

Nine Essential Marks of a True Believer

A true believer will have these definite marks or signs. His nature and life will manifest these nine essential marks. **It is important** that a believer examine his life to make his calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10). The Bible says that **we should examine** our own faith and prove and know ourselves (2 Cor 13:5-6).

2 Cor 13:5-6

5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

6 But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates.

2 Peter 1:10

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

If you observe carefully, all these marks are granted to a believer as a gift by **God's grace**.

The 9 Marks of a true believer are listed below:

- 1) A Life of **Faith** - 'The just shall live by Faith' - Rom 1:17, Gal 3:11, Hab 2:4
- 2) A Life of **Repentance** - Luke 13:5
- 3) A Spirit of **Unworthiness** (Humility) - Luke 18:14,
- 4) A Life **led** by the **Holy Spirit** - Rom 8:14
- 5) A Heart which knows the **Voice of the Lord** - John 10:14,27, 1 John 4:6
- 6) An **Overcoming** Spirit (1 John 5:5, John 15:10)
- 7) A Spirit of **Love** (1 John 2:10, 1 John 4:8)
- 8) A **Hope** for Eternal Blessings (Rom 5:5, Heb 6:19, 1 Cor 15:19)
- 9) A Life of Spiritual **Growth** and **Fruit**(Prov 4:18, 1 Cor 3:7, John 15:2, Matthew 13:23)

Further Explanation of the need for a self examination:

God's word clearly states that many people walk in the broad way which leads to death and eternal punishment. Few people enter through a narrow door and walk in a narrow way which leads to eternal life and blessings (Mat 7:13-14). We might think that we have entered through the narrow door(Jesus Christ - John 10:9) but there is a narrow way ahead. You will know that you have entered the narrow door only if you are walking on the narrow way. The narrow way is a difficult way as it is difficult for a christian to be a true christian. It requires a sacrifice to receive a great pearl (Mat 13:45) and this sacrifice requires him to walk in a narrow way.

1) A Life of Faith:

- 1) A true believer shall live forever in Christ Jesus by Faith (Hab 2:4).
- 2) A true believer shall live this life by Faith. He walks by Faith (2 Cor 5:7).

A true believer receives God's salvation through Faith. Romans 5:1 says that a believer is justified by Faith and he has peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Eph 2:8 also mentions that - By Grace we are saved through Faith and that not of yourselves, it is a gift of God. Here we see that our Faith in Christ is used as a channel to receive God's forgiveness, mercy, peace, eternal life and blessings. It is a gift of God!

What is Faith?

Many people do not have the correct understanding of Biblical Faith. Faith is **believing in God**. Faith is trusting in the **work, wisdom and power of God**. Faith is putting trust, confidence, assurance on the **promises of God**. Faith is based on **things not seen**(Heb 11:1).

Faith is based on the work of God: Trusting on the redemptive work of God's salvation. Not trusting in our good deeds but entirely relying on the work of Christ. A true believer receives a Spirit of Freedom and not of the Spirit of bondage (Rom 8:15). There is no fear of bondage as salvation is a free gift of God. True believers understand by the Holy Spirit that the things of God are given to God's children freely (1 Cor 2:12). They do not attempt to earn their merit by good works. Sadly, **many people** profess that they trust in God for their salvation but in their life they do not act according to what they say. He still try to please God with their good works. There is a fear and a lack of Faith in them. They fearing denial from God if some of man made rules are not observed (Col 2:20-23, 1 Tim 4:3). However a true believer trust in God and God alone.

Faith is based on the wisdom of God: God is all-knowing and our lives are in his hands. **This enables a true believer to face every situation in his life**. God is omniscient. The whole creation is before him and there is nothing that goes against His will. He is in control knowing all things. We face all our life's struggles, trials and temptations putting our confidence and faith in God

Faith is based on the power of God: God is all-powerful and nothing is impossible to God. Is anything too hard for the Lord?

An Example of Abraham:

Abraham is great example of a man of Faith (Rom 5: 18-21). Abraham believed in the promise of God when there was no hope (v18). He considered and considered not (by Faith) the situation. That he was 100 years old and his own body was as good as dead. He also considered the deadness of Sarah's womb (v19). Yet he considered the power of God and **he was strengthened in Faith**.

