

How to Recognize a Faithful Christian

Hebrews 10:19-31

How to Recognize a Faithful Christian

- Jesus is the superior high priest of a superior covenant validated by a superior sacrifice.
- In spite of this superiority, people respond to it in two ways:
 - Heb. 10:19-25 - Some are saved and remain faithful.
 - Heb. 10:26-31 - Some obey the Gospel and later abandon the faith.

Faithful Christians Draw Near

- He has boldness, confidence in his salvation.
 - Heb. 10:19-20 - “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh.”
- Impossible under the Law of Moses, but made possible by Jesus Christ.
 - Isa. 1:18 - “Come now, and let us reason together, Says the LORD, Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.”

Faithful Christians Draw Near

- Jesus made it possible.
 - Matt. 27:50-51 - “And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split”
 - John 10:9 - “I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.”
 - Heb. 9:22 - “And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.”

Faithful Christians Draw Near

- He has close fellowship with his High Priest.
 - Heb. 10:21 - “And having a High Priest over the house of God.”
 - Heb. 4:14-16 - “Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Faithful Christians Draw Near

- He has close fellowship with his High Priest.
 - Heb. 7:25 - “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”
 - John 6:37 - “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.”

Faithful Christians Draw Near

- He has a clean heart and a new life.
 - Heb. 10:22 - “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.”
 - 1John 1:7 - “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”
 - Eph. 1:7 - “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”
 - Heb. 9:28 - “So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many.”

Faithful Christians Draw Near

- He comes in full assurance of faith.
 - Rom. 5:1-2 - “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”
 - Rom. 10:17 - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Faithful Christians Hold Fast

- Heb. 10:23, 35-39 - “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful... 35 Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. 36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 37 For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry. 38 Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.”

Faithful Christians Hold Fast

- For those who draw back.
 - Gen. 19:26 - “But his wife looked back behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.”
 - 1John 2:19 - “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.”

Faithful Christians Hold Fast

- What keeps the faithful, faithful?
 - John 10:10 - “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”
 - John 14:1-3 - “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”
 - Heb. 13:5 - “For He Himself has said, ‘I will never leave you nor forsake you.’”

Faithful Christians Look After One Another

- We help one another along the way in life.
 - Heb. 10:24-25 - “And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Faithful Christians Look After One Another

- “Consider” - katanoeo: “to observe fully; behold, consider, discover, perceive; to set the mind on” (Strong’s).
- “Provoke” - paroxusmos: “incitement to good, provoke unto; to stir up” (Strong’s).
- “Exhort” - parakaleo: “to call near, invite, invoke by imploration or consolation; beseech, call for, be of good comfort, give exhortation, entreat, pray, to encourage” (Strong’s).

Faithful Christians Look After One Another

- We love each other.
 - John 13:34-35 - “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
 - Matt. 22:37-40 - ““You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Faithful Christians Look After One Another

- We love each other.
 - 1John 3:14 - “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.”
 - 1John 4:7-8 - “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”
 - 1John 4:20-21 - “If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? 21 And this commandment we have from Him: ‘that he who loves God must love his brother also.’”

Faithful Christians Look After One Another

- We work together.
 - Rom. 14:19 - “Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.”

Faithful Christians Look After One Another

- We worship together.
- Three reasons to come to services faithfully:
- God commands it.
 - Heb. 10:25 - “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Faithful Christians Look After One Another

- Jesus did it.
 - Luke 4:16 - “So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.”
- New Testament Christians practiced it.
 - Acts 20:6-7 - “But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days. 7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.”

Faithful Christians Look After One Another

- We wait together.
 - 2Peter 3:9-14 - “The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless”

Faithful Christians Look After One Another

- We wait together.
 - 1Cor. 11:23-26 - “For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ 25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.’ 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.”