

CHAPTER 13

Signs Of Life (Continued)

SIGN OF LIFE # 7--The person who has life PERFORMS GOOD WORKS (2 John 3:11).

Read Ephesians 2:8-9 and Ephesians 2:10 and answer *True* or *False*:

1. _____ Good works are necessary for salvation.
2. _____ If salvation were of good works, then it would be possible for a man to boast before God.
3. _____ Some people will someday be able to glory and boast in the presence of God (1 Corinthians 1:29-31; Romans 3:27).
4. _____ Good works are the *fruit* of salvation because God will work in the life of the true believer to produce good works.
5. _____ Only true believers can perform good works that are pleasing to God (compare Romans 8:8-9).
6. _____ God's perfect plan for the believer is that he might walk in good works and live a fruitful life (compare John 15:16).

What two verses in Ephesians chapter 2 teach the same truth as Titus 3:5? Verses _____ and _____. What verse in Ephesians chapter 2 teaches the same truth as Titus 3:1,8,14? Verse _____

What is true about the person who truly belongs to God (3 John 11)? _____
 _____ What do we know about the person who keeps on (present tense) doing evil (3 John 11)? _____
 According to 1 John 3:6, the person who has not seen God is the person who has not _____ God. Is this person saved? _____ Do you think that 3 John 11 means that to be saved a person must do good (compare Titus 3:5 and Acts 16:31)? _____

Our Lord Jesus warned His disciples about what group of men (Matthew 7:15)? _____
 _____ What are these men like according to their outward appearance (Matthew 7:15)? _____ What are they really like on the inside (Matthew 7:15)? _____
 Find the verse in Acts 20 where Paul warns about this same danger: Verse: _____ How can these men be known and recognized for what they really are (Matthew 7:16,20)? _____ Will a thorn bush bring forth grapes? _____
 Will a grapevine bring forth thorns? _____ What should we expect from a grapevine? _____
 _____ What should we expect from an apple tree? _____ What should we expect from a good tree (Matthew 7:17)? _____ What should we expect from a bad tree? _____
 _____ What will, a corrupt tree produce (Matthew 7:17)? _____
 _____ It's impossible for a good tree to produce _____ and _____

it's impossible for a _____ to produce _____ (Matthew 7:18).
 What kind of tree does not bring forth good fruit (Matthew 7:18-19)? _____ What
 will happen to every corrupt tree (Matthew 7:19)? _____

Therefore what will happen to such false
 teachers and false prophets (compare 2 Peter 2:1)?

Are all true believers fruitful (Matthew 13:8,23)? _____ Are some believers more
 fruitful than others (Matthew 13:8,23)? _____ God desires that His children might bring forth
 _____ fruit (John 15:2) and that they might bear _____ fruit (John 15:8, also verse 5).
 What is this fruit that the Lord was speaking about? In Galatians 5:22 we are told that the
 _____ of the _____ is 1) L _____ 2) J _____ 3) P _____. Let's find
 out if this is the same fruit that the Lord Jesus was speaking of in John chapters 14-16. In John
 15:9-10 what fruit is being considered? _____ In John 14:27; 16:33 what
 fruit is being considered? _____ In John 15:11; 16:20,22 what fruit is being
 considered? _____ Is this the same fruit as in Galatians 5:22? _____

Faith without works is _____ (James 2:17,20,26). Please match the following:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. _____ Dead Faith | A. Faith and works |
| 2. _____ Living Faith | B. Body only (body without the spirit) |
| 3. _____ Dead Body (v.26) | C. Body and spirit |
| 4. _____ Living Body (v.26) | D. Faith only (faith without works) |

James teaches that a man is justified (declared righteous) by _____ (James
 2:21,24) and Paul teaches that a man is justified by _____ (Romans 5:1). James
 teaches that Abraham was justified by _____ (James 2:21) and Paul teaches that
 Abraham was justified not by _____ but by _____ (Romans 4:1-5 and compare
 Romans 3:26-28). Does the Bible have any contradictions or mistakes (John 17:17; 2 Timothy
 3:16; Psalm 119:89; 119:160; etc.)? _____

How was Abraham saved? What does the Bible teach (Romans 4:3)?
 _____ Therefore, was Abraham saved by faith or
 by works? _____ Find the verse in Genesis 15 that teaches us that Abraham
 was justified (declared righteous) by faith: Verse _____. Do Paul and James both quote this
 verse (Romans 4:3 and James 2:23)? _____

When was Abraham justified by works (James 2:21)?
 _____ Did this event take place
 before or after Abraham was justified by faith (compare Genesis 15:6 with Genesis 22)?

TRUE or FALSE:

- _____ Abraham was first justified by works and then later he was justified by faith.
 _____ Abraham was first justified by faith and then later he was justified by works.
 _____ In God's sight Abraham was declared righteous the moment he believed on
 the Lord (Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:3-5).

