## **Lord! Lord!**

Matthew 7:21-23 "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. 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? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

The people that Jesus is speaking of in these verses believe that they are saved, but in the end they will stand before him in shock when he says, "depart I never knew you." There are many people who do not care if they go to hell and never make any move toward God during their lifetime; but imagine how it would be for someone like you who did care and did what you thought was right but found out too late that it wasn't. How horrible would it be to think that you are on your way to heaven and then find out that you were wrong and to open your eyes in Hell?

There is much confusion about how to be saved and many people have doubts at times; some are even only trusting in a prayer they said, a decision they've made, or some other wrong idea about salvation. They may end up paying eternally for that mistake. We should all at some point, take the time to examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith.

2 Corinthians 13:5 "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves."

Please, don't disregard this or put it off until later. I beg you to please read this tract and consider the scriptures in it and be sure.

What could be more important than to be sure of your salvation?

No one else can tell you whether or not you have been truly born again. Only you and God can know that for sure. God wants you to know for sure that's why he wrote so much about it in the Bible.

Philippians 2:12 " ...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

That does not mean to work *for* your salvation, but simply to be so concerned about it that you fear to the point of trembling.

Nowhere in the Bible will you find it written, "Rest assured, you can be certain you are saved as long as you said a prayer and meant it, or asked Jesus into your heart. The Bible simply says repent and believe the gospel of Jesus Christ. So, how can you know if you've done that?

The Bible gives us a good idea of what we can expect as a born-again believer in Christ.

1. The Christian's faith is founded solidly on the rock of faith in Christ, not on the shifting sands of emotions. They are not fleeting moments of good intentions or turning over a new leaf.

Matthew 7:24-27 "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: 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. 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:

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."

- 2. The Christian desires the word of God.
- 1 Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:
- 3. The Christian enjoys the company of other Christians more than the company of unbelievers. A born-again believer with the indwelling Holy Spirit of God will be different than the unsaved around him.

1 John 3:14 "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren."

- 4. The Christian will become a new creature. The life he knew before he was saved will change drastically. His wants and desires and views about the world will be changed. He will no longer be able to dwell comfortably in sin. 2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." If a Christian is the same person after he is saved as he always was, something is definitely wrong.
- 5. The Holy Spirit of God begins to dwell within us from the moment of rebirth and cannot help but witness of itself and change our sinful hearts. A Christian should be able to recognize the day that change took place-the day when the Holy Spirit shined a light into their darkened understanding and blind eyes were able to see the truth. I John 4:13 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.
- 6. The Christian will have assurance and peace. 1 John 4:17-18 "Herein is our love made perfect; that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."

If we doubt our salvation, we cannot have peace and boldness to approach the throne.

7. The Christian will not become perfect or sinless but will desire to live pleasing to God. That means keeping his commandments. The Christian will not live to see how far he can push the limits, but how closely he can follow them. 1 John 2:3 &4 "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." I John 1:6 "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:"

## There are also some pretty strong warnings for some who might be lying to themselves.

Ephesians 5:5-6 "For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience."

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God."

Many people want to be saved and go to heaven, but they can't bring themselves to face God and own up to their sin. They want to go *around* God and just accept Jesus, but it doesn't work that way.

God created us to have a relationship with him, but because of sin, we are separated from him. He sacrificed his Son to suffer and die for our sins so that we could be reconciled to God. We must be willing to turn from our sins and be reconciled to God first, or we are just like the Jews who "...draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me."

Many people today are willing to call on the name of Jesus for eternal life, but not willing to humble themselves before God and turn from their sins.

The idea that we can come to Christ and continue to live in sin is a lie and a terrible deception. If we are still running from God and toward sin, how can we think we will receive that gift from Him? We cannot harden our necks in rebellion against God and then expect his blessing or salvation.

James 4:6 "Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."

If your life is not what the Bible describes for a Christian, it might be that you are not really in the faith. Only you and God know for sure. If not, repent and believe today. The apostle Paul preached repentance toward God and faith in Christ. We must repent of our sins and turn from them placing our faith in Jesus Christ alone

All Scripture Taken from the King James Version of the Bible

## I'm already saved...



I think?