

How truthful and sincere am I when I say I love God?

Could I find myself reflected in Jesus' statement about the Pharisees, quoting the prophet Isaiah saying:

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.

As such:

Ephesians 6:6, "As bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart."

Why?

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

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

The reason Jesus said:

Luke 6:46, "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:

Psalms 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."

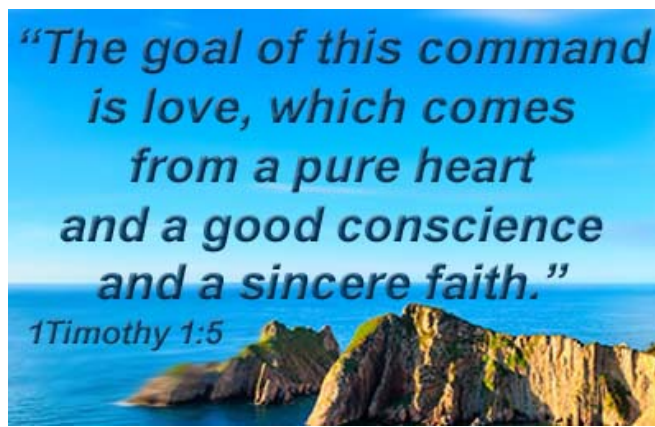
That's why Paul said:

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 13:4-6, "Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth."

As such:

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

2 John 6, "This is love, that we walk according to His commandments."

1 John 4:8, "Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."

Here are more elements about true love:

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, and as scripture clearly says:

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."

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?

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How do we recognize a true believer from a deceiver?

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

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

Why?

1 John 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."

2 Chronicles 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."

As such:

Galatians 5:24, "Those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."

And in Jesus' own words:

John 8:31, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed."

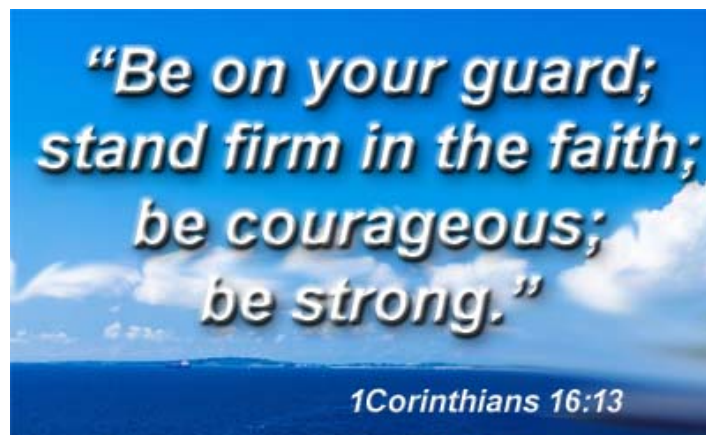
Therefore:

2 Corinthians 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?"

James 4:7, "Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

Does my life testify to living to love God, follow Christ, and in abiding by His Word?

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How are we enjoined to be steadfast in the Lord, in essence to be resolute, courageous and unwavering in our 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."

As such:

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

2 Peter 3:17, "Beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked."

James 4:4, "Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God."

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."

Therefore:

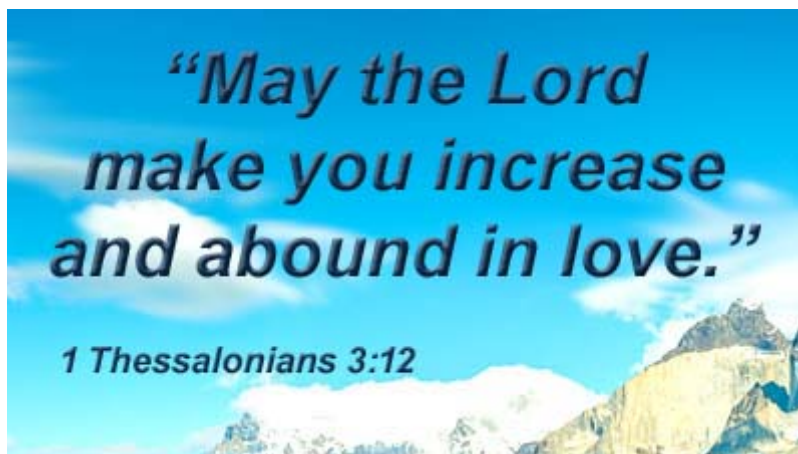
1 Corinthians 15:58, "Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

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

Psalms 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me?"

Am I wholly committed to serving God, or rather am I walking one foot in the world while pretending to serve the Lord?

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How must we be steadfast to grow our love for God?

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."

Why?

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

And in Jesus' own words:

John 14:21, "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."

As such:

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."

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."

2 Timothy 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."

How sincere and evident is my love for God right now?

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