If it were true that Abraham earned his salvation by works, then what would it have been possible for him to do (Ephesians 2:9; Romans 4:2)? _____

Did the Lord know that Abraham was a true believer (Genesis 15:5-6)? _____ Does the Lord know whether or not you are a true believer (2 Timothy 2:19)? _____ Who is the only person who really knows our hearts and is able to see if we really have faith in Christ (Jeremiah 17:10)? _____ The question we must answer is this: How did *men* know that Abraham was a man of faith? Was there anything in Abraham's life that *showed* that he had genuine faith in the Lord? How did Abraham *demonstrate* that he had living and vital faith in his God? We will now seek to answer these questions.

In Genesis 12:2 God promised that out of Abraham would come a G_____. N_____. What problem did Abraham have which made the promise seem as if it would not be fulfilled (Genesis 15:2-3)? _____ What great promise did the Lord give to Abraham in Genesis 15:5?

_____ Did Abraham believe this promise (Genesis 15:6)? _____ Was he justified (Genesis 15:6)? _____ Was he justified by works or by faith? _____ What problem do we find in Genesis 16:1?

_____ What did God promise to make Abraham (Genesis 17:5)? _____ Did the Lord promise to give Abraham **seed** (descendants, children)--see Genesis 17:6-8? _____ What did the Lord promise to give to Abraham in Genesis 17:15-16)? _____ In Genesis 17:19 God again promises to give Abraham a _____ and his name would be _____. Did the Lord promise to give Isaac seed (Genesis 17:19)? _____ Therefore Abraham knew that Isaac must have children! How was it possible for Sarah to have a son in her old age (Genesis 18:14)? _____ (compare Luke 1:34-37). Did the Lord keep His promise (Genesis 21:1-2)? _____ Read Romans 4:16-22.

In whom would Abraham's descendants be called, in Ishmael (Hagar's son) or in Isaac (Sarah's son)?--see Genesis 21:10-12 and Romans 9:7. _____ This means that the seed of Abraham promised in Genesis 15:5 would be the descendants of Isaac and not Ishmael. Who served as slaves in Egypt for 400 years, the seed of Ishmael or the seed of Isaac (Genesis 15:13)? _____ *True or False:* _____ Because of God's promises in Genesis 17:19 and 21:12, Abraham knew that Isaac must have children.

In Genesis 22 God put Abraham's faith to the test (see verse 1) and He gave Abraham an opportunity to *prove* to everyone that he was indeed a man of faith. James says that this was when Abraham was _____ by _____ (James 2:21). Here in Genesis 22 Abraham showed the world that his faith was not a dead faith, but his was a faith that worked!

What command did God give to Abraham (Genesis 22:2)? _____ (In other words, God told him to sacrifice and put to death his only son!) When God gives a command, how does the man of faith respond (Hebrews 11:8)? _____ Did Abraham hasten to obey the command (Genesis 22:3)? _____ We know that God prevented Abraham from killing his son (Genesis 22:10-13), but did Abraham know that God was going to do this? _____ What did Abraham *intend* to do when he came to the place where God had told him of (Genesis 22:9-10)? _____ Did he actually intend to slay his son upon the altar? _____ **THUS, ABRAHAM FACED AN IMPOSSIBLE PROBLEM:**

1) God had given him a PROMISE: **Isaac will have children.**

The man of faith must believe the promise. Abraham *did* believe the promise and Abraham knew that Isaac would have children because he was "fully persuaded that, what God had _____ He was _____ also to _____" (Romans 4:21).

2) God had given him a COMMAND: **Kill your son!**

The man of faith must obey the command. Abraham fully intended to obey the command and as far as he was concerned he was going to put the knife to his son. Abraham knew that his son would soon be dead!

Thus Abraham was presented with this great dilemma:

How Can A Dead Son Have Children ?

Such a thing is unthinkable! It is impossible! But God had given Abraham previous experience with impossible things! What else was impossible (Genesis 18:11-13)?

_____ Was God able to bring forth life out of death (Romans 4:18-19)? _____ Abraham knew that it was impossible for dead Isaac to have children, but what else did he know (Genesis 18:14)?

Abraham knew that Isaac must die and he also knew that Isaac must have children! How can this be? By FAITH Abraham saw the solution!! He **believed** that God was _____ to _____ even from the _____ (Hebrews 11:19; read also verses 17-18). Look carefully at Genesis 22:5. Abraham told these men to wait behind because he and Isaac were going to go and worship (to Abraham "WORSHIP" meant that he would go and do exactly what God said, namely, sacrifice his son). In other words, Abraham was saying, "I and the lad will go yonder. I will then sacrifice my son, and **we** will _____ to you" (Genesis 22:5). "I'm going to put my son to death, but **we** are going to return to you alive!" Abraham believed God would take his dead son, raise him up and bring him back to life! What tremendous faith this man had! God tested his faith and Abraham gloriously passed the test!

This account in Genesis 22 is only a F_____ (Hebrews 11:19) of a much greater sacrifice and a much greater resurrection. God prevented Abraham from delivering up his only son whom he loved (Genesis 22:12). But what did God eventually do many hundreds of years later (Romans 8:32)?

