

## ***BIBLICAL ASSURANCE – PART THREE***

As noted previously, biblical assurance has both an internal and an external dynamic. Internal evidence includes: 1) the internal witness of the Spirit; 2) an internal obedience to the faith; 3) an internal “true worshiper”; 4) an internal love for Jesus; 5) an internal love of the brethren; 6) the internal New Covenant ministry of the Spirit; 7) an internal new nature; and 8) internal spiritual insight. But these internal (subjective) realities are then demonstrated in external (objective) ways.

### ***External/Objective Indicators***

#### **1) *Obedience to Christ’s Commands***

##### **Hebrews 5:9 (NKJV)**

**9** And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

##### **1 John 2:3–4 (NKJV)**

**3** Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

**4** He who says, “I know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

##### **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.”

The apostle John wrote both 1 John and the book of Revelation. John defines a LIAR as one who claims to know Christ and yet, shows NO consistent pattern of obedience. Such a person is merely a professor and doesn’t really know Christ.

#### **2) *A Follower of Christ***

##### **John 10:27 (NKJV)**

**27** My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

In the Great Commission text of Matt. 28:18-20, Jesus began by asserting that He has all authority in heaven and on earth (cf. 18). Building on that truth, He commands, **“Go therefore and make disciples of all the**

***nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”*** (cf. v. 19).

Note it carefully! Jesus commands that they baptize DISCIPLES. The word **disciple** means “*follower*” or “*believing follower*”.

Without exception in the NT, when people believed on Christ, they were IMMEDIATELY baptized. This is the consistent pattern according to Christ’s command. These new converts were immediately seen to be those who had recognized Jesus’ sovereign authority (cf. Matt. 28:18) and were baptized as “***believing followers***”.

Even the fact of their baptism (which is the idea of identification) demonstrated the truth that they were now disciples or believing followers. Lots of people want to claim to believe in Jesus, but the real issue is whether or not they have a faith that follows. To believe on Christ as Lord and Savior is to recognize His sovereign authority! True believers have a FAITH THAT FOLLOWS – not perfectly, but certainly!

### ***A Word of Caution***

We are “fruit inspectors”, but God alone is the final judge (cf. Mt. 7:20, Acts 10:42, Heb. 12:23, 1 Pet. 4:5). In the end, God makes the final call on everyone.

### **2 Timothy 2:19 (NASB)**

**19** Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “**The Lord knows those who are His,**” and, “**Let everyone who names the name of the Lord abstain from wickedness.**”

Paul, in this verse, shows that the Lord knows those who are His, but then adds that all those who name the Lord should abstain from wickedness. This is the expected characteristic of those who truly know the Lord.

### ***Evidence of God’s Life Within***

The Word of God provides certain “tests” or “indicators” that would point to who is a real believer and who is not.

The key issue is always whether or not the life of God is really in a person. The desire to obey, a desire for holiness, a love for God and believers all point to God living inside. If there is no evidence of the life of God in a person, this is a strong indicator that they are not saved.

## **2 Corinthians 13:5 (NKJV)**

**5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.** Do you not know yourselves, that **Jesus Christ is in you?**—unless indeed you are disqualified.

## **Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)**

**20** I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

The acid test is whether or not Jesus Christ really lives inside you or not. If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation and the expectation is that there will be evidence of this in the life (cf. 2 Cor. 5:17). This is the biblical basis for assurance that we are truly in the faith.

In Phil. 1:20, Paul said that his great desire was that with all boldness Christ would be magnified in his body, “whether by life or by death”. For us as believers, this is the great issue of life.

The great test of faith is whether or not Christ lives within us. The great goal is to constantly put Him on display in our life.

Paul then went on to say in Phil. 1:21, ***“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”*** If the first part is true, the last part will most certainly be true. If we truly live for Christ, then dying will be gain!

I often say, ***“It’s all about HIM!”***, meaning it’s all about Jesus! May He be glorified in our lives, whether by life or by death!

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