

[A-3] Holiness of Living

{Evidences of Salvation}

I, myself, am acutely aware of how far below God's standard of holiness that I am, that I would never consider passing judgment on someone else -- so anything that you may read here and interpret as judgmental on my part, I apologize for at the very beginning and assure you that is not the case at all. Only by God's grace is there hope for any of us.

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
(14) Follow peace with all <i>men</i> , and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: (15) Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble <i>you</i> , and thereby many be defiled; (Heb. 12:14-15)	(14) Follow peace with all <i>men</i> , and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: (15) Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up troubles <i>you</i> , and thereby many are defiled; ({58} Heb. 12:14-15)

Christianity is the only religion which states that God so loved the world that He came to earth in human form to teach us how He wants us to live, paid the price for our salvation, and rose from the dead as proof of His power over sin and death. The leaders of all other religions, are in their tombs, but the tomb of Jesus is empty! It has been said that Christianity is not a religion, but a way of life.

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
(35) By this shall all <i>men</i> know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. (John 13:35)	(35) By this all <i>men</i> shall know that you are My disciples, if you have love one for another. ({43} John 13:35)

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
(37) Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. (38) This is the first and great commandment. (39) And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. (40) On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. (Mat. 22:37-40)	(37) Jesus said to him, You shall love the LORD {Jehovah} your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind^d. (38) This is the first and greatest commandment. (39) And the second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.^e (40) On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. ({40} Mat. 22:37-40)

Jesus said, "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." And "a tree is known by the fruits it bears. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit." Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount" {Matthew chapters 5 and 6} teaches us the attitudes that we must show towards our heavenly Father and those around us.

After accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior He has given the commandment that we make a public profession of faith in Him by submitting to baptism and by attending Christian services where we can learn how He wants us to live.

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
(38) Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels. (Mark 8:38)	(38) Whoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.({41} Mark 8:38)

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
(24) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: (25) Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting <i>one another</i> : and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. (Heb. 10:24-25)	(24) And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and to good works: (25) Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting {encouraging} <i>one another</i> : and so much the more, as you see the day approaching. ({58} Heb. 10:24-25)

It is by worshiping and studying God's word together with other Christians that we are strengthened, receive the proper nourishment, and are encouraged in living the life He has called us to.

Christianity is personal, but it is not private. Love and joy in the Lord that are not shared with others, do not exist! There is no such thing as having love and not sharing it. How much we show our love towards other children of God, and towards unbelievers, is a good indication of just how much we really love Him. I John 4:20 says,

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
(20) If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? (21) And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also. (I John 4:20-21)	(20) If a man says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar: because he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God Whom he has not seen? (21) And this commandment we have from Him, That he who loves God love his brother also. ({62} I John 4:20-21)

-- A single coal of fire left to itself will soon die out, but coals put together become a blaze of fire.

Does this mean that a person who does not regularly attend church is not a Christian? No, but it does mean that if he/she is able and has opportunity to attend church and doesn't, he/she is in rebellion against the Lord as Hebrew 10:25 indicates an is in need of repentance.

Those outside the church often point at the church and say, "That church is full of hypocrites." And in one sense they are right -- none of us fully live up the life we profess. In fact I John 1:8-9 says:

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
(8) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us <i>our</i> sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (I John 1:8-10)	(8) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us <i>of our</i> sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us.({62} I John 1:8-10)

In the Biblical sense, however, a hypocrite is not one who fails to live up to the commands of the Lord. The Biblical definition of a hypocrite is a person who claims to believe in God, but refuses to make any attempt to live the life He has called us to.

As someone once said: "I'd rather go to church with hypocrites bound for heaven than to not go to church and to be with the other hypocrites bound for hell."

The following are evidences given in the Bible which are "fruits" or indicators of our relationship with the Lord. The evidences of being saved are the goals we as Christians strive for. The evidences of not being saved are hindrances we strive to permanently remove from our lives.

If we are missing some of the evidences of being saved, we should pray that the Lord will help us obtain them. If we have some of the evidences of not being saved, we should admit to the Lord that we have sinned against Him and pray for forgiveness. Having evidences of not being saved does not necessarily mean we aren't saved any more than having some of the evidences of being saved means that we are saved. **If we truly have accepted Jesus as our Lord and savior, we have His promise that He will discipline us to whatever extent it is necessary to bring us back into His will. "Those whom the Lord loves, He reproveth and disciplines."** According to I John it is possible for a child of God to get so far out of the Father's will that He must call that child home to be with Him before he/she does too much damage to His kingdom down here.

We must also be on guard that we do not pass judgment on a fellow believer's salvation. We are commanded to not judge lest we be judged. We are not called to be judges, but we are called to be "fruit inspectors." "We are to hate sin, but love the sinner." For the unbeliever, this is not possible, because he has no understanding of what true love is all about. **{This is one reason why the Lord has specifically forbidden believers to intermarry with unbelievers.}** [I Cor. 7:39; II Cor. 6:14-15] For the believer, it is sometimes difficult, but we are reminded that the Lord loved us even when we had no love for Him. Bad things do happen to good people. And often bad people are not punished in this lifetime. But ultimately as Jesus said, we will reap what we sow. We may not understand many things that happen down here in this lifetime. And many things we will not understand until we stand in His presence. Never be ashamed to admit that you don't know the answers to something. There is only One Who knows the answers to everything. Beware of anyone who claims to have all the answers.

