

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: I John 3:23-24 “And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. **And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.**”

Quote: There is an eternal difference between professing Christ and possessing Christ as Savior and Lord.

The ministry of God the Holy Spirit is the greatest confirmation that a person is indeed a Christian. The Spirit convinces him or her that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant, all-sufficient Word of God the Father Who created this wonderfully complex, finely-tuned universe through His eternal Son Who miraculously came into this world through the virgin birth, fulfilled the Law of God as the God/man Jesus Christ, embraced death on the cross as the perfect payment for sin, arose from the grave as evidence of God’s acceptance of His sacrifice, and ascended into heaven where He intercedes for His own and from where He will one day return for them. Agnostics and atheists defame these truths and rest their faith in a God-alternative of unknown origin like “The Big Bang” that supposedly brought about life as we know it today through countless genetic mutations that required volumes of new, advanced information. Many merely religious individuals dilute the truths of Scripture to various degrees, and compromise the straightforward truth of Genesis—“In the beginning, God created....”

The Bible gives a clear reason why this is true. Read Romans 1:20-32. Before a person rejects the Genesis account of origin, purpose and destiny, he or she ought to give heed to a critical truth taught in the Bible. Apart from God’s grace, mankind *cannot* understand and *will not* naturally accept the Biblical account. Paul wrote, “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”¹ He explained why the cross is foolish to the rebellious. “But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’ **God has revealed them to us through** 95

His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.... But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”¹ Just as a human body that is devoid of life cannot respond to physical stimuli, a human soul cannot savingly respond to spiritual stimuli without the gracious intercession of the Holy Spirit. Paul warned, “For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, *nor indeed can be*. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. *But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.*”²*

Not until I entered the state of *being a husband and father* did I begin to realize what each entailed. I could learn by reading and by observing husbands and fathers. I could repeat facts about being a husband and father, but that was not remotely like *becoming* one myself! The same is true spiritually.¹ Not until I entered the state of *being a Christian by God’s grace* through faith did I begin to understand the blessings that are mine in Christ.³ While it is obvious that those who view Christianity with animosity have not experienced *being a Christian*, it is equally true that those who approach Christianity with a pick-and-choose mentality have not experienced the new birth either! Christianity is not something that you try, or that you resort to when it seems to your advantage, or that you tailor to fit your desired life-style. *A Christian is who you become!* That truth should radically impact all of your life as you seek to become increasingly like Christ *by God’s grace.*

Impossible Apart From Grace

¹ I Cor.1:18 2:9-14; ² Rom.8:6-9 ³ John 1:13; Titus 3:5; James 1:18; I Peter 1:23