



The Evidence Demands a Verdict

“He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.”

Psalm 23:3 (NKJV)

Number 10 in the series “The Lord is My Shepherd”

The evidence demands a verdict. What do I mean by that? Well, before my husband and I became believers, there were people we knew, as well as family members, who claimed to be Christians. Some went to church weekly. Some of them attended church several times a week, but when it came to daily living, their lives were no different than ours. The evidence demanded a verdict. The evidence we saw did not draw us to Christ.

If we have truly accepted Christ as our Savior, there will be evidence of a changed life. If we have submitted ourselves to the authority of Jesus Christ and the Word of God and are following Him as He leads us in paths of righteousness, there will be evidence of a life that glorifies Him. The evidence will be seen by our family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. When we put our trust in Christ as our Savior, the Holy Spirit starts to work in our hearts and minds, changing our desires.

Galatians 5:19-25 (NASB) clearly lists the differences between our sinful desires and lifestyle and the new desires and lifestyle of a true believer. It reads, *“Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;*

against such things there is no law. Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.”

Changes do not happen overnight; however, the evidence demands a verdict. If there is no turning from the sins of the flesh and no outward evidence of the fruit of the Spirit, there is no true salvation. Many people try to change their lifestyle and attitudes, but it never lasts. God wants to change our hearts and renew our minds and replace our desires and priorities with His.

Right after I put my trust in Christ, I had a love for the Bible. As I would daily read and obey it and allow Jesus to lead me in paths of righteousness, I experienced the power of His amazing grace. It set me free from the bondage of sinful habits, and it healed my marriage.

Can I challenge you to examine your life? Is there evidence of a life surrendered to Jesus Christ or that of an unsaved person? The evidence demands a verdict. What does the evidence show? Are you truly a believer, or are you an unsaved person? Beloved, the evidence demands a verdict, and there will be evidence to show one way or another.

— Janice McBride

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