



How does the bible define how true belief in God translate into the life of a believer?

Mat 16:24-25: "Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it."

Rom 10:10: "For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

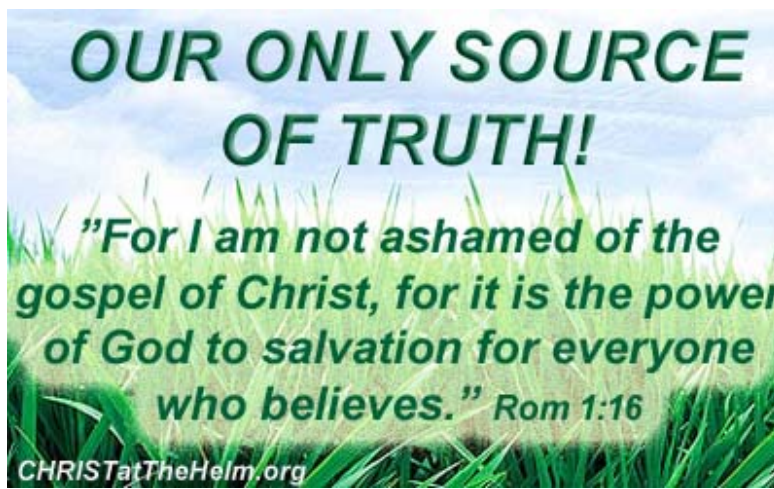
2Cor 5:17: "Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

Gal 2:20: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Luke 22:37-39: "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is *the* first and great commandment. And *the* second *is* like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Does our life right now echo the truths of scriptures listed above, whether in our thoughts, actions and words? Would our neighbors be surprised to hear we are believers in God and followers of Christ?

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On numerous occasions, Jesus confronted people who while affirming they believed in Him, did so only because of the miracles He did, and what they could gain from Him.

What's the difference between true faith and shallow faith?

In the parable of the rich young ruler of Mat 19:16-22, Jesus described how this young man said he had obeyed God all his life. However, when asked to sell all he had, give it to the poor and follow Jesus, he went away sorrowful because he trusted in his riches more than God.

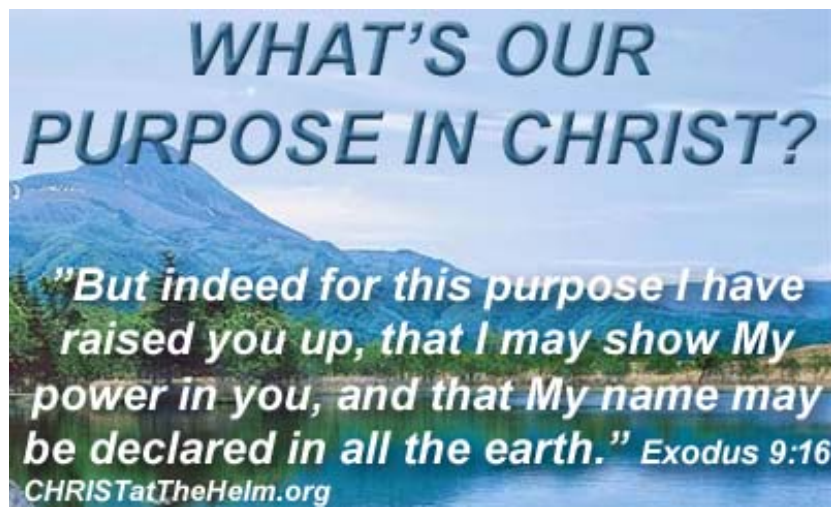
Then, in the parable of the sower of Luke 8:13, Jesus brings another example of shallow faith: "Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away."

Eze 33:31 clearly highlights this: "So they come to you as people do, they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words, but they do not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, *but* their hearts pursue their *own* gain."

Here's however what Jesus said about true believers in John 14:23: "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

How genuine is our faith in God right now?

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As born again believers in Christ, what is our mission while on this earth?

John 15:16: "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit."

