Does My Life Reflect That I Believe God?

Zanesville, OH | October 13, 2019 | John Pollard | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:**

**Intro**:

* As Christians it can be really easy for us to walk into services on Sunday and Wednesday and carry out the roles we need to as far as we are concerned as a group. But the real litmus test that determines whether or not we are true Christians, relates to what we do when we leave here. Coming together for group meetings may take some effort on our part and for some it can prove to be quite difficult. But as time goes by, if we stick with it long enough and we stay committed it becomes like breathing. But what is really hard, is living as a Christian outside of these group meetings.
* This is why Christianity is sometimes referred to as a “hard religion” or a religion that teaches “demanding discipleship.” Jesus died so we could make changes and be better. He died so we could take our masks off and bring all the pain and the hurt and the sin to Him. That takes effort and a heart that’s willing to look in the mirror and re-evaluate every time we fail or fall short. The key question we need to be asking ourselves is: **Does my life reflect that I believe God?** This isn’t the same thing as believing God exists (cf. Jam. 2:19). Anybody can say they believe God exists but that doesn’t make someone a true follower.
* To say we believe God means that we are moved with fear to love Him, serve Him and do whatever it takes to draw closer to Him. When we believe God we make changes and sacrifices that put us in a better position to succeed spiritually and shine brighter as lights in a dark world. So, how can we know our lives are reflecting that we believe God?
1. **Am I willing to do all that God tells me and asks of me?**
	1. A life that reflects that we believe God is self-evident because of trust, reliance and complete loyalty. If we claim to believe God we are saying that we trust Him complete with not just some things but everything. There is nothing that we will hold back from Him and nothing that we won’t tell him.
	2. We ask, we fear, we worship because He is deserving of it but also because we need it. We need Him to fix us. We need Him to be better and to point us towards success and towards life. We can know that our lives reflect that we believe in God when these things are evident.
	3. But the clearest and most prominent indication that a Christian is a true believer is when he/she is willing to do everything God tells them to do. Not just some, not just most but all of it. This applies to things that are both easy and extremely difficult.
	4. There is a character in the bible whose life illustrated He believed God because He was willing to do what God asked Him to do even when it was extremely hard and extremely uncertain (Gen. 12:1-9; 15:1-6; 17:9-14, 23-26).
	5. We may not know what lies ahead, we may not like what we have to do and what we’ll have to change but because we believe God, because we trust Him, depend on Him and fear Him we will do whatever He asks of us.
	6. This includes things like being baptized for the forgiveness of sins. It includes staying away from fornication, immodesty, unwholesome speech and any sin no matter how small and trivial it may seem. A life that reflects that we believe in God is a heart that is willing to do everything He says and everything He asks of us.
2. **Am I a nominal Christian?**
	1. Another mark of knowing if we are true believers is whether we are nominal Christians or genuine, max effort Christians. Nominal Christianity is what most religious people would fall under. They call themselves Christians but their lives show that they doubt and distrust God.
	2. This manifests itself when someone isn’t willing to get rid of sin. When individuals aren’t willing to make the necessary sacrifices and changes to be better and get better because they would prefer to maintain worldly standards and the status quo, they are nominal Christians.
	3. If we aren’t willing to do everything God says and everything He asks, then we are not genuine, max effort Christians. Christianity asks the hard questions that require tough but life-changing responses. It is demanding discipleship because of what Christ did and what He is willing to do for us (Lk. 9:23-26; 14:26-27; Jn. 14:1-3).
	4. Nominal Christians pick and choose what they want and what they don’t. They reject God’s truth and go to their favorite tailor so to speak, to get religion suited to their wants not their needs.
	5. Nominal Christians come to God and His people expecting to be fed, emotionally driven, coddled and pampered. They ask: “what can you do for me?” or “what can you give me?” instead of “how can I help you” or “what can I do?”
	6. A life that reflects that we believe God will ask: “What can I do for the church?” or “how can I make a difference today?” instead of “what can the church do for me?” or “What are you willing to give me?” God desires people like this for His kingdom and the citizens of this country and our world need to recognize that this is the mindset that will truly make a difference.
	7. Nominal Christians rely on the faith of their preacher, their family and their friends to make the difference and get them to heaven. But genuine, max efforts Christians know that discipleship is personal and Jesus died for each individual which means my eternal destiny is directly proportional to the amount of effort I contribute to my relationship with Christ (Phil. 2:12).
	8. A life that reflects that we believe God is a heart that is willing to put God first and keep Him first place at all times and at any and all costs. He is my closest friend, He is my most trusted advisor and He is my most loving Father! When we build a relationship like that with God, there will be no problem seeing the belief in that life.

**Conclusion:** When Jesus spoke about Christianity and the kind of disciples it demands, He made it very clear that this isn’t something we get to play with; we don’t come and go as we please (Lk. 14:26-33). Being a Christian means that we are committed to Christ; we are married to Him. Believing God means that we will be there every step of the way until we die or until He returns. If you have counted the cost and your life doesn’t reflect believing God as it should, are you willing to make amends? Are you willing to commit to Christ and to stay committed to Him? Are you willing to confess Jesus as your Lord, to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins? If you are willing to give the maximum effort and do everything He asks you and tells you, then don’t wait. Make your life right with God today!