

Does Jesus  
Know Me?

Why Can't I  
Pray Like  
Others?

Why is Studying  
the Bible So Hard?

I Keep Sinning, Is  
This Normal?

How Do I  
Know If My  
Sins Are  
Forgiven?



# Salvation Series

An in-depth Discussion Series with Sister Laraine

How Can I  
Grow Closer  
to God?

How Do I  
Become Born  
Again?

I Don't Always  
Feel Saved?

Why is Reading  
the Bible is  
Boring!

How Do I Know  
If I'm Repenting  
Correctly?

Am I Truly a  
Christian?

Am I Really  
Going to  
Heaven?

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

This PowerPoint is the first of many topics in the series 'Salvation' which focuses on questions related to our walk with Christ Jesus.

I pray this will be a blessing in assisting you in your journey to Heaven.

Please share this with everyone you know who could benefit from this series.

Until we meet in God's Glorious Kingdom....Stay Blessed and Stay Ready for of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.— Matthew 24:36-37

With much love,

Sister Laraine

## Salvation Series: Question #1: Am I Truly a Christian?

A wide range of beliefs and practices are found across the world among those who call themselves Christians. Denominations and sects disagree on a common definition of "Christianity".

The United States has the largest Christian population in the world, with nearly 210 million Christians. Christianity is the world's largest religion, with about 2.4 billion followers, or about 31.2% of the global population. Christians are estimated to make up the majority of the population in 157 countries and territories.

Of the top 5 religions in the world, Christianity ranks first among Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism.

With so many claiming to be Christians, how are we to discern ***‘WHO TRULY IS  
A CHRISTIAN TODAY?’***

## Salvation Series: Question #1: Am I Truly a Christian?

Have you heard statements like this before:

Why do Christians act like that?

Why are Christians so mean?

Why are Christians so self-righteous?

Why are Christians so hateful?

Why are Christians so angry?

Salvation Series: Question #1: Am I Truly a Christian?

Or what about these statements?:

I thought she was a Christian?

I thought Christians didn't cuss?

I thought Christians weren't supposed to drink?

I don't think Christians should be saying things like that!

## Salvation Series: Question #1: Am I Truly a Christian?

With so many people in the world identifying as Christian, this series will unlock the truths and hopefully encourage each one of us to examine ourselves and ask the question; AM I TRULY A CHRISTIAN or am I just wearing the title?

Let's Begin with our first question:

# What does the word Christian Mean?

## Salvation Series: Question #1: Am I Truly a Christian?

**Christian:** Believer and follower of Jesus. One who adheres to God's commandments and displays attributes of Jesus by loving God first and foremost and everyone created by God. A Christian is someone whose behavior and heart reflects Jesus Christ.

Salvation Series: Question #1: Am I Truly a Christian?

Now that we have established what does the word Christian mean, let's move on to our next question.

How do you know you  
are a Christian?



# Salvation Series: Question #1: Am I Truly a Christian?

Is it because you were baptized in the name of Jesus?

Is it because of the things you do or the things you may say?

Is it because you're a good person?



Is it because of the denomination of the church you belong to?

Is it because someone told you that you are a Christian?

Is it because you spoke in tongues at church?

Salvation Series: Question #1: Am I Truly a Christian?

So the question remains....

How do you know you  
are a Christian?

## Salvation Series: Question #1: Am I Truly a Christian?

Today there are thousands who know about Jesus. They know facts about Him, they might even quote some Bible verses and memorize scriptures, and even attend church whenever the doors open. But they have never allowed the facts to become their personal reality. They hold knowledge in their heads without allowing the truth to penetrate their hearts. Jesus explained the problem: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules” (Matthew 15:8–9; Mark 7:6).

It can be easy to substitute religion for a real relationship with Jesus. We often think that, if we are doing “Christian things,” that’s all that counts.

You want to know something that’s scary? **most people are reflections of their church and not a reflection of Jesus!**

## Salvation Series: Question #1: Am I Truly a Christian?

There is a difference between knowledge and saving faith. Knowing Jesus means we have accepted His sacrifice on our behalf (2 Corinthians 5:21). We ask Him to be the Lord of our lives (John 1:12; Acts 2:21). We identify with Him in His death and consider our old selves to have died with Him (Colossians 3:3; Romans 6:2, 5; Galatians 6:14; 2:20). We accept His forgiveness and cleansing from sin and seek to know Him better intimately through fellowship (John 17:3; Philippians 3:10; 1 John 2:27). The Holy Spirit comes to live inside us, changing us forever (1 Corinthians 6:19; 1 John 3:9). The facts we know about Jesus come alive as we get to know Him personally.

Let's say you've **READ** that your favorite celebrity has green eyes and a dimple in her chin. Those traits are merely facts on paper until you meet her face to face. Then, suddenly, those green eyes are looking at you, and the dimple springs to her chin when she smiles. She tells you about her day, her fears, and her inner thoughts. You may recall that you had heard those facts before, but now you are experiencing them. You knew about her before, but now you know her. The abstract has become concrete. Things you thought you knew start to make sense as you enter into a relationship.

This is what happens when you become a Christian and begin a relationship with Jesus! Just knowing about Him isn't enough. Getting to know Him personally and intimately is what true Christians strive for in their walk with Jesus!

## Salvation Series: Question #1: Am I Truly a Christian?

So, if you're still not sure if you are TRULY A CHRISTIAN, allow these scriptures to guide you:

The phrase translated “born again” can also be translated as “born from above.” Just like Nicodemus, we all need a change of heart—a spiritual transformation that could only come from above. New birth, being born again, is an act of God whereby eternal life is imparted to the person who believes (2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:3; 1 John 2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:1–4, 18). John 1:12–13 indicates that being “born again” also carries the idea of becoming “children of God” through trust in the name of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:8–9 states, “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.” When one is saved, he has been born again, spiritually renewed, and is now a child of God by right of that new birth. Faith in Jesus Christ, the One who paid the penalty of sin when He died on the cross, is the means by which one is born again. “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Many profess to be Christians, but their lives and priorities indicate otherwise. Jesus put it this way: “By their fruits you will know them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Just so, every good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a rotten tree bear good fruit.

## Salvation Series: Question #1: Am I Truly a Christian?

Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. So by their fruits you will know them. Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?' Then I will declare to them solemnly, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers'" (Matthew 7:16–23).

Notice that the message of Jesus is the same as the message of James. Obedience to God is the mark of true saving faith. James uses the examples of Abraham and Rahab to illustrate the obedience that accompanies salvation. Simply saying we believe in Jesus does not save us, nor does religious service. What saves us is the Holy Spirit's regeneration of our hearts, and that regeneration will invariably be seen in a life of faith featuring ongoing obedience to God and will show the world that you are TRULY A CHRISTIAN!

Next in this series: ***How Do I Know If My Sins Are Forgiven?***

Footnotes:

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