

The "Fruit of Salvation"

What type of characteristics will exist in a disciple's life? What will be the "fruit" (consequences and evidence) of his salvation?

Many people misunderstand what the "fruit of salvation" is, because they have confused "being a disciple" with "religion." The two are *not* the same. Though a disciple may do some types of religious activities, these activities are *not* what defines him.

Scripture makes it clear that many of the activities which people often associate with "being Christian" can *also* be done by fakes and counterfeits. That being the case, such characteristics are *not* the "fruit of salvation" - at least the type of fruit that *proves* a person is a disciple. Some of these include:

- A morally upright life
- An accurate knowledge of the Bible
- Religious activities
- Gifts and abilities
- An awareness of one's sin
- Being convinced about one's salvation
- Knowing the time and date of one's (supposed) conversion

So what are the characteristics which *do* distinguish between a genuine disciple and a fake? Characteristics which the fakes *cannot* do! They may try to imitate them, but eventually they will be recognized for the fakes they are. Some of these characteristics include:

- Love for God
- Repentance for sin
- Trust in Christ
- Humility; a humble spirit
- Self-denial
- Devotion to God's honor and glory
- A spirit of prayer
- Love for other disciples
- Love for one's enemies
- Separation from the world and its values
- Growth in grace
- A life characterized by obedience