

Can we imagine Jesus asking us, "Are you sincere when you say you love Me?"

How would that resonate in our heart?

Could we find ourselves reflected in Jesus' statement about the Pharisees, quoting the prophet Isaiah?

Matthew 15:8-9: "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."

Sincerity is defined as the quality of being truthful and trustworthy; not deceitful or hypocritical. In other words, we must live and act just as we say we believe.

Whv?

John 4:24: "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

2Corinthians 2:17: "In Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as those sent from God."

The reason Jesus said:

Luke 6:46, "But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?"

Here's what true and sincere love for God implies:

Psalm 15:1-2: "LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart."

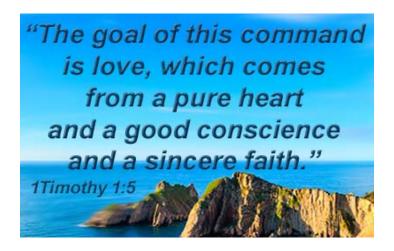
That's why Paul said:

Ephesians 6:24; "Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity."

Am I sincere when I say "I love God"?

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What is the definition of sincere love according to the Word of God? 1Corinthians 13:4-8: "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."

Here are more elements about sincere love:

2John 6: "This is love, that we walk according to His commandments." Romans 12:9-10: "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."

1John 4:18: "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear." Conversely, if we love God, we must separate ourselves from the world:

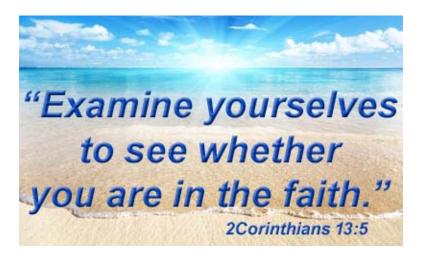
1John 2:15: "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

Therefore:

1John 4:7: "Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God."

1John 4:16: "God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."

Do I understand the true meaning of love so as to live to love God with a pure heart, a good conscience, and sincere faith?



How do we recognize a true believer from a deceiver?

John 14:23: "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word."

1John 2:29: "If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him."

Why?

1John 5:3: "Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome."

James 2:17-18: "Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith, and I have works." Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

2Chronicles 16:9: "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of *those* whose heart *is* loyal to Him."

Therefore:

2Corinthians 13:5: "Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?"

Philippians 2:12-13: "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure."

James 4:7: "Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." Does my life testify to living to follow Christ and in abiding by His Word?



Steadfastness is defined as the quality of being resolute, courageous and unwavering.

Let's ask ourselves: Am I wholly dedicated to serving God, or am I a part-time Christian, walking one foot in the world and one with the Lord? In essence, where does my heart truly rests?

Why are we enjoined to be steadfast in the faith?

James 1:12: "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him."

1Corinthians 15:58: "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

The warning:

2Peter 3:17, "You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked."

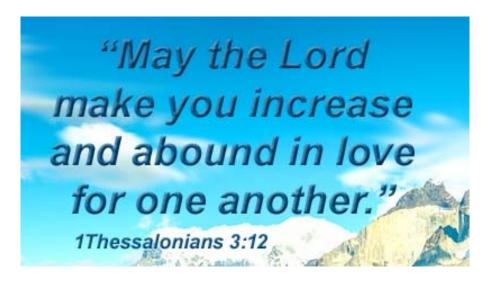
Whv?

Hebrews 3:14: "For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end."

Therefore:

Galatians 6:9: "Let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

Finally, will we ask God, as Psalm 51:10 says, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me?"



Growing in love is defined as to be committed with a sense of purpose, and that purpose is to grow into a closer and true relationship.

How do we grow our love for God?

Ephesians 4:14-15: "We should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ."

2Timothy 2:15: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Philippians 1:9-10: "It is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ."

Therefore:

Colossians 2:6-7: "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving."

James 4:8: "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

The greatest proof of love being:

John 15:13: "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends?"

Is my love for Christ growing day by day?