

# IMPACT

**I** **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday  
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; in *all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.  
Proverbs 3:5-6

**Passage:** II Peter 1:8-11 “For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, *be even more diligent to make your call and election sure*, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

**Quote:** “And now let me address all of you, high and low, rich and poor, one with another, to accept of mercy and grace while it is offered to you; Now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation; and will you not accept it, now it is offered unto you?” George Whitefield

**P**eter went beyond instructing his readers to add several virtues to their professed faith. He challenged them to make certain that they possessed genuine saving faith. Likewise, the Apostle John wrote to professing Christians, “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.<sup>1</sup> Beyond being susceptible to doubt and discouragement, genuine believers will experience disgust with ourselves because of our failures to glorify God. An honest struggle against our flesh is one indication that we are truly alive spiritually. Paul described himself as one who desired to obey and please God, but who struggled with the remaining influence of sin in his life. He called himself a “wretched man,” “the least of all the saints” and the “chief of sinners.”<sup>2</sup>

Paul is not alone in personifying the truth that with an increased understanding of God’s holiness as described in His moral law comes an increased understanding of our own sinfulness, and our utter dependency upon God’s grace to save and to sanctify us. In the wake of a better understanding of Who God is, Job, who was commended by God as the most upright man of his day, exclaimed, “*I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes.*”<sup>3</sup> Abraham was called “the friend of

God” Who said of him, “I have known him, *in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord...*”<sup>4</sup> Yet, Abraham showed his “humanness” by telling two lies in order to insure his own safety.<sup>4</sup> Daniel was greatly beloved by God and yet he included himself when he pled for God’s mercy upon his people for their wickedness.<sup>5</sup> Isaiah is likewise portrayed as a godly prophet, yet when he had a vision of God’s holiness, he cried out, “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.”<sup>6</sup> God referred to David as a man after His own heart, and yet in spite of God’s abundant blessing, David committed the sins of adultery and murder. When confronted, he responded with Psalm 51 that includes confession of his sin against God, a plea for restored joy, a commitment to proclaim salvation and a promise to offer praise.<sup>7</sup> All of these men came to see themselves for what they were—sinners who were saved by God’s grace and who continued to struggle for victory over their flesh.

If you do not have a growing sense of the exceeding sinfulness of sin that could only be atoned for by the shed blood of Christ, yours may be a counterfeit faith at best.

## Are you deluded or delivered?

No matter that you can use “Christian vocabulary” to “play the part.” Does your life line up with the evidences of a genuine work of God’s grace? A growing understanding of his or her own “deceitful and desperately wicked heart” on the part of a genuine believer will result in a growing gratitude for the grace that saves. Charles Spurgeon wrote, “If your heart is renewed, if you shall hate the things that you did once love, and love the things that you did once hate. If you have really repented. If there is a thorough change of mind in you. If you are born again—then have you reason to rejoice—but if there is no vital change, no inward godliness—if there is no love to God, no prayer, no work of the Holy Spirit, then your saying, ‘I am saved,’ is but your own assertion. It may delude, but it will not deliver you.”

<sup>1</sup> I John 5:13 <sup>2</sup> Romans 7:24; Ephesians 3:8; I Timothy 1:15 <sup>3</sup> Job 42:6  
<sup>4</sup> James 2:23; Genesis 18:19; Genesis 12 and 20 <sup>5</sup> Daniel 9 <sup>6</sup> Isaiah 6  
<sup>7</sup> Acts 13:22