

THE CHARACTER OF GENUINE SAVING FAITH¹

2 CORINTHIANS 13:5

- I. EVIDENCES THAT NEITHER PROVE NOR DISPROVE ONE'S FAITH
- A. Visible Morality: Matt. 19:16–21; 23:27.
 - B. Intellectual Knowledge: Rom. 1:21; 2:17ff.
 - C. Religious Involvement: Matt. 25:1–10
 - D. Active Ministry: Matt. 7:21–24
 - E. Conviction of Sin: Acts 24:25
 - F. Assurance: Matt. 23
 - G. Time of Decision: Luke 8:13, 14
- II. THE FRUIT/ PROOFS OF AUTHENTIC/TRUE CHRISTIANITY:
- A. Love for God: Ps. 42:1ff; 73:25; Luke 10:27; Rom. 8:7
 - B. Repentance from Sin: Ps. 32:5; Prov. 28:13; Rom. 7:14ff; 2 Cor. 7:10; 1 John 1:8–10
 - C. Genuine Humility: Ps. 51:17; Matt. 5:1–12; James 4:6, 9ff.
 - D. Devotion to God's Glory: Ps. 105:3; 115:1; Is. 43:7, 48:10ff.; Jer. 9:23, 24; 1 Cor. 10:31.
 - E. Continual Prayer: Luke 18:1; Eph. 6:18ff.; Phil. 4:6ff.; 1 Tim. 2:1–4; James 5:16–18
 - F. Selfless Love: 1 John 2:9ff, 3:14; 4:7ff.
 - G. Separation from the World: 1 Cor. 2:12; James 4:4ff.; 1 John 2:15–17, 5:5
 - H. Spiritual Growth: Luke 8:15; John 15:1–6; Eph. 4:12–16
 - I. Obedient Living: Matt. 7:21; John 15:14ff.; Rom. 16:26; 1 Pet. 1:2, 22; 1 John 2:3–5

If List I is true of a person and List II is false, there is cause to question the validity of one's profession of faith. Yet if List II is true, then the top list will be also.

- III. THE CONDUCT OF THE GOSPEL:
- A. Proclaim it: Matt. 4:23
 - B. Defend it: Jude 3
 - C. Demonstrate it: Phil. 1:27
 - D. Share it: Phil. 1:5
 - E. Suffer for it: 2 Tim. 1:8
 - F. Don't hinder it: 1 Cor. 9:16
 - G. Be not ashamed: Rom. 1:16
 - H. Preach it: 1 Cor. 9:16
 - I. Be empowered: 1 Thess. 1:5
 - J. Guard it: Gal. 1:6–8

¹ MacArthur, J. J., *The MacArthur Study Bible* (Nashville: Word Pub., 1997).