

CHAPTER 10

Signs Of Life

SIGN OF LIFE #1--The person who has life BELIEVES THE WORD OF GOD (1 John 5:9-12).

Consider again 1 John 5:9. This verse compares the witness (testimony) of _____ with the witness (testimony) of _____. We usually receive the testimony of men! When a person tells you something, do you usually say, "I don't believe you, you're a liar!"? _____ If you were to read in the newspaper that a plane had crashed in Chicago, would you believe it? _____ Suppose your doctor tested you and told you that your blood pressure was high. Would you believe him? _____ Do we usually receive the testimony of men (1 John 5:9)? _____ Whose testimony is even greater than that of men (1 John 5:9)? _____ Most of the time men tell the truth, but do they always? _____ According to Titus 1:2 and Hebrews 6:18, why is the testimony of God greater? _____ If we normally believe what men tell us, *how much more* should we believe _____ If we usually take men at their word, *how much more* should we _____.

When a person does not believe the testimony of God, he is thus accusing God of being a _____ (1 John 5:10). But the person who is a true believer is able to say, "Lord, You are a God of _____ (Deuteronomy 32:4) and the Bible is _____ (John 17:17) and therefore I know that everything You say in Your Word must be _____.

The **testimony** (record, witness) that God gave concerning His Son is found in 1 John 5:11-12. What did God give to us (verse 11)? _____ Where is this gift found (verse 11)? _____ According to verse 12, the person who has _____ has _____ and the person who does not have _____ does not have _____. The person who believes God's testimony concerning His Son is able to say, "Lord, I believe that eternal life is a free _____ (Romans 6:23) and this life is found only in Your _____ (1 John 5:11), and because I have R_____ Christ (John 1:12) as my personal Saviour and Lord, I now _____ (1 John 5:13) that I have eternal life."

Thus, a true believer is one who receives the testimony of God and who believes that whatever God says must be true!

GOD SAID IT!

I BELIEVE IT!

THAT SETTLES IT!

A genuine believer takes God at His Word and believes that God cannot lie. Therefore, we are simply saying that A TRUE BELIEVER IS ONE WHO BELIEVES! This is so simple it hardly needs to be said! Not only does a true believer believe what God says about Christ, but he (or she) also believes what God says about everything else. As we grow in the Lord, we begin to discover what God has said about many different things, and we learn to accept what He says as truth.

Some people CLAIM to believe in Jesus, but they have problems believing the Word of God. Consider the following examples, and ask yourself, "Do these people really receive the testimony of God?" As we shall see, their real problem is that of UNBELIEF (read Luke 24:25-27; Matthew 22:29). Let's examine some of their problems:

1) Some might say, "I believe in Jesus but I don't believe the Bible, or at least not everything that is in it."

But Jesus said that God's Word is _____ (John 17:17) and the Scriptures cannot be _____ (John 10:35) and all things that are written in the Scriptures must be _____ (Luke 24:44) including every jot and every tittle (Matthew 5:18--this is like saying "every dotting of the **i** and every crossing of the **t**")! Did Jesus believe the Bible? _____ What these people are really saying is this: "I believe in Jesus but I believe that Jesus was wrong when He said that the Bible is truth." Is it possible for the Son of God to be wrong? _____ Therefore this is what the believer should say, "I believe in Jesus and because I believe in Jesus I also believe _____."

2) Some might say, "I believe in Jesus but I don't believe what Paul wrote."

But Paul said, "For this we say unto you by the _____ of the _____" (1 Thessalonians 4:15) and "If any man think himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the _____ of the _____" (1 Corinthians 14:37). Did Peter recognize Paul's letters as being "scripture" (2 Peter 3:15-16)? _____ Therefore, the believer should say, "I believe in Jesus and I also believe what _____ wrote because what Paul wrote was in a very real sense the words of Christ (compare John 16:12-13)! All the Bible should be in red letters!

3) Some might say, "I believe in Jesus but I don't believe in Adam and Eve."

But Jesus said, "Have ye not read that He who made them at the _____ made them _____ and _____" (Matthew 19:4; compare Genesis 1:27). Did Jesus believe in the Genesis account of creation? Was Jesus an evolutionist or a creationist? _____

4) Some might say, "I believe in Jesus but I don't believe in a universal flood that covered the whole world in the days of Noah."

But read carefully the words of Jesus found in Luke 17:27. Did Jesus believe in the great flood described in the book of Genesis? _____

5) Some might say, "I believe in Jesus but I don't believe that Jonah was really swallowed by a great fish."

But Jesus said, "Jonah was three days and three nights in the _____" (Matthew 12:40; compare Jonah 1:17). Therefore, the believer should say, "Because I believe in Jesus I also believe that _____ was really in the belly of a great sea creature. Jesus said it! That settles it! And I believe it!"

The person who is truly saved believes the testimony of God! He believes **all** of God's Word. Are you a Bible believer? Do you accept God's Word as truth? Do you believe what God has said concerning His Son (1 John 5:9-12)? "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith!" Are you dead or alive?

SIGN OF LIFE #2--The person who has life HAS A HUNGER FOR THE WORD OF GOD (1 Peter 2:2).

In 1 Peter 1:23 we learn that a person is _____ by the _____. In 1 Peter 2:2 we find that the person who has been born again is likened to a _____. What is the one thing that babies yearn for, long for, earnestly desire, and fuss over if they don't get it? _____

If a baby has no desire for _____ then something must be wrong! Healthy babies have a real hunger for milk! Likewise, what should the born again believer yearn for and desire (1 Peter 2:2)? _____

Is there something wrong with a Christian who never wants to read his (or her) Bible? _____ Is there something wrong with a lover who has no desire to read the love letters which come from that special person? _____ Is there something wrong with a believer who has no desire to read God's love letter? _____ If a believer truly has a hunger for God's Word, then should he desire to faithfully attend a Bible-teaching church where he can learn God's Word? _____

Consider also 1 Peter 2:3: "If so be ye have _____ that the Lord is gracious." Have you tasted that the Lord is gracious? Have you tasted and seen the goodness of the Lord? Have you been saved by His wonderful grace? IF NOT, then it is not surprising that you do not desire His WORD which tells more and more about His grace and goodness! If someone gets a taste of something that is real good, then they will DESIRE MORE AND MORE!!

Consider the following verses which show the great desire and delight that David had for God's Word: Psalm 1:2; Psalm 19:8,10; Psalm 119 (verses 16, 18, 40, 47, 72, 77, 97, 103, 105, 111, 113, 129, 130, 131, 143, 162, 174). Do you feel the same way towards the Word of God as the Psalmist did? Is God's Word a delight to you? Do you find it very sweet? Is it more precious to you than money? Do you hunger after it more than after food?

The Bible is God's personal love letter to us and we should read it with that attitude. We should set aside time each day to meet with God and with our Bible. If we really love the Lord, then we should love to hear Him speak to us (and God speaks to men today through His Word).

Do you really love God's Word? Do you really enjoy reading the Bible and learning truth from the living God? Do you really hunger for the Word of God? Do you really love to go to church to learn more of the Bible and more of the God of the Bible? Is Psalm 19:7-11 really true for you? "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith!" Are you dead or alive?

"God said it!

I believe it!

That Settles it!"

A pastor once said this in his sermon, and a little eight year old girl interrupted him, "Pastor, You're wrong! God said it and that settles it whether you believe it or not!"