

# THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST BIBLE OUTREACH

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## ANNUAL FASTING AND PRAYER

### THE SIGNS OF GENUINE SAVING FAITH

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**Saving faith is faith that not only knows and comprehends the facts about the gospel of Jesus Christ.**

**Saving faith is the biblical, God-given trust in the person and work of Jesus Christ alone for salvation.**

**It is moving beyond mere intellectual belief to personal reliance.**

**It involves understanding the gospel truths. Having the knowledge, conviction of their reality and personal surrender to Christ as Lord and Saviour. This faith is the instrument of justification and a gift of grace, leading to a transformed life.**

**Many believers doubt their salvation because they don't see signs of genuine faith in their lives.**

**There are those who say we should never doubt our decision to follow Christ, but the Bible encourages us to examine ourselves to see if we are truly "in the faith" (2 Corinthians 13:5).**

**Thankfully, God has given us ample instruction for how we can know for sure that we have eternal life. The first epistle of John was actually written for that purpose, as it states in 1 John 5:13, "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."**

**There is a series of tests in 1 John that we can use to examine ourselves and our faith. As we look at them, remember that no one will perfectly fulfill all of them all the time, but they should reveal a consistent trend that characterizes our lives as we grow in grace.**

**1. Do you enjoy having fellowship with Christ and His redeemed people? (1 John 1:3)**

- 2. Would people say you walk in the light, or walk in the darkness? (1 John 1:6-7)**
- 3. Do you admit and confess your sin? (1 John 1:8)**
- 4. Are you obedient to God's Word? (1 John 2:3-5)**
- 5. Does your life indicate you love God rather than the world? (1 John 2:15)**
- 6. Is your life characterized by "doing what is right"? (1 John 2:29)**
- 7. Do you seek to maintain a pure life? (1 John 3:3)**
- 8. Do you see a decreasing pattern of sin in your life? (1 John 3:5-6) [Note: this refers to not continuing in sin as a way of life, not a total absence of sin.]**
- 9. Do you demonstrate love for other Christians? (1 John 3:14)**
- 10. Do you "walk the walk," versus just "talking the talk"? (1 John 3:18-19)**
- 11. Do you maintain a clear conscience? (1 John 3:21)**
- 12. Do you experience victory in your Christian walk? (1 John 5:4)**

**If you are able to truthfully answer "Yes" to these questions (or a majority of them, and are working on the others), then your life is bearing the fruit of true salvation.**