

“The Holy Spirit, whom Jesus also called the Spirit of Truth, has not come into the world to fool around; He will be found wherever the Lord’s people meet, and in confirming the Word and the Person of Jesus Christ, He will demand moral action.”

A.W. Tozer

The Foundation

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And we can find that foundation in the following:

The Stages of Salvation

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And we know that all things work together for good to (who) those who love God, to those who are (what) the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be (what) conformed to the image of His Son, (why) that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Romans 8:28-30

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And this is where our foundation is crumbling.

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And they become an unsaved, baptized, church member.

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Why? Because a holy life can only be accomplished by a Holy God, and we cannot do it ourselves. Jesus spoke of this in His Parable of the Sower.

Regeneration and Conversion

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On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying:

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“Behold, a sower went out to sow.

And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside;
and the birds came and devoured them.

Some fell on stony places, where they did not have
much earth; and they immediately sprang up because
they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up
they were scorched, and because they had no root
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Matthew 13:3b-6

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“And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

Matthew 13:7-9

Regeneration and Conversion

“**And some fell among thorns**, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

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There are four types of soils.

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And the seed is spread to each of these.

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In three of the four soils, some growth takes place.

Regeneration and Conversion

No Regeneration or Conversion

Regeneration and Conversion

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No Regeneration, but Conversion Only

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“Therefore hear the parable of the sower:
When anyone hears the word of the kingdom,
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comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart.
This is he who received seed by the wayside.”

Matthew 13:18-19

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“But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles (falls away).”

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“Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.”

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Both Regeneration and Conversion

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“But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

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“Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”

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The Stages of Salvation

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1. Election (God's choice of people to be saved)
2. The Gospel Call (the message of the gospel)
3. Regeneration (being born again)
4. Conversion (faith and repentance)
5. Justification (right legal standing)
6. Adoption (membership in God's family)
7. Sanctification (right conduct of life)
8. Perseverance (remaining a Christian)
9. Death (going to be with the Lord)
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What is the difference between regeneration and conversion? After all, both involve faith.

But not all faith is saving faith
(or faith that leads to salvation).

Non-Saving Faith and Saving Faith

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Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith.

Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified (reprobates, those not approved, those who fail the test).

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How Can We Know We Are Saved?

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These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, (why) that you may know (what) that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

1 John 5:13

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5. Does your life indicate you love God rather than the world? - 1 John 2:15

How Can We Know We Are Saved?

6. Is your life characterized by "doing what is right"?

1 John 2:29

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9. Do you demonstrate love for other Christians?

1 John 3:14

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10. Do you "walk the walk," or just "talk the talk"?

1 John 3:18-19

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Note: All of these have to do with sanctification.

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Note: All of these have to do with sanctification.

They are the fruit, the proof of a saved life.

Final Questions

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Do you possess saving or non-saving faith?

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And if you claim saving faith, how do you know?

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Do others know?

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Or does your life sometimes reflect Christ and
sometimes reflect you and your flesh?

If so, do you know what Jesus said
about a life like that?

How Can We Know We Are Saved?

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1. Do you enjoy having fellowship with Christ and His redeemed people?

That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:3

How Can We Know We Are Saved?

2. Would people say you walk in the light,
or walk in the darkness?

If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

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.

1 John 1:6-7

How Can We Know We Are Saved?

3. Do you admit and confess your sin?

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,
and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive
us our sins and to cleanse us from
all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

How Can We Know We Are Saved?

4. Are you obedient to God's Word?

Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him.

By this we know that we are in Him.

1 John 2:3-5

How Can We Know We Are Saved?

5. Does your life indicate you love God rather than the world?

Do not love the world or the things in the world.
If anyone loves the world, the love of the
Father is not in him.

1 John 2:15

How Can We Know We Are Saved?

6. Is your life characterized by "doing what is right"?

If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

1 John 2:29

How Can We Know We Are Saved?

7. Do you seek to maintain a pure life?

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

1 John 3:2-3

How Can We Know We Are Saved?

8. Do you see a decreasing pattern of sin in your life?
(Note: this refers to not continuing in sin as a way of life, and not a total absence of sin.)

And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him.

1 John 3:5-6

How Can We Know We Are Saved?

9. Do you demonstrate love for other Christians?

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.

1 John 3:14

How Can We Know We Are Saved?

10. Do you "walk the walk," or just "talk the talk"?

My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue,
but in deed and in truth.

And by this we know that we are of the truth,
and shall assure our hearts before Him

1 John 3:18-19

How Can We Know We Are Saved?

11. Do you maintain a clear conscience?

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us,
we have confidence toward God.

1 John 3:21

How Can We Know We Are Saved?

12. Do you experience victory in your Christian walk?

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world.
And this is the victory that has overcome
the world— our faith.

1 John 5:4

Final Question

Do you possess saving or non-saving faith?
And if you claim saving faith, how do you know?

Do others know?

Can they tell by your life that it no longer
belongs to you but to the Lord?

Or does your life sometimes reflect Christ and
sometimes reflect you and your flesh?

If so, do you know what Jesus said
about a life like that?

