

Christian Doctrine Salvation (Part 6) The Evidence of Salvation

The Product of a Changed Life

The moment of a person's conversion is just the beginning of what God has in store for their lives. A believer is God's "workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10). The evidence that someone is truly born again will be seen through a work called "sanctification."

God's Work of Sanctification

Sanctification is the process whereby a believer continually becomes more and more like Christ. This involves:

➤ *A Maturity in the Faith*

Through a growing knowledge of God's Word, and the work of the Holy Spirit, a believer will develop:

- A growing awareness of sin in one's life and a desire to overcome it (Rom. 6:1-2, 11-14; II Cor. 7:1; Heb. 12:1, 6).
- A heart to submit to God in all areas of life (Rom. 6:17-18).

➤ *A Desire to Make Choices That Honor God*

The inward change a person experiences at salvation will produce outward results.

- True faith in Christ will be evidenced by obedience to His will (John 14:15; I John 2:6; 3:3).
- Faith without works is dead (James 2:14-26).

➤ *A Pattern of Growth in the Christian Life*

Though perfection will not be achieved in this life (Phil. 3:12), spiritual growth should be evidenced by:

- Continually seeing less and less of the "old self" (who we were before salvation) and more and more of the "new self" (who we are as believers) (Eph. 4:22-24).
- Continually growing in godliness (II Cor. 3:18).

We must allow God to work this process of sanctification, knowing that through it He will accomplish His purpose for our lives (Phil. 2:12-13; Eph. 5:27).

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