

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: Romans 10:9 “...If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Quote: “Assurance grows by repeated conflict, by our repeated experimental proof of the Lord's power and goodness to save; when we have been brought very low and helped, sorely wounded and healed, cast down and raised again, have given up all hope, and been suddenly snatched from danger, and placed in safety; and when these things have been repeated to us and in us a thousand times over, we begin to learn to trust simply to the word and power of God, beyond and against appearances: and this trust, when habitual and strong, bears the name of assurance; for even assurance has degrees.” John Newton

The past several IMPACTS have focused on areas in the Christian life that deserve our attention. The ultimate concern is *not* whether you *appear to measure up* in the areas we have addressed. A foreigner can intentionally seek to appear and act “American,” but that does not make him a citizen of the United States. Likewise, merely trying to “get in line” with the Christian religion may deceive people, but it does not make a person a Christian. Judas Iscariot is a pre-eminent example of deceiving everyone but Christ. Jesus taught, “Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who *does the will of My Father* in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, '*I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!*'”¹ He placed that warning between teaching about fruit and foundations.² An intimate relationship with Jesus will result in God-honoring fruit because it is built upon the essential foundation of faith and repentance.³ Being a “citizen of heaven” comes through grace-enabled obedience to believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths that Jesus accomplished God's will as evidenced by His resurrection. First John reveals several things that will be evident to varying degrees in the

**God's A Honor Roll,
Assurance**

life of a truly saved person.

- ▶ Is your walk consistent with your talk about restored fellowship with God? (1:5-7)
- ▶ Is your unhindered fellowship with God maintained by confession of sin? (1:8-10)
- ▶ Do you personally study to show yourself approved unto God? (5:3-5)
- ▶ Do you demonstrate love for Christians? (4:7-11, 19-20)
- ▶ Do you try to separate yourself from those things that God says are sin? (2:15-17)
- ▶ Do you publicly confess Christ as your Savior? (2:23; 4:15)
- ▶ Is there evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in your life? (4:13; 5:10; See Gal. 5:22-26)
- ▶ Do you rely upon the promises of God? (5:11-13)

During the struggles of life, even true Christians can be temporarily “weighed down.” Augustine prayed, “God of our life, there are days when the burdens we carry chafe our shoulders and weigh us down; when the road seems dreary and endless, the skies gray and threatening; when our lives have no music in them, and our hearts are lonely, and our souls have lost their courage. Flood the path with light, run our eyes to where the skies are full of promise; tune our hearts to brave music; give us the sense of comradeship with heroes and saints of every age; and so quicken our spirits that we may be able to encourage the souls of all who journey with us on the road of life, to Your honor and glory.” Likewise, Hudson Taylor, a faithful missionary to China, had a similar testimony of trusting God in spite of the weaknesses of his flesh. In the closing months of his life, he said to a friend, “I am so weak. I can't read my Bible. I can't even pray. I can only lie still in God's arms like a little child *and trust.*” Our *Spirit-enabled* efforts to learn God's Word in our heads, to love it in our hearts, to live it in our habits and to leave it in our history will do much to fortify our faith and to glorify our Lord.⁴ The resulting God-given assurance is priceless!

¹ Matt.7:21-23 ² Matt.7:15-20; 24-27 ³ Eph.2:8-10; Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21 ⁴ II Tim.2:15; II Peter 3; I Thess. 5:23-24;