- He was **convinced** that God can perform the impossible. He was **persuaded**
- He **staggered** not at the promises of God
- Became **strong** in Faith (v20)
- Gave **glory** to God(v20)

Faith is based on the promises of God: If you take an example of this world system, a person will have faith on someone's promise only if that someone has promised him to do so. He will

not assume things and put confidence on a false hope which that someone has not promised him. It is also true with God and believers. Many people are not correctly exercising faith. They are putting their hope on what **God has not promised them**.

- God has **promised** eternal blessings to his children
- God has **not promised** wealth and health all the time to His children.

The Bible on the other hand talks about tribulations(Rom 5:3, John 16:33) , trials and troubles to God's children. **Good Health and Wealth is not guaranteed to God's children**. God provides **our needs** but not our **wants**. **He knows what is best for us**.

A Few Examples:

- a. Paul's many challenges, physical illness, not good vision(Acts 23:3-5)
- b. The Jerusalem church, Macedonian church (2 Cor 8:2)
- c. Epaphroditus: Paul's companion in work - became sick and was close to dying (Phil 2:25-27)
- d. Charles Spurgeon: Called as the 'The Prince of Preachers'
 - Suffered severe illness since he was 35 years old. He suffered with a disease called Gout which causes severe pain. Sometimes the pain was so severe that he was in the bed for many days. He needed help to his body from one side to another side. He also suffered from liver disease. He was never free from his ill health.
 - Spurgeon suffered spiritually and emotionally. During his early ministry he faced intense opposition, criticism, slander and hatred. He also suffered emotionally during his life.
- e. Martin Luther → Suffered from many diseases → Vertigo, Dizziness, Kidney, Bladder and Arthritis.
- f. Jonathan Edwards → God used this great preacher in 18th century to bring the great awakening in America. However, he was not exempt for sickness and disease. He died of smallpox when he was inoculated with the smallpox vaccine. How is it possible for such a man as Jonathan Edwards who was instrumental in the great American Awakening bring many souls to Christ, die such a death. When God calls home we cannot question God why? We cannot question his ways and will.
- g. The Bible is full of examples of God's children suffering, like Elijah going into depression and asking God to take away his life, a certain beggar Lazarus with sores (Luke 16:20), Stephen stoned to death.

Wrong Understandings: Many False Teachers are using these to deceive many (Mat 24:11).

- God will heal you based on your faith (WRONG UNDERSTANDING OF FAITH)
- God will heal you if you believe that he will (WRONG UNDERSTANDING OF FAITH)

God's will prevails. God does what is best according to his will for His Glory and Pleasure. At the same time, God's children are required to pray with all supplication and thanksgiving, make our requests be made known unto God (Phil 4:6). Jesus Christ, when he prayed in the garden of Gathsemane, he prayed that his cup may be passed from him. But it was God's will that he should drink the cup of God's wrath. Does that mean that Christ prayer was not answered because he did not have enough faith. How about the prayer of Paul when he prayed to God to remove his thorn in the flesh?

Some passages in the Bible are difficult to understand and it requires effort comparing spiritual truths with spiritual truths. (1 Cor 2:13, 2 Tim 2:15) We should study diligently to rightly divide (interpret) God's word.

An Example of the scripture from Matthew 7:7 - Ask and it shall be given unto you. We can misunderstand this passage and ask whatever we want and get lost in faith and discouraged when we don't receive from God. False prophets give great emphasis to these verses.

2) A Life of Repentance: A New Nature and Life

Without Repentance there is no salvation

2 Cor 7:10

For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

Repentance is one of the essential marks of a true believer. Repentance is not just feeling sorry or sad about your sins but forsaking it. Repentance means to 'change one's mind'. It means to turn back from your sinful actions (Acts 3:19). It is a gift of God (Acts 11:18 - The Gentiles were granted repentance that leads to life)

- Repentance is a change in one's mind

Acts 3:19

19 Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out,

- Repentance produces good works (Acts 26:20)

Acts 26:20

20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

- Faith and Repentance are like two sides of the coin. They cannot be separated.
- Repentance enable a believer to change his behavior so that he would be not again repent of it.
- It is a change of heart, will(Roms 7:18, 22,25) and life (2 Cor 5:17)
- Repentance precedes before you are granted salvation

Jesus said in Luke 13:5 - 'except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish'

Acts 2:38

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

3) A Spirit of Unworthiness:

God's children are Humble. They understand their true worth without Christ is nothing.

1 Cor 2:12

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

Luke 18:10-14

10 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican.

11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican.

12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

*13 And **the publican**, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, **God be merciful to me a sinner.***

*14 I tell you, this man went down to his house **justified** rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.*

Jesus mentioned a parable about two men who went to the temple to pray. A Pharisee and a tax collector. The tax collector is justified because he had the **Spirit of Unworthiness** in him. He was not trusting in himself but seeking mercy from God.