_____ But the Lord Jesus could not stay dead (see Acts 2:24) because He must have SEED (Isaiah 53:10) and He must bring _____ unto glory (Hebrews 2:10). So what did God do (Acts 4:10)? _____

Let us now return again to James 2. Is James 2:14 talking about a person who **has** faith or about a person who **says** he has faith? _____ Is it possible to actually see a person's faith? _____ If you were to meet a total stranger, could you tell whether or not he was a believer just by looking at him? _____ In order for a person to **prove** that he has faith,

he needs to perform the good works which ought to accompany genuine saving faith (see Ephesians 2:10 and Titus 3:8).

Did the person described in James 2:16 demonstrate that he had a living faith? _____
What did he really prove (1 John 3:14)? _____ Even though he claimed to have faith, what kind of faith did he really have (James 2:17)? _____
Verse 18 (in James 2) teaches us that a person *shows* his faith by whether or not he performs good works! Saving faith is a faith that works! John Calvin once said, "Faith alone saves, but the faith that saves is not alone." Works are the fruit of justification! The world is sick and tired of Christians shouting about grace and living like the devil!

Did the Apostle Paul teach that faith and works should go together (Ephesians 2:8-10 and Titus 3:8)? _____ Did Paul and James both agree that Abraham was justified by faith (Romans 4:2-3 and James 2:23)? _____ Did the writer of Hebrews (maybe Paul?) and James both agree that Abraham was justified by works when he offered his son (Hebrews 11:17-19 and James 2:21)? _____ Do the Scriptures contradict or do they harmonize perfectly?

A person with dead faith can easily believe there is one God, but who else believes this (James 2:19)? _____ Where are they going to end up (Matthew 25:41)?

Consider James 2:26. To tell if a body has life in it, you must look for signs of life! What are some signs of physical life? (see Chapter 9)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

To tell if a person really has saving faith, you must look for signs of life also! What are some signs of spiritual life? 1. (1 John 3:14) _____ 2. (1 John 2:3) _____
_____ 3. (1 John 3:9) _____ 4. (1 Peter 2:2) _____

Is your life fruitful or is it barren (see 2 Peter 1:8)? Are you careful to maintain good works? Do you prove by your works that you are a true believer? Do you have a living faith or a dead faith? "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith!" Are you dead or alive?

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We have carefully studied seven signs of spiritual life (there are more than seven, but these are seven important and obvious ones). Are these SIGNS evident in your life? Do you show forth the signs of life or the signs of death? Are you a true possessor ("he that **has** the Son **has** life"--1 John 5:12) or a mere professor?

If these *signs of life* do not characterize your life, then this means one of two things: **1) You are spiritually sick.** That is, you are a true believer who is very carnal and in a backslidden state (1 Cor. 3:1-4). You need to get right with God. **2) You are spiritually dead.** That is, you are not a true believer and you don't have God's life. You may have *professed* salvation but you may never have *possessed* salvation. You need to receive Christ as your personal Saviour and

trust in Him and Him alone (John 1:12; 6:47).

There are two important questions that must be faced: 1) AM I ALIVE? 2) IF I AM NOT ALIVE, HOW CAN I BE MADE ALIVE? In our study we have examined our own lives and have tried to answer the first question. If I really have God's life, then I should manifest these seven signs of life.

How should the second question be answered? There is a wrong answer that will lead a person to eternal death and there is a correct answer that will lead a person to eternal life. The wrong answer is this: "To be made alive, I must believe in Adam and Eve, desire God's Word, love the brethren, obey God's commandments, not continue in sin, perform good works, etc." Titus 3:5 and Ephesians 2:8-9 clearly show that people are not saved by trying to do these things! It's impossible for unsaved people (lifeless people) to do these things.

The correct answer is this: "To be made alive, I must receive Christ (John 1:12), the One who said, "I AM THE LIFE" (John 14:6). He that has the Son has life (1 John 5:12). Have you done this? If you are not sure, please see the important paper entitled: **Am I a True Believer?**

If this study has made you uncertain about whether or not you have God's gift of eternal life, then I would strongly urge you to do the following:

- 1) Have a talk with your Pastor or with some mature Christian believer who will be able to help you understand how you can receive God's gift of eternal life.
- 2) Prayerfully and carefully read the gospel of John (see John 20:31). When you finish this read the book of Romans which clearly sets forth the gospel of God (see Romans 1:1,16).
- 3) Read (or re-read) and study the first six chapters in this set of notes [these chapters deal with salvation and answer the all-important question, "WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?" (Acts 16:31)].

The Root and The Fruit

“As the apple is not the cause of the apple tree, but a fruit of it: even so good works are not the cause of our salvation, but a sign and a fruit of the same”–Daniel Cawdra

**I do not work my soul to save–
That my Lord hath done;
But I will work like any slave
For love of God's dear Son!**