

Fruit of Regeneration; Character of Saving Faith that Works; Religious Affections

(Instigated by Edwards & Expounded on by MacArthur Study Bible)
2 Corinthians 13:5

*First, before beginning your study, PRAY and ask God to search your heart and reveal to you the truth about yourself, based on His Word (Ps 139:23-24).

*Second, look up each Scripture reference and honestly evaluate your spiritual condition.

*Third, under each heading answer the questions: Is this true of me? On what do I base my answer?

I. Evidences that neither Prove nor Disprove the realities of TRUE, SAVING FAITH:

- A. Visible Morality (Matt 10:16-21; 23:27; Lk 18:9-12)
- B. Intellectual Knowledge (Rom 1:21; 2:17ff)
- C. Religious Involvement (Matt 25:1-10)
- D. Active Ministry (Matt 7:21-24)
- E. Conviction of Sin (Acts 24:25; Matt 27:3-9-Judas)
- F. Time of Decision (Lk 8:11-15)

II. Fruit/validations of GENUINE, SAVING, AUTHENTIC FAITH:

-desires which must be produced by God Himself...

- A. Love for God (Ps 42:1ff; 73:25; Lk 10:27; Rom 8:7; 2 Cor 5:14-15; Matt 10:37-39...more than anyone else)
- B. Repentance from Sin (Ps 32:5; 51; Prov 28:13; 2 Cor 7:8-11; 1 Jn 1:8-10; Matt 3:8...religion from the heart)
- C. Genuine Humility (Ps 51:17; Matt 5:1-12...recognition of spiritual bankruptcy & poverty, thirsting after an alien righteousness; Jas 4:6, 9ff)
- D. Devotion to God's Glory (Ps 105:3; 115:1; Isa 43:7; 48:10ff; Jer 9:23-24; 1 Cor 10:31; Rom 11:33-36)
- E. Continual Prayer (Lk 18:1; Eph 6:18; Phil 4:6ff; 1 Thess 5:17; 1 Tim 2:1-4; Jas 5:16-18; Matt 7:7...asking, seeking, knocking)
- F. Selfless Love (Jn 13:1-17; 1 Jn 2:9ff; 3:14; 4:7ff; Matt 5:44...even enemies, made possible by redeemed heart; Matt 22:39)
- G. Separation from the World (1 Cor 2:12; Jas 4:4ff; 1 Jn 2:15-17)
- H. Spiritual Growth (Lk 8:15; Jn 15:1-6; Eph 4:12-16; 1 Jn 2:12-14)
- I. Obedient Living (Matt 7:21, 24ff; Jn 14:15, 23; 15:14ff; Rom 16:26; 1 Pet 1:2, 22; 1 Jn 2:3-5)
- J. Hunger for God's Word (1 Pet 2:1-3)
- K. Transformation of Life (2 Cor 5:17; Eph 4:24ff; Rom 8:1-17)

*Remember, that each of the evidences listed under #II are the fruit of the work of the Holy Spirit (Jn 3:1-5); they are what the Holy Spirit produces in a person's life and not the result of self effort. If list #I is true to some degree, but list #II is not, then cry out to God and ask Him to forgive you of your sin based on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and to give you a heart to know and love Him (Rom 10:8-13; Lk 18:13-14).

*Assurance of salvation, based on God's evaluation, as in #II, trumps any false assurance based on time of decision, visible morality, knowledge, ministry involvement, conviction of sin, etc...

Assurance of salvation should not be looked at as some perceived "right", based on a time of decision, but instead should be embraced as a gift graciously bestowed on those exhibiting fruit of regeneration. This gift of assurance can be sacrificed through carnal living or even ignorance of Scriptural truths, as doubts are the natural bi-product. There is the reality of spurious professions of faith (Matt 7) made by those who fall away (Matt 13:19-21; 1 Jn 2:19). Therefore, we must apply ourselves to growth in Gospel graces (2 Pet 1:5-9), perseverance in faith and righteousness and manifestation of religious affections, such as mentioned above.

You and I are responsible before God to be diligent concerning our calling and election (2 Pet 1:5, 10).

Revised 9/2/15