

You allow yourself and others the freedom to make mistakes. (1 Peter 3:8; Ephesians 4:2; Romans 14) As human beings and as Christians we all differ. Our uniqueness must be realized, acknowledged and accepted by each of us respectively.

Only as we accept our own failures and weaknesses, without condemnation, judgment and criticism, will we be able to open up to each other in truth and honesty. The non believer very quickly judges the Christians and how they relate to each other. We must not just talk the talk, but walk the walk, or we will be hypocrites.

Ephesians 4 contains words of wisdom and Holy Spirit instruction on this matter.

- How are we to live as Christians? v. 1
- What are we to practice? v. 2
- How are we to work with the Spirit? v. 3
- What is to be our walk? vs. 22-24
- What is to be our talk? v. 25

We have considered six signs of a Healthy Faith. But the life of faith begins at that moment of Salvation, when we enter into a relationship with God, through faith in Jesus Christ. It is only after we become members of Christ's family, that our faith can grow.

So, I'm wondering if you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? You can have one. It is simply a choice you must make. A Bible verse I love, is that of John 14:23, where Jesus said, *"If anyone loves me, he will obey my words. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and*

***make our home with him."***

Would you like to have a living relationship with Jesus and God as your personal friends? You need only believe! Pray and ask the Lord Jesus to come and live with you. Jesus says, *"Here I am! I stand at your door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in ..."* (Revelation 3:20)

If you want to begin a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, you might like to offer Him a prayer like this:

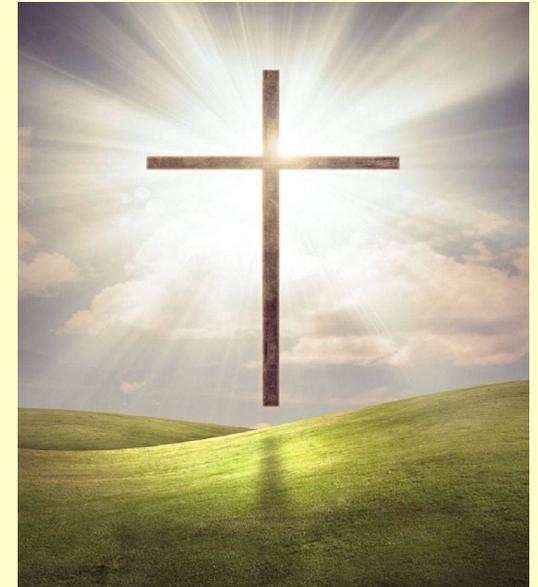
*Jesus, I know that You died on the cross to pay the penalty for my sins. You rose from the dead to prove that You have conquered sin and death so that all who believe in You can live forever with You in heaven. I now trust You Lord Jesus and ask you to come into my life and make me a member of your family. I turn away from my sins and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Help me to serve You faithfully and look forward to being with You in heaven for all eternity. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for loving me and saving me. Amen.*

**For More Information contact:**

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## Six Signs of a Healthy Faith



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# Signs of a Healthy Faith

How fit is your faith?  
Do you need a spiritual check-up?

If you sense something might be wrong in your Christian walk, here are 6 signs of a healthy faith-life. If your faith-life is not characterized by all, or at least some of these areas, it might be time to examine your Christian walk and get back to the Bible, Prayer and Christian Fellowship.

## Six Signs of a Healthy Faith Life

**1. Your faith is based on a relationship with God, not religious obligations and rituals.** You follow Christ because you want to, not because you have to. Your relationship with Jesus flows naturally out of love. It is not forced or driven by guilt. (1 John 4:7-19; Hebrews 10:19-22)

Faith and love go together. 1John 4:7-18.

- What does Christian love prove? v. 7
- What defines an unbeliever? v. 8
- How did God express His love? v. 9
- Where does love originate? v. 10
- Why should we show love? v. 11
- What happens when we love? v. 12
- What is God's gift to us? v. 13
- How is God's love evident? vs. 14 -15
- What love do we rely on? v. 16
- How does love give confidence? v. 17
- Why can't love and fear coexist? v. 18
- Why do we love God? v. 19

**2. Your sense of security and significance is centered on God and who you are in Christ,** not on others or your accomplishments. (1 Thessalonians 2:1-6; Ephesians 6:6-7)

Thessalonians has much to teach us about being God centered.

- Why is serving God not a failure? vs. 1-2
- What is the best approval in life? vs. 3-4
- Who is our best supporter? v. 5
- How do we get God's approval? v. 6

**3. Your faith in God is strengthened as you walk through life's troubles, trials and painful experiences,** not weakened or destroyed. (1 Peter 4:12-13; James 1:2-4)

The Holy Spirit gave the apostle James (James 1:2 - 4) certain key expressions to explain the process of how God strengthens our faith in times of trials.

- What is the best attitude under trials? v. 2
- What really tests our faith? v. 3
- Why should we persevere? v. 4

**4. Your service to others flows out of genuine love and concern for them,** not from compulsion or a need to be recognized.

You offer your service as a joy and a pleasure and not an obligation or a heavy burden. (Ephesians 6:6-7; Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 12:10; Philippians 2: 1- 4)

In Philippians 2, the attitude of the Lord Jesus is our model. In laying aside his position with God in heaven to come to

earth and die for sinful mankind, is used by the Holy Spirit to teach us what type of love we should show towards each other.

- What is the appeal in v. 1?
- What is being asked of us in v. 2?
- What is the key word in v. 3?
- How do we show genuine love? v. 4

**5. You value and respect the unique differences and individual gifts of your brothers and sisters in Christ,** rather than expecting conformity to one Christian standard. You appreciate and celebrate others' gifts. (Romans 14; Romans 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:4-31)

As Christians we are in one big family of God. He has a different job for each of us and gives us gifts to do it. We are to respect the gift and knowledge each one has and not judge or criticize one another. 1 Corinthians 12 encourages us to see God working in our fellow believer.

- How do we get God's gifts? vs. 4-6
- What is the purpose of the gift? v. 7
- What gifts are still operative? vs. 8 -11
- Why respect different gifts? vs. 25-26

1 Corinthians 12 teaches, that in the body of Christ family, we are all members one of another. Therefore, we must respect each other and the gifts God has given us. We are to build each other up.

**6. You are able to give and receive trust and allow others to see you—and themselves—in a state of vulnerability and imperfection.**