

Who Are You Following? – Part 2

Hopefully, the answer to this question is you are following *the Lord*. But, how can you know that you are truly following Him?

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO FOLLOW CHRIST?

If we were on social media, all it would take is a ‘click’ of a button (“smash that subscribe button to follow me,” “like me on @Twitter”). However, it takes more than a ‘click of the button’ to know that we are following the Lord!

John 10:27

*27 My sheep **HEAR MY VOICE**, and I know them, and they **FOLLOW ME**:*

Following the Lord requires OBEDIENCE. We follow by doing what we hear God say. This means we do not follow what hear others say or follow what we see others do!

John 21:20–22

*20 Then Peter, turning about, **SEETH THE DISCIPLE** whom Jesus loved **FOLLOWING**; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? ²¹ Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and **WHAT SHALL THIS MAN DO?** ²² Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, **WHAT IS THAT TO THEE? FOLLOW THOU ME.***

People who observe what others are doing will always struggle to follow (or obey) what the Lord tells them!

John 10:27–28a

*27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: ²⁸ **AND I GIVE UNTO THEM ETERNAL LIFE;***

It’s worth noting that in this verse Jesus promises to give those who follow Him Eternal life!

Matthew 19:27–28

*27 Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; **WHAT SHALL WE HAVE THEREFORE?** ²⁸ And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have **FOLLOWED ME, IN THE REGENERATION** when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

Again, those who follow the Lord shall receive regeneration! (Now, it might seem that the word regeneration is being used to describe a new age when the followers of Christ shall reign and rule with Him, but that’s because a comma has been put after the words “follow me” rather than after the word “regeneration.” If, however, we put the comma AFTER regeneration, then the

word regeneration describe a spiritual change or new birth in the one who follows. In fact, this is how the word regeneration is used throughout the New Testament!)

Matthew 19:16–20

*¹⁶ And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have **ETERNAL LIFE**? ¹⁷ And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, **KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS**. ¹⁸ He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, ¹⁹ Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. ²⁰ The young man saith unto him, **ALL THESE THINGS HAVE I KEPT** from my youth up: **WHAT LACK I YET?***

Here, Jesus has encountered a man who appears to be walking in obedience for he has “kept the commandments” from his youth. Still, there was something he lacked before he was ready (or able) to follow Jesus!

Mark 10:21

*²¹ Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, **ONE THING THOU LACKEST**: go thy way, **SELL WHATEVER THOU HAST**, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, **AND FOLLOW ME**.*

What did this man lack? He lacked faith.

Mark 10:22

*²² And he was sad at that saying, and **WENT AWAY** grieved: **FOR HE HAD GREAT POSSESSIONS**.*

This man “went away” and was unable to follow the Lord because he lacked faith. Moreover, his lack of faith was due in part to his great wealth.

1 Timothy 6:17

*¹⁷ Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, **NOR TRUST IN UNCERTAIN RICHES**, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;*

Apparently, those with wealth tend to trust in their riches rather than in God! Regardless of whether or not you’re a person of great, the fact still remains—following the Lord will require FAITH.

Luke 9:57–58

*⁵⁷ And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, **I WILL FOLLOW THEE** whithersoever thou goest. ⁵⁸ And*

Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but
THE SON OF MAN HATH NOT WHERE TO LAY HIS HEAD.

Unless we learn to walk with God by faith, we will never be able to truly follow the Lord. In fact, show me someone who has stopped trusting, and I'll show you someone who has stopped following!

Galatians 5:7

⁷ **YOU DID RUN WELL; WHO DID HINDER YOU** that ye should not obey the truth?

The Galatians were being hindered from “running” (following) by false teachers who convinced them to look to the Law, rather than to God, for their salvation. (False teachers are still convincing men to look to earthly things and principles, rather than put their trust in God.)

1 Timothy 6:11–12a

¹¹ *But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and* **FOLLOW AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS**, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. ¹² *Fight the good fight of faith,* **LAY HOLD ON ETERNAL LIFE**,

The emphasis here is on what we're following. In other words, Paul reminds Timothy that following God requires that we follow after spiritual things or GOOD WORKS!

1 Timothy 6:17–18

¹⁷ *Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;* ¹⁸ *That they do good,* **THAT THEY BE RICH IN GOOD WORKS**, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

It's possible to be rich and not be rich in good works. Are we rich in the things that God values? Or, have we substituted the riches of God for the riches of this world?

1 Kings 14:25–27

²⁵ *And it came to pass in the fifth year of king Rehoboam, that Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem:* ²⁶ *And* **HE TOOK AWAY THE TREASURES OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD**, and the treasures of the king's house; he even took away all: and he took away all the **SHIELDS OF GOD** which Solomon had made. ²⁷ *And king Rehoboam made in their stead* **BRASEN SHIELDS**, and committed them unto the hands of the chief of the guard, which kept the door of the king's house.

The treasures (riches) in the house of God were taken because Rehoboam and all of Judah had stopped following the Lord and did evil in His sight ([1Kings 14:22](#))! However, instead of repenting Rehoboam tried to conceal their sin by replacing the shields of gold in the house of God with shields of brass!

Have we done the same thing? Have we replaced God's "gold" with something of lesser value?

Revelation 3:17–19

*17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: 18 I counsel thee to **BUY OF ME GOLD TRIED IN THE FIRE**, that thou mayest be rich; **AND WHITE RAIMENT**, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and **ANOINT THINE EYES WITH EYESALVE**, that thou mayest see. 19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, **AND REPENT**.*

- Gold that is "tried in the fire" represents a faith that is tested and proven!
1 Peter 1:7
*7 That the **TRIAL OF YOUR FAITH**, being much **MORE PRECIOUS THAN GOLD** that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*
- "White raiment" represents our righteous acts or good works.
Revelation 19:8 ASV
*8 And it was given unto her that she should array herself in **FINE LINEN**, bright and pure: for the fine linen is **THE RIGHTEOUS ACTS** of the saints.*
Revelation 19:8 NLT
*8 She has been given the finest of pure **WHITE LINEN** to wear." For the fine linen represents **THE GOOD DEEDS OF GOD'S HOLY PEOPLE**.*
- "Anointing the eyes with eyesalve" represents discernment that is obtained through obedience.
John 9:6–7
*6 When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and He **ANOINTED THE EYES OF THE BLIND MAN** with clay, 7 And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by*

interpretation, sent.) **HE WENT** his way therefore, and washed, **AND CAME SEEING.**

Although Jesus “anointed” this man’s eyes with clay, it wasn’t the clay that opened his eyes. He saw because he “went” or obeyed!