

## IDENTIFYING MARKS OF A TRUE BELIEVER

John 8:31

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** There are countless people who "claim" that they are Christians, believers in Jesus, but it is evident that not everybody who "claims" to be a Christian is a true believer by their actions, vocabulary, lack of faith, etc.

**Matthew 7:22-23.** There are, however, some identifying marks by which true believers are known:

- There is the repentance of sin.
- There is total trust in Jesus Christ alone as Savior.
- There is bowing to the Lord Jesus Christ as one's only rightful, sovereign Lord.
- There is a genuine, heartfelt, sincere love for other believers.
- There is a constant struggle with sin.
- There is a continual, growing repentance, faith, love and conflict with sin.
  - When the Word of God comes into a person's heart in the power of the Holy Spirit, that person is a new person in Jesus, transformed by God's grace which is continual.
  - When the Holy Spirit comes into a believer, that believer produces spiritual fruit.
  - When Jesus takes over a person's life, that person is freed from the dominion of sin and its penalty.
- The one dominate, continuing proof of a person being saved is perseverance!

### I. GOD WILL KEEP HIS OWN AND NONE WILL BE LOST

1. The covenant of Grace cannot be nullified or removed.
  - *Jeremiah 32:37-41*
2. The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ cannot have been shed in vain.
  - *Ephesians 5:25-27*
3. The seal of the Holy Spirit cannot ever be broken.
  - *Ephesians 1:13-14*
4. The power of God cannot be defeated.
  - *1 Peter 1:3-5*
5. The promise of God in the Lord Jesus Christ is forever and cannot be broken.
  - *John 10:27-29*
6. The love of God can never cease.
  - *John 13:1*
7. The immutability of God will never allow those who believe in Jesus Christ to perish.
  - *Malachai 3:6*
8. Sin can never be put upon one who has been justified by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - *Romans 4:8; 8:33-34*

### II. ALL WHOM GOD KEEPS BY HIS GRACE AND POWER PERSEVERE IN GRACE IN FAITH

1. The Word of God abounds with warnings to those who do not continue in the way of faith, to those who depart from the Lord, His Gospel and His Church.
  - *Hebrews 6:4-6*
  - *Hebrews 10:26-29*
  - *Hebrews 10:38*
  - *2 Peter 2:20-22*
  - *1 John 5:16*

2. Those who truly believe in the Lord Jesus Christ continue to believe.
  - Everyone who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ has questions, difficulties and problems, but the One in whom the person believes, the Lord Jesus Christ, never changes.
  - **2 Timothy 1:12; 4:6-8**
3. All true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ continue faithfully in God's Word.
  - True believers are faithful to read, study God's Word, seeking to understand it and to believe what it says. Nothing can drive the true believer away from the hope he/she has in the Gospel.
  - **John 6:68**
  - **Galatians 5:1-5**
4. Every true believer continues in the worship of the Lord God and in fellowship with other believers.
  - True believers worship the Lord God and feed upon His Word, for they cannot get by without it.
  - True believers love to be with other believers, gathered in God's house, feeding together upon God's Word. There is nothing more important than these things.
  - True believers are a family.
  - True believers get together to be with the Lord Jesus in worship.
  - True believers get together to hear God speak to them in a worship service.
5. The first step in falling away is neglecting public worship.
  - **Hebrews 10:25-26**
  - **1 John 2:19**

## CONCLUSION:

1. How do you tell whether one is a true believer or not?
  - How often does he/she attend worship?
  - How often does he/she study God's Word?
  - How often does he/she fellowship with other believers?
2. Not everyone who says "Lord, Lord," is a true believer.
3. A true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ will be persistent in living his/her life as much like the Lord Jesus' life as possible.
4. A true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ will be dedicated totally to the Lord Jesus.
5. Are YOU a true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ?