



WE'VE GOT
QUESTIONS

How can I know that
my faith is authentic?

“What are the marks
of a true Christian?”

BILL SCHMITT

King Street Church

What is
authenticity?

Authenticity is alignment and connection between what is seen and unseen, what is said and what is done, what is presented and what is real.

Authenticity means to *feel* like there is no break, no distinction in who you are and who you present yourself to be.

“We not only live in a changing world, but we are living in a critical age. We are being taught on every hand to question all things. The sanctity of the home has been questioned. Systems of government that have stood for hundreds of years are being questioned... It seems to be popular to be uncertain... My contention is that there may be uncertainty in many quarters, and there are many things that we cannot know, but if there are a few known quantities, we can rest upon those certainties.”

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CLYDE MEADOWS

Why We Choose Christ (1962)

How can I know if my
faith is authentic?

Doctrine of Assurance

“It is an assurance that all your ‘past sins are forgiven, and that you are *now* a child of God.’”

JOHN WESLEY

from the sermon “FREE GRACE”

Why does this
question matter?

“How many have mistaken the voice of their own imagination for this ‘witness of the Spirit’ of God, and [thereby] idly presumed they were the children of God while they were doing the works of the devil!”

JOHN WESLEY

THE WITNESS OF THE SPIRIT

How can I know if my faith is authentic?

1. By our obedience expressed through love (1 John 2:3-6)

1 John 2:3-6

³ We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. **⁴ Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.** **⁵ But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him:** **⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.**

How can I know if my faith is authentic?

- 1. By our obedience expressed through love (1 John 2:3-6)**
- 2. By the witness of the Holy Spirit (1 John 3:24; 4:13-16)**

1 John 3:24

24 The one who keeps God's commands lives in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: **We know it by the Spirit he gave us.**

1 John 4:13-14

¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: **He *has given* us of his Spirit.** ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father ***has sent*** his Son to be the Savior of the world.

Romans 8:12-17

¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Why is it important to be sure of my faith?

1. Assurance is necessary for free love expressed in service to God.

Why is it important to be sure of my faith?

1. Assurance is necessary for free love expressed in service to God.
2. Assurance inspires joyful words expressed in worship to God.



“Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

FANNY CROSBY
“BLESSED ASSURANCE”

Why might our assurance fade?

1. Spiritual warfare

Source:

Kenny Johnston, "Introduction to John Wesley's Doctrine of Assurance," *Firebrand Magazine*

“The ‘god of this world’ knows how to blind our hearts, to spread a cloud over our understanding, and to obscure the light of those truths which, at other times, shine as bright as the noonday sun.”

JOHN WESLEY
“OF EVIL ANGELS”

Why might our assurance fade?

1. Spiritual warfare
2. Ignoring the Holy Spirit's guidance

Source:

Kenny Johnston, "Introduction to John Wesley's Doctrine of Assurance," *Firebrand Magazine*

1 John 2:9-11

⁹ Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness. ¹⁰ Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. ¹¹ **But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.**

Galatians 5:22-26

²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another.

1 John 4:15-16

¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and ***rely on the love*** God has for us.

What about when I
don't have assurance?

What about when I don't have assurance?

1. Request assurance from God.

Take the question to God. That the assurance of faith is beyond your control means it is beyond *you*. You are not seeking your own approval; you are seeking God's assurance.

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What about when I don't have assurance?

1. Request assurance from God.
2. Repent of known sin.

Acts 2:38

³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” -Peter, to his fellow Israelites on Pentecost

Acts 3:19

¹⁹ “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord...” -Peter, to his fellow Israelites

“One who was never convinced of sin is always ready to flatter himself, and to think of himself, especially in spiritual things, more highly than he ought to think.”

JOHN WESLEY

THE WITNESS OF THE SPIRIT (I)

Am I in a *relationship* with God the Father by the work of Jesus Christ?

God is ready to convict of sin. That's not bad news. That's good news!

Am I in *fellowship* with God the Father, witnessed by the Holy Spirit?

What about when I don't have assurance?

1. Request assurance from God.
2. Repent of known sin.
3. Remember God's covenant faithfulness.