

How do you know?

“Do you know for sure that you are a Christian?” We received some interesting answers. Most fell into these two categories.

- American
- Member of / attend ... church

We Need a New Point of View

Our North American culture preaches a folk faith full of false ideas. This deceptive theology permeates our society to the point that most people accept it – leading many to believe they are in God’s family when they are not. We need to grasp the truth about how to know we received God’s saving grace. “This folk faith” is not “that true assurance” God wants us to experience.

You CAN Know

THIS idea that you cannot know if you have a relationship with Jesus is not THAT TRUE ASSURANCE.

So you may know....

1 John 5:13 NIV

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Sermon in a Sentence:

You can know that you know that you know you have a real connection with Jesus because the Holy Spirit lives in you.

Love like Jesus

THIS idea that being a member of or attending such and such church proves you have a relationship with Jesus is not THAT TRUE ASSURANCE coming from you loving others like Jesus does.

Obedient Love

1 John 2:3-6 NIV

We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

Living in the Light of Love

1 John 2:9-11 NIV

Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. But

anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.

Passing from death to life

1 John 3:14 NIV

We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death.

How we know real love

1 John 3:16-19 NIV

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. This is how we know that we belong to the truth and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence:

Sermon in a Sentence:

You can know that you know that you know you have a real connection with Jesus because the Holy Spirit lives in you.

Knowing Jesus

THIS idea that being an American shows that you are a Christian is not THAT TRUE ASSURANCE that grows out of really knowing Jesus.

Knowing God

1 John 2:13-14 NIV

I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, dear children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one.

Sermon in a Sentence:

You can know that you know that you know you have a real connection with Jesus because the Holy Spirit lives in you.

Obedying Jesus' Teachings

THIS idea that you can be sure of your relationship with Jesus because you completed some religious ritual (baptism, prayer, confirmation, Communion) is not THAT TRUE ASSURANCE only God can give when you live in obedience to Jesus' teachings.

Do the Right Thing

1 John 3:10 NIV

This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

Sermon in a Sentence:

You can know that you know that you know you have a real connection with Jesus because the Holy Spirit lives in you.

Holy Spirit's Gift

THIS idea that you can be sure of your relationship with Jesus because you grew up in the church is not THAT TRUE ASSURANCE the Holy Spirit wants to give you.

We have received Him

1 John 3:13-16 NIV

Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him. This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

Sermon in a Sentence:

You can know that you know that you know you have a real connection with Jesus because the Holy Spirit lives in you.

Confession is good for you

1 John 1:9 NIV

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

What will you do?

- Ask the Holy Spirit to convince me of how much I need Jesus' forgiveness
- Practice confession and accountability with a trusted Christian person