

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 under-
standing; in *all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: I John 1:5-10 “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. 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.”

Quote: Clearly Jesus, only Jesus. May my life reflect the Lord through the grace that God affords. Precious Jesus, always Jesus. I will glorify my Savior and my King!

Can others see growth and change in your life? The last IMPACT concluded with that question. How did you answer it? A burden for former students whose life-styles contradict their profession prompts me to ask, “Are you a spiritual ‘auditor’ who listens with some interest to the teaching and preaching of God’s Word, but who does not ‘practice the truth,’ ‘walk in the light’ and ‘keep His commandments?’” Being in a church where you can hear the Word may garner you some credibility in the eyes of those whom you want to impress; however, it may also have the *deceiving* effect of soothing your conscience while slowly hardening it. It is only when we attend services to give in worship, service and encouragement, as well as to progress in sanctification, that we can see our faith grow and “glow” as light in a morally dark world. “Workless faith is worthless faith; it is unproductive, sterile, barren, dead! Spiritual works are the *evidence*, not the energizer of saving faith.”² It is not a question of what a person claims to have experienced, but how he or she lives in light of the Word of God. Although dead wrong on his overall theology, writer Ralph Waldo Emerson wisely penned, “What you do is so loud, I can’t hear what you say.”³ It is a sobering reality that many times our “actions speak louder than words.”

“Actions speak louder than words!”

Although Christians often fail to be and do all that we should, as we faithfully stand the tests of temptation without yielding, of trial without quitting and of triumph

without self-glorification, we can be assured that our faith is at work! Paul wrote to the Christians in Thessalonica, “We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything.”³

One of the greatest proofs that God has done a saving work in a person’s heart is that he or she seeks to be like the Lord Jesus Christ. “The true believer, the hearer and doer of the Word, proves his faith in three ways: In relation to himself, he is willing to apply the Word without deception; in relation to others, he is willing to apply the Word without selfishness; and in relation to the world, he is willing to apply the Word without compromise.”⁴ His or her obedience, fellowship, joy and testimony are strengthened by learning what pleases Christ and then doing it. To abide in Him is to bring every area of your life continually in line with His Word. It is to “acknowledge Him in all of your ways” and not to be “wise in your own eyes.” It is to “fear God and to depart from evil.”⁵ It is to be dependent upon Him for strengthened faith that reflects the desire to be like Christ! Jesus said, “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”⁶ What are your speech and life-style saying to others about Christ and your professed relationship with Him?

1 Matthew 5:14-16 2 W. Wiersbe 3 Although I oppose his transcendentalism that “preached” an inherent goodness in man, this is a general truth. 3 I Thess.1:2-8 4 J. MacArthur 5 Prov.3:5-7 6 John 14:21