- A true believer is humble. Poor in Spirit.
- Conviction of Sin by the Holy Spirit(John 16:8)
- He realizes his dependance on God. Without God he knows that he is nothing and worthless.
- He trusts in God

The Holy Spirit gives us wisdom to know His need. He was not boastful but humble. He depends on the grace of God alone. He deserves God's judgment apart from his mercy.

1 Cor 4:7

7 For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

James 4:6, Proverbs 3:34

*6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says:
"God resists the proud,*

But gives grace to the humble.”

Hab 2:4

4 Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.

4) A Life led by the Holy Spirit:

A true believer is led by the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is the gift of God.

Romans 8:14

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

A true Believer is influenced by the Holy Spirit of God. He may not be always filled by the Holy Spirit, but God the Holy Spirit lives in a true believer. It is given to us as a **seal of promise**. (Eph 1:13, Eph 4:40)

- A believer is **born again** by the Word and the Spirit of God (John 3:5)
- The Holy Spirit **first starts the initial preparation** and sanctification

2 Thessalonians 2:13

*13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen **you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth**:*

- Without the Holy Spirit of God in a person, **there is no relationship! (Rom 8:9)**
- We are **baptized by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:13)**

1 Corinthians 12:13

13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

- We are **sanctified** by the Spirit (1 Peter 1:2)

1 Peter 1:2

2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

- We have **access** to the Father by the Holy Spirit (Eph 2:18)

Eph 2:18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

- There is a **conviction of sin** by the Holy Spirit

John 16:8

8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

- The Holy Spirit **leads us to all truth**.

John 16:13

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

- The Holy Spirit gently reminds us and teaches us
- The law of God is written in our hearts by the Holy Spirit

2 Cor 3:3

3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

- God's salvation is the work of the Father, SON and Holy Spirit

2 Cor 3:8

8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?

- God's children receive a new nature of the heart by the Holy Spirit

Ezekiel 36:26

26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

John 14:17

17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

5) A Heart which knows the Voice of the Lord

A true believer **knows** the Shepherd and the **voice** of the Shepherd and **he will follow** only the Shepherd.

The nature of a true child of God is **saved by truth, delights in truth and dwells in truth**

God's **word is truth**. He **delights in God's law**(Ps 1:2, PS 119:92)

Ps 119:92 Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction.

Ps 19:10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

John 8:31-32

31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

False Prophets and Deception:

1 John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

The Bible mentions that in the last days there will be **many false prophets** and will **deceive many people**(Mat 24:11). The false prophets **will do great signs and wonders**(Mat 24:24).

The false prophets **do work great miracles**. They can **cast out demons** and can do **wonderful works** (Mat 7:22).

False Prophets have wrong understanding of one or more of the following three things

- Salvation
- Savior
- Scriptures

A true prophet is someone who preaches the word of God (Jer 23:22), the testimony of Jesus Christ (Rev 19:10) and repentance (Jer 35:15)

Mat 24:11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

Mat 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Mark 13:22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

Rev 13:13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

- However, a true believer has the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit which is also called as the Spirit of Truth. (John 16:13). The Spirit gives a believer the discernment to know the truth from a lie.

- A true believer knows the Shepherd just as the Shepherd knows the sheep (John 10:14)
John 10:14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

- A true believer is taught and guided to all truth by the Holy Spirit (John 16:13)

John 16:13

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

- A true believer is born again by the word of God which is true and is separated and made holy by truth. (John 17:17 , 1 Peter 1:23)

1 Peter 1:23

23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

John 17:17 King James Version (KJV)

17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

- A true believer is set free by truth. **Truth is essential** for a believer.

John 8:31-32

31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

John 14:6,

- A true believer has eternal life by knowing Christ (John 17:3)

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

- A true believer cannot walk in darkness or cannot be deceived. It is not possible.

1 John 4:6

6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

1 John 2:19

19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

There is a need for Believers to be Watchful and careful taking heed to God's word and to be established in sound doctrine.

The Bible also warns us to be careful and watchful. To take heed! Paul warned the believers at Ephesus with tears to be watchful for a time of three years every one night and day.

Paul warns Timothy to take heed to himself and them that are in his church.

