God

When I Get God in Me I Get Changed

^{3:1a} See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are

What Started Back Then (Age 15), Is A Work That Continues
Throughout My Life

² Beloved, we are God's children now, and **what we will be** has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is

My Identity:

Now: A Child of God Clothed in Mortal Flesh

Then: I Will Be???

⁵ You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin.

How I Exercise My Faith Determines Whether
I Live in Victory or Defeat

³ And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure

^{3:1b} But the people who belong to this world don't recognize that we are God's children because they don't know him **NLT**

⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous

If I Am Struggling in My Relationship with God, I Don't Focus on Trying to Be Good. I Focus on Making My Relationship with God Better

⁴ Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness... ⁶ No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either **seen** him or **known** him... ⁸ Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ **No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God.**

Everyone Sins – But Am I Fighting the Spiritual Battle by Faith or Am I Working for The Other Side? *v8a*

If I Struggle to Know Whether I Am Really A Believer...

¹⁰ By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

Possibilities ...

1. I Haven't Surrendered to Christ
2. I Am Not Abiding in The Word, Prayer and Worship
3. I Grew Up in A Family Where There Was No Security and/or I Suffered Physical, Sexual, or Emotional Abuse
4. I Struggle with Depression

When Feelings (Lies) Contradict Facts (The Truth of God's Word), I Choose Faith

