

# Howards Corner

## *So, you say you are a Christian?*

Well, that used to be a sign of honor. To say you are a follower of Christ Jesus because it means you walk your life in love and following the teachings of Christ Jesus which are supposed to be righteous ways. But today to be a real follower of Christ may put a target on your back because the world led by the enemy spirit wants to destroy you. So, beware if you do not mean it and are not willing to pay the price that goes with it. You will be forced to decide when the enemy presses you. Will that decision be even to death I will follow, or will it be to yield to the pressures of this world which are the pressures of the enemy.

Those pressures are very subtle sometimes and do not come at you directly but by half-truths and sometimes by people you least suspect. May even be your church pastors or even whole denominations with error ridden doctrines. Be careful it might cost you dearly.

What evidence would you be able to present that substantiates your being a Christian?

### **The word**

The word of God is God's truth preserved for you to understand His love for you. The bible has been preserved through many centuries and prices paid by those that wrote and passed on His words to you. This is not an insignificant thing that has been given to us. Blood has been spilled to preserve it. But with sadness I must say many have also tried to change the meaning of the word to represent man's view and have distorted the meaning of these words.

The enemy has tried to destroy the word, but it has also been the supposed church that has done the most damage for they came in church clothing and priestly robes and much ceremony having banners of the cross so the people were caught off guard thinking surely, they would not lie to us. They did worse than lie but would not let the everyday man even see the word and read for themselves. If you are in the catholic church, you are still under those distortions of the word and some other denominations that came out of the Roman catholic church.

It is essential that we have ourselves grounded in the written word.

*Romans 10:8 "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,"[d] that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: 9 If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. 11 As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame*

It is therefore essential that the word rightly divided brings us to the understanding that we are lost and need repentance-- is the written word rightly divided --not words of churches or other sources but the written word only for you cannot always trust other sources. So, the word is the conviction that you need to repent and change. Only then can you receive. Then the word is near you and in your heart so you can declare with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead --It is with the heart you believe and are justified for the word has led you to understand and the power of the Holy Spirit seals you for eternal salvation. It is not by human words but must be from the true heart not human superficial words. So, you can say words but is it from the spirit of the Lord or your own understanding?

*Romans 5:5 God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

You must receive this Holy Spirit in your heart for you are not in Christ with only our words but the conviction of our hearts and faith to believe the word that says if we repent and speak with our mouth and with a true heart --true heart is the key question is it from a true heart or you own old heart. You cannot fake this relationship with Christ Jesus. For you must be called to this repentance by the witness of the word and by the witness of the Spirit of the Lord.

*John 3 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.[a]" 5 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit[b] gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You[c] must be born again.'*

So, I am concerned for there are many that have professed with their mouth at alters in many churches and many evangelistic services and have said the sinner's

prayer or repeated these prayers with preachers on television, but I do not see them all operating in the spirit but see many that have no change in their life and have no enthusiasm for the word or the kingdom of God. If you have passed out of the world's way and entered into Christ Jesus, then you will of necessity received the Spirit of Christ in your heart.

*John 6: 44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day.*

Otherwise, how did we get so many dead churches and church members? How did we get so many that still are under the law and believe they are saved by their church memberships? How did we get to the apostate church of today? Did we not all say the words when we joined churches but do not operate in the Spirit of Christ?

It is obvious that we have missed something in the churches of today. Many are saying dead words because they have never had a sincere heart change. Only the spirit of truth can generate spiritual life in a person. None of our pretend ways and words and ceremonies can produce true life. You know that we have an enemy that has been deceiving from the beginning and is spreading his word of confusion and deception and lies and half-truths and many have fallen into the trap.

*Matthew 13 ☺ "A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 Whoever has ears, let them hear."*

The seeds are the word of God that have been preserved for us but not the distorted words of many. If you therefore are in Christ Jesus, you will have the Holy Spirit dwelling in you to produce a crop that is a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. You will not bear fruit if you are not abiding in His spirit and will be led astray by all the other obstacles of life.

Do you have ears to hear --or are you always hearing but not understanding? Empty words do not bring about salvation and the eternal kingdom but instead it is the sincere heart in us that touches the Lord's heart to receive us into His kingdom. So, to say with words only is useless but only those words that are spoken through the Holy Spirit will find the heart of God. Don't trust in your words but in the word of God.

*Howard*