1 Timothy 4:16

16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

Acts 20:28-31

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

*31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn **every one night and day with tears.***

6) An Overcoming Spirit - Obedient Spirit - Lordship of Christ

The **Holy Spirit, the Faith and the Hope** that is in a believer enables him to become an overcomer. A true believer will fight back at his failures and sins and overcomes them. He is more than a conqueror through Jesus Christ. **He will mature to a state of obedience.** There is nothing before him and God **that he continues to willfully sin.** He cannot continue to disobey against his revelation which the Holy Spirit hath revealed it to him. The nature of a true believer **submits** to the **authority** and **lordship** of Jesus Christ. His will is given to Christ. A true believer

will have only one heart and that is to serve Christ. He is **spiritually minded**. He will not willfully **disobey the law of the Spirit of Christ**.

- **A true believer overcometh the world**

1 John 4:4

4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

1 John 5:4-5

4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

- **A true believer is obedient to God**

John 15:10

10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

Rev 22:14

14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

- **A true believer cannot willfully sin always**

Ps 19:13

13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

- **A true believer cannot continue in sin**

1 John 3:9

9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

7) The Spirit of Love

Love is essential and greatest of the three faith, hope and love (1 Cor 13:13)

Any one who is born of God loveth his brothers and sisters in the Lord. God is love and his children also manifest the nature of God and they do love God's children(1 John 4:20-21) (1John 4:7)

1 John 2:10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

1 John 4:7-8 7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

*8 He that **loveth not knoweth not God**; for God is love.*

The Chapter on Love:

13 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.
 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.
 4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,
 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;
 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;
 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

Love is the fruit of the Spirit. A believer's kindness and love should attract a unbeliever to Christ. A forgiving and loving spirit is the character of all true believers. Unfortunately, many people who call themselves christians do not have this nature. If they cannot love and forgive others, they cannot be forgiven by God. God shows mercy to his children who are merciful to others (Matt 5:7)

8) A Hope for the Promise of God

All true believers have a hope based on the promises of God. A hope is set before him and he will hold on to this hope as an anchor to his soul. The Bible talks about this hope as a sure and stedfast hope which is secured in the innermost sanctuary of God. Hope is a driving force for a believer's strength and perseverance. Without the hope of eternal promises before him, he will like a lost ship in the sea without any direction.

- A Hope is set before us.
- Hope is the fruit of God's Spirit and Work
- Hope of the future gives power to the present

Hebrews 6:18-19

18 That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon **the hope set before us:**

19 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

Romans 5:3-5

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Col 1:27

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory:

1 Corinthians 13:13

13 And now abideth faith, **hope**, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

- Hope gives Power to the Present

A hopeless Town called Flagstaff - Maine

In a little town named Flagstaff, the town was to be flooded, as part of a large lake for which a dam was being built. In the months before it was to be flooded, **all improvements** and repairs in the whole town were stopped. What was the use of painting a house if it were to be covered with water in six months? Why repair anything when the whole village was to be wiped out? So, week by week, the whole town became more and more bedraggled, more gone to seed, more woebegone. Then he added by way of explanation: "**Where there is no faith in the future, there is no power in the present.**" - Halford E. Luccock

9) A Life of Spiritual Growth and Fruit (Prov 4:18, 1 Cor 3:7, John 15:2, Matthew 13:23)

A true believer grows and bears fruit. Without fruit and maturity he is not a true believer. The Bible compares a believer to a plant or a branch which brings forth fruit. If a branch is not bearing fruit, the branch is cut off from the main tree. God is a good farmer and he trims the tree to remove all branches which do not bear fruit.

1 John 15:2 and Matthew 13:23

- A true believer becomes strong in faith

Proverbs 4:18

18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, **that shineth more and more** unto the perfect day.

- God purges the branches which are not bearing fruit from the trunk

John 15:1-2

15 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

- Only the plant which bears fruit is considered a true believer in the parable of the sower and the seed.

In the parable of the sower and the seed, we see 4 kinds of people. The First kind receive God's word but they do not understand it. The second kind receive God's word but there is no strength to continue to grow. There is no rooting system. When tribulation comes he is offended. The third kind is influenced by the worldly affairs. Things of the world choke his life. He is not properly receiving strength from God's word and becomes unfruitful. There is only one kind of people which bear fruit because they receive God's word and have proper understanding of God's word and continue to receive the strength from God's word. They will bear fruit who are the true children of God.

Matthew 13

9 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

If you read this material, I urge you to examine your heart to know if you are a true believer by comparing your life with the above nine essential marks of a true believer. Our Lord promised to receive all those who return to him with a repentant heart.

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