

So, we confessed to believe in Christ as Savior. Therefore, the proof of our belief is found only if we follow Christ as Lord, just as the Word of God commands us.

Here's what Jesus said on this:

John 14:6: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 8:31-32: "Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

How is that accomplished?

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

1Peter 2:21: "For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps."

Eph. 5:1-2: "Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us."

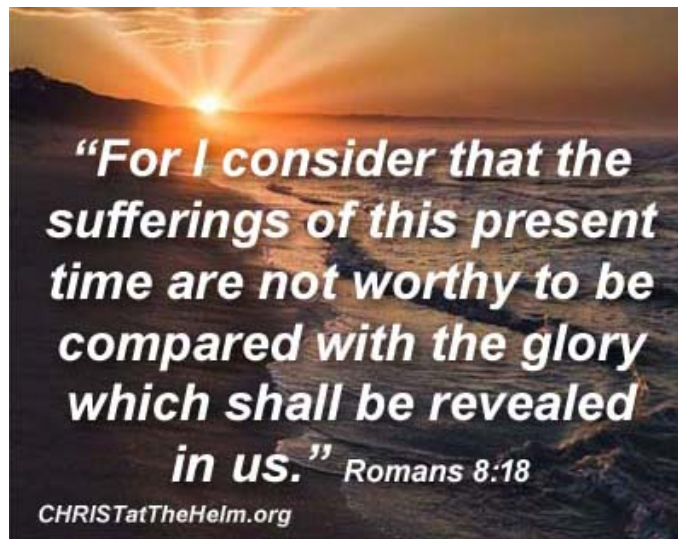
Col. 3:2: "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

Romans 12:2: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind."

Gal. 5:25: "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

Do I understand the importance of moving forward in my faith to follow Christ?

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Why does the new birth in Christ require that we leave the world behind to follow Him?

John 8:12: “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

Luke 9:62: “But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

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.”

Hebrews 12:1-2: “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross.”

Rom. 8:5: “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.”

1Peter 5:8: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”

Mat. 10:38: “He who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me.”

Do I understand why following Christ is not an option, but rather a necessity?

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The motivation to follow Christ comes directly from the heart, if evidently we have truly made Him Lord of our lives.

How's is that accomplished?

Philippians 2:5: "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

1John 1:5-7: "This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."

Why?

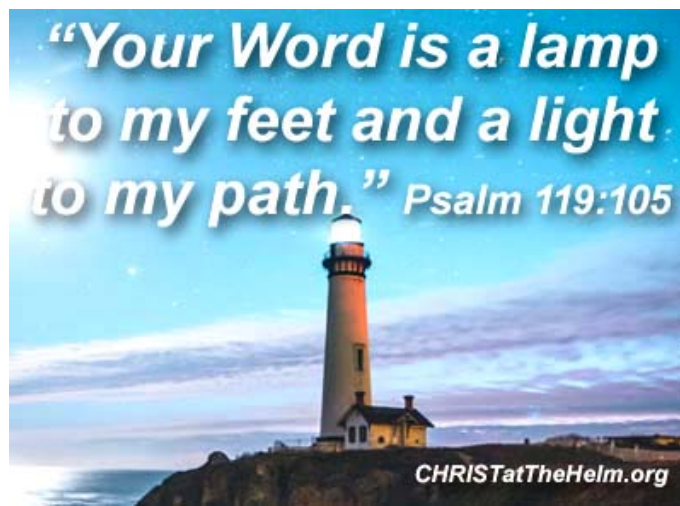
Matthew. 6:24: "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other."

Jeremiah 17:10: "I, the LORD, search the heart, / test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings."

The reason Psalm 139:23-24 says, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if *there is any* wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Have I set my heart to not look behind to the world, but rather to focus on the prize in moving forward with Christ?

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Where do we find the instructions, the guidance and the power to be steadfast to follow Christ?

2Timothy 3:16: "All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

John 16:13: "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."

Matthew 11:28-30: "Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light."

Why?

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."

And the solution is:

Prov. 3:5-6: "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Isaiah 40:31: "Those who wait on the Lord shall renew *their* strength."

Do I seek guidance through God's Word and power in the Holy Spirit to trust and follow Christ?

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How must we focus our lives to follow Christ?

1Corinthians 16:13: "Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong."

Philippians 3:12, 14: "Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me." "I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

2Cor. 5:9-10: "Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

1Peter 2:1-2: "Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby."

1Peter 1:13: "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest *your* hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Whom can we count on for help?

Joshua 1:9: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go."

Is Christ the center and ultimate focus of my life right now?

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Are there warnings we must heed in order to not stray from the faith and constantly move forward with Christ?

Luke 9:62: "But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Mat. 6:24: "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other."

Eph. 5:15-17: "See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is."

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

Why?

Gal. 1:10: "Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant."

Mat 24:44: "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

Rev. 3:3: "Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you."

Am I following Christ or is my heart with the world?

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