

2 Corinthians 5:10-11

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive his due for the things done in the body, whether good or bad. Therefore, since we know what it means to fear the Lord, we try to persuade men. What we are is clear to God, and I hope it is clear to your conscience as well.

Living Life as a "Believable" Believer Acts 26:27-29

Acts 26:27-29 (HCSB)

King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you believe. Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Are you going to persuade me to become a Christian so easily?" "I wish before God," replied Paul, "that whether easily or with difficulty, not only you but all who listen to me today might become as I am.

4 Marks of a "believable" life:

I. A genuine, life-changing encounter with Christ

Acts 26:9-11 (HCSB)

I myself supposed it was necessary to do many things in opposition to the name of Jesus the Nazarene. This I actually did in Jerusalem, and I locked up many of the saints in prison, since I had received authority for that from the chief priests. When they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. In all the synagogues I often tried to make them blaspheme by punishing them. Being greatly enraged at them, I even pursued them to foreign cities.

Acts 26:12-16 (HCSB)

Under these circumstances I was traveling to Damascus ... At midday, while on the road, O king, I saw a light from heaven brighter than the sun, shining around me and those traveling with me. When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' "But I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' "And the Lord replied: 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and stand on your feet. For I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and a witness of things you have seen, and of things in which I will appear to you.

II. An ongoing submission to God's purpose and plan

Acts 26:15-18 (HCSB)

"And the Lord replied: 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and stand on your feet. For I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and a witness of things you have seen, and of things in which I will appear to you. I will rescue you from the people and from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a share among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

I Corinthians 6:19-20 (NIV)

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

III. A Deepening dependence on God's Grace

Acts 26:19,22

"Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.... Since I have obtained help that comes from God, to this day I stand and testify to both small and great, saying nothing else than what the prophets and Moses said would take place

God's Grace is always:

- *Timed to Our Needs*

Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

- *Appropriate to Our Needs*

1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

- *Sufficient for Our Needs*

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV)

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

- *Dependent on Our Needs*

James 4:6 (NIV)

But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

1 Corinthians 15:9-10 (NIV)

For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by God's grace I am what I am

IV. A Willingness to Count the cost and pay the price

Acts 26:21,24 (HCSB)

For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple complex and were trying to kill me. As he was making his defense this way, Festus exclaimed in a loud voice, "You're out of your mind, Paul! Too much study is driving you mad!"

2 Corinthians 11:23-27 (NIV)

I have been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from bandits, in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.