

## ***THE RIGHT KIND OF FAITH*** ***(Scriptural Examples of a Counterfeit Faith)***

Tragically, there are those who say, "I know Him" (the Lord) and are found to be "liars" (1 Jn. 2:4). These are spiritual LIARS and the apostle John who was inspired to write 1 John 2:4 also wrote Revelation 21:8.

### **Revelation 21:8 (NKJV)**

**8** But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Note some Biblical examples of a Counterfeit faith...

1. CAIN: He worshipped the Lord (Gen. 4:3); he conversed with the Lord (Gen. 4:6); he rejected the Lord (Gen. 4:16); he was of the wicked one and serves as an example of one who does not have eternal life (1 Jn. 3:12, 15; also cf. Prov. 15:8; 21:27; Heb. 11:4). NOTE: Cain certainly believed INTELLECTUALLY in the Lord and in fact was a phony worshiper. So, we see from this example that a saving faith is more than simply OBJECTIVELY acknowledging the reality of the true God.

2. PHARAOH: He confessed his sin and recognized the LORD as righteous (Ex. 9:27). Yet he did not really reverence God and his heart remained hardened (Ex. 9:30, 34). Pharaoh again admitted his sin and recognized the LORD, but not as HIS personal God (Ex. 10:16-17).

In the N.T. Pharaoh is an example of those who harden themselves and reject God thereby being fitted to destruction (Rom. 9:17-18, 22).

Pharaoh is an example of those who acknowledge God and their sin only because they are hurting or because of something they want. Intellectually and emotionally, he was forced to admit to God's Lordship, but his WILL/HEART was not there in terms of allegiance.

3. KORAH: He volunteered for service, considered himself holy, and recognized the LORD (Num. 16:3). But in challenging the God-ordained leadership of Moses and Aaron the LORD showed who was truly holy and who was wicked, who were His and who was not (Num. 16:5, 26). Korah is an example of those who are twice dead, to whom is reserved the

blackness of darkness forever (Jude 11-13). He claimed to believe in and serve the LORD but his whole life was really self-oriented.

4. BALAAM: He came across as a man of some convictions (Num. 22:18); he met with the Lord (Num. 23:16); he spoke of and for the Lord (Num. 23:19); he bowed in "reverence" and admitted his sin (Num. 22:31-34). However, Peter used him as an example of those for whom black darkness is reserved forever (2 Pet. 2:15-17). He certainly believed in the Lord in a sense, but God was NOT his LORD!

5. THE PEOPLE OF ISAIAH'S DAY: They gave lip service and went through the motions, but their hearts were far from God (Isa. 29:13). Jesus applied Isaiah's message to the religious people of His day saying they were hypocrites, and their worship was in vain (Mt. 15:7-9). These people certainly claimed to believe and practiced a form of godliness (cf. 2 Tim. 3:5).

6. THE PEOPLE OF EZEKIEL'S DAY: They came to the worship services and acted like God's people. They listened to the message and professed to embrace it, but their heart was going in another direction. Their religion was a means of entertainment with no real thought of applying it to their lives (Ezek. 33:31-32). James says that if we are hearers only and not doers of the Word, then we deceive ourselves (James 1:22).

7. JUDAS- A CLASSIC COUNTERFEITER: He knew the reality of God's power in his life in a most unusual and unique way (Matt. 10:1); he preached in the name of the Lord (Matt. 10:6); and he was the man who had the honored position of being the group's treasurer in charge of the bag (Jn. 13:29). No one suspected that Judas might be a betrayer and in fact, he had everyone (except the Lord) so fooled that they had no idea what he was up to when he left the Last Supper (Matt. 26:20-24; Jn. 13:22, 28; John 6:64). Judas admitted his sin and hung himself (Matt. 27:3-5). Jesus called Judas a devil and the son of perdition (John. 6:70; 17:12); pronounced woe upon him (Lk. 22:22); and said it would have been good for him never to have been born (Matt. 26:24).

8. MATTHEW 7:21-23: Many will say "Lord, Lord" and even go through the motions of serving Him, but it's not real in their hearts. Calling Jesus "Lord" and knowing Him as "Lord" are two different things! While calling Jesus Lord these people lead a double life and are said by Jesus to be those

“who practice lawlessness”. To them Jesus will say “I never knew you”. (cf. Titus 1:16; Revelation 2:9).

9. MATTHEW 23:25-27: Jesus pronounced WOE (indicating severe judgment against) on the religious hypocrites who tried to make it look good on the outside, but on the inside they were full of uncleanness and hypocrisy. Jesus was the hardest on the religious hypocrites! Hypocrisy is pretending to be what you are not and thus exhibits a counterfeit faith (cf. Job 13:16).

10. LUKE 8:13, 15: Some initially receive the Word with joy, but there is no root. They believe for a while, but when the testing of temptation comes, they fall away. This is in contrast to those who receive the Word with an honest and good heart, and who hold fast and bear fruit with perseverance.

***NOTE: THE EXPECTATION IS THAT THE GENUINE WILL PERSEVERE AND WILL BEAR FRUIT! We are not saved by “fruit” but rather by faith ALONE! However, if the faith is real there will be good fruit that follows. As the Reformers were known to say, “We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves does not remain alone.”***