Evidences of Being Saved:

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
<p>(12) Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.</p> <p>(13) Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:</p> <p>(14) Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.</p> <p>(15) Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.</p> <p>(16) Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?</p> <p>(17) Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.</p> <p>(18) A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither <i>can</i> a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.</p>	<p>(12) Therefore all things that you would have men do to you, even so you do to them: because this is the law and the prophets.</p> <p>(13) Enter in at the straight gate: because wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many there are who enter there:</p> <p>(14) But straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leads to life, and there are few who find it.</p> <p>(15) Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.</p> <p>(16) You shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?</p> <p>(17) Even so every good tree brings forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree brings forth bad fruit.</p> <p>(18) A good tree cannot bring forth bad fruit, neither <i>can</i> a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.</p>

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
<p>(19) Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.</p> <p>(20) Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.</p> <p>(21) Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.</p> <p>(22) Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?</p> <p>(23) And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.</p> <p>(24) Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:</p> <p>(25) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not; for it was founded upon a rock.</p> <p>(26) And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:</p> <p>(27) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.</p> <p>(Mat. 7:12-25)</p>	<p>(19) Every tree that does not bring forth good fruit is cut down, and cast into the fire.</p> <p>(20) Therefore by their fruits you shall know them.</p> <p>(21) Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father Who is in heaven.</p> <p>(22) Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name and in Your name have cast out devils? and in Your name done many wonderful works?</p> <p>(23) And then will I profess to them, I never knew you: depart from Me, you who do works of sin.</p> <p>(24) Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will compare him to a wise man, who built his house upon a rock:</p> <p>(25) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it did not fall; because it was founded upon a rock.</p> <p>(26) And everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, shall be compared to a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand:</p> <p>(27) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was its fall.</p> <p>({40} Mat. 7:12-27)</p>

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
<p>(23) And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;</p> <p>(24) And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. (Eph. 4:23-24)</p>	<p>(23) And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;</p> <p>(24) And that you put on the new man, which is created after God in righteousness and true holiness. (Eph. 4:23-24)</p>

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
<p>(8) Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.</p> <p>(9) Ye <i>are</i> cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, <i>even</i> this whole nation.</p> <p>(10) Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that <i>there shall not be room enough to receive it.</i></p> <p>(Mal. 3:8-10)</p>	<p>(8) Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me. But you say, How have we robbed You? In tithes and offerings.</p> <p>(9) You <i>are</i> cursed with a curse: because you have robbed Me, <i>even</i> this whole nation.</p> <p>(10) Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and prove Me now in this, says the LORD {Jehovah} of hosts {armies}, if I will not open the windows of heaven to you, and pour out a blessing upon you, that <i>there will not be room enough to receive it.</i></p> <p>{39} Mal. 3:8-10</p>

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
<p>(13) For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only <i>use</i> not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.</p> <p>(14) For all the law is fulfilled in one word, <i>even</i> in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.</p> <p>(15) But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.</p> <p>(16) <i>This</i> I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.</p> <p>(17) For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.</p> <p>(18) But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.</p> <p>(19) Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are <i>these</i>; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,</p> <p>(20) Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,</p>	<p>(13) Because, brothers, you have been called to liberty; only do not <i>use</i> liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.</p> <p>(14) For all the law is fulfilled in one word, <i>even</i> in this; You shall love your neighbor as yourself.</p> <p>(15) But if you bite and devour one another, take heed that you not be consumed by one another.</p> <p>(16) <i>This</i> I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.</p> <p>(17) Because the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary to one another: so that you cannot do the things that you want.</p> <p>(18) But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.</p> <p>(19) Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are <i>these</i>; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,</p> <p>(20) Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, disputes, jealousies, anger, strife, divisions, heresies,</p>

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
<p>(21) Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told <i>you</i> in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.</p> <p>(22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,</p> <p>(23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.</p> <p>(24) And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.</p> <p>(25) If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.</p> <p>(26) Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another. (Gal. 5: 13-26)</p>	<p>(21) Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of which I tell you before, as I have also told <i>you</i> in time past, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.</p> <p>(22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,</p> <p>(23) Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.</p> <p>(24) And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts.</p> <p>(25) If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.</p> <p>(26) Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another. ({48} Gal. 5: 13-26)</p>

King James Version	King James Paraphrase
<p>(7) Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.</p> <p>(8) For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.</p> <p>(9) And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.</p> <p>(10) As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all <i>men</i>, especially unto them who are of the household of faith. (Gal. 6:7-10)</p>	<p>(7) Do not be deceived; God is not mocked: because whatever a man sows, that he shall also reap.</p> <p>(8) Because he who sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he who sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.</p> <p>(9) And let us not be weary in well doing: because in due season we shall reap, if we do not faint.</p> <p>(10) Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all <i>men</i>, especially to those who are of the household of faith. ({48} Gal. 6:7-10)</p>

Note: A tree cannot decide what kind of fruit it will bear. But, the abundance and quality of its fruit is determined to a large extent by whether it receives the proper nourishment. If a person is a Christian, the above fruits will be evidenced. How much they are evidenced is determined both by the individual's willingness to be submissive to the will of the Lord and how much of the proper nourishment he receives. Unlike the tree, a Christian can determine whether he/she will receive the proper nourishment. That nourishment comes through Bible study and fellowship with other believers.