Eph 2:10: "We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

1Cor 6:19-20: "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

1Peter 2:9: "But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

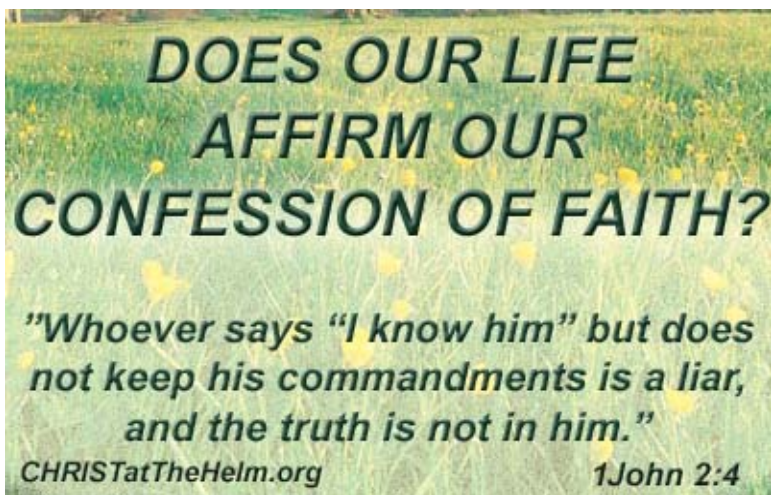
Ecc 12:13: "The conclusion, when everything has been heard, *is*: fear God and keep His commandments, because this *applies to every person*."

Finally, what were Jesus' last words before going back to the Father?

Mat 28:19: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

How faithful are we to carry out our mission to go and bear fruit and make disciples for Christ?

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Are there hypocrites who for profit or pride, claim to be followers of Christ? Unfortunately, there are many deceivers, the reason the Word of God cautions us against them.

Here's what the Bible says on this:

1John 4:20: "If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?"

Titus 1:16: "They profess to know God, but in works they deny *Him*, being abominable, disobedient, and disqualified for every good work."

Rom 8:8-9: "So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His."

Mat 15:7-9: "Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with *their* lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

Finally, here's what Jesus decreed for hypocrites in Mat 7:21: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven."

Do we presently follow and abide by the teachings of Christ?

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As true believers, what attitude of the heart should we pursue?

John 8:12: "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

1John 5:2-4: "By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith."

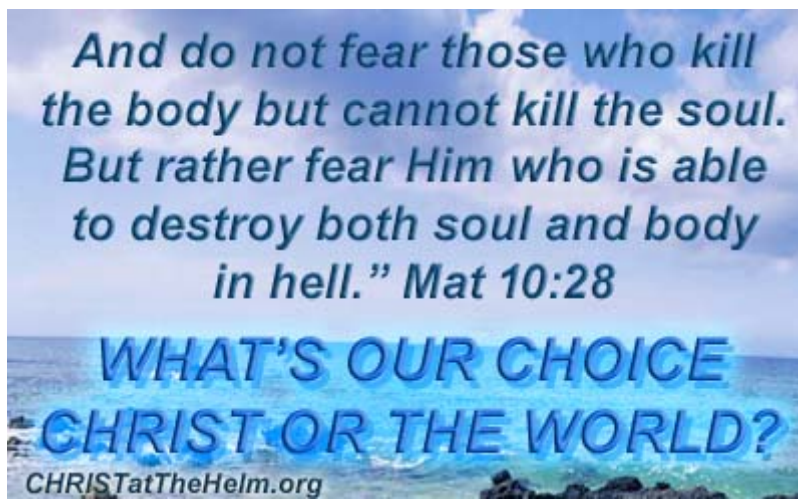
Rom 12:1-2: "I appeal to you therefore brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Pro 4:23: "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it *spring* the issues of life."

1Kings 8:61: "Let your heart therefore be loyal to the LORD our God, to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments."

Let's therefore be determined and steadfast to live each day as Ps 119:105 says, "Your word *is* a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path."

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Are there traps from the enemy that we must be aware of, so as to be ready to fend off his attacks?

Col 2:8: "See to it that there is no one who takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception in accordance with human tradition, in accordance with the elementary principles of the world, rather than in accordance with Christ."

Gal 6:7-8: "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."

Rom 8:13: "If you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live."

1Tim 6:9: "Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition."

What did Jesus say about this?

Mark 8:35: "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it."

Mat 7:21: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

What will it be... follow Christ at His Word for eternal life, or be deceived by the world and lost forever?

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