

Am I a Christian?

(Rom 8:14)

- Remember Paul's context is the assurance of justification by faith
- I. Being "led of the Spirit" is one of the assurances Paul lists here in this subsection
 - A) This should prompt every professing Christian to ask "Am I being led by the Spirit?"
 1. How does the Spirit lead us?
 - i. Negative
 - a) There are 2 basic schools of thought: ^athrough visions, promptings, revelations and experiences, perhaps in conjunction with the word, perhaps not; or ^bby the word only
 - 1) By visions and supernatural means only is the teaching of the Quakers, some forms of the Charismatic Movement, the New Age Movement, etc.
 - (a) Then there is the Catholic teaching of a combination of revelation and the word
 - 2) By the word only and through no other promptings or guidance
 - (a) Generally this is an overreaction against the first teaching
 - ii. Positive
 - a) By persuading us through the enlightening of our minds through and in accordance with the scriptures
 - 1) John 14:16-17- "The Spirit of truth"
 - (a) John 17:17- "Thy word is truth" and is the means by which we are being sanctified
 - 2) 1 John 4:1- "Try the Spirits"
 - (a) To "try" them, we must have a standard (the word)
 - (b) Just as the Holy Spirit is moving to persuade us, so also are many other spirits seeking to do the same
 - 3) Gal 5:17- "The Spirit (Holy) lusteth against the flesh" and its desires
 - (a) James 4:5- The Spirit (Holy) lusteth to envy"
 - (1) Yearns even unto jealous affection and desires for our welfare and sanctification (as natural parents do their children)
 - (2) Eph 4:30- Thus we can "grieve" the Holy Spirit
 - (3) Deut 4:24- "God is a jealous God"

(b) The Holy Spirit is in the child of God, leading us and yearning us to victory over sin

(1) Thus He is called the “Holy” Spirit

(2) This sanctifying from sins is the reason the antinomian should be very concerned about his salvation

II. Practical tests of salvation

A) Has the Holy Spirit been enlightening my mind?

1. Teaching me about God, self and the world

i. Eph 3:16-21- Growing in grace and knowledge and love

B) Does the Holy Spirit determine my general outlook on life?

1. This in contrast to my former manner of thinking and living

i. Rom 12:2- “Be not conformed to this world”

C) Is the Holy Spirit leading me into a love for the brethren?

1. This is in contrast to my carnal nature and love of self

i. 1 John 4:12-13- “By this we know” the Spirit dwells in us

D) Has the Holy Spirit made aware of the true nature of this life, it being a temporary pilgrimage?

1. This is in contrast to outlook of the natural man

i. 2 Cor 4:18- Looking unto eternal things, not temporary

E) Does the Holy Spirit lead me to desire to glorify God

1. This in contrast to the way in which glorifies self, as Adam and Eve desired

i. 1 Cor 6:20- Glorify God in body and spirit

F) Is the Holy Spirit leading me to desire to know God better, draw closer to Him, and this not mechanically or just as scholarship?

1. What kind of books do I read, where do my interests lay in contrast with what they were before

i. Phil 3:10- “That I might know Him...”

G) Is the Holy Spirit causing me to be concerned with my lack of love for Christ?

1. Am I satisfied with my love for Christ, or do I become more aware of my lack

i. 1 Cor ch 13- Greatest gift is love

H) Is the Holy Spirit giving me an awareness of the truth of sin that is within me?

1. In contrast to walking in darkness (ignorance) am I seeing more each day what is truly within me that remains of sin

i. Psa 139:23- “Search me O God...”

I) Does the Holy Spirit cause me to truly grieve over my sins in Godly sorrow?

1. This in contrast to my former grieving that I was exposed or let myself down, or simply sorry I now am punished (love -vs- law)

i. 2 Cor 7:9-11- Godly repentance -vs- worldly sorrow

- J) Is the Holy Spirit making me more aware of temptation/evil, especially the early movements of it?
 - 1. This in contrast to my former blindness and lack of concern for it
 - i. James 1:13-15- The motions of sin
 - K) Is the Holy Spirit creating in me the desire for God's glory and honor?
 - 1. Am I grieved at hearing Him slandered, and do I truly desire all righteousness
 - i. Matt 5:6- Hungering and thirsty after it not in myself only, but in the world
 - L) Is the Holy Spirit causing me to act against sin in my life?
 - 1. A good example of this is pornography and TV habits (making provision for the flesh)
 - i. Rom 8:13- Mortifying the deeds of the flesh by the Spirit (Job's covenant with his eyes)
 - M) Is the Holy Spirit causing me to avoid things that make me worse?
 - 1. This in contrast to my former chasing and living for those things
 - i. James 4:4- Friendship of the world is enmity against God as is the love of the world (1 John 2:15-16)
 - N) Is the Holy Spirit bringing forth fruit in me?
 - 1. This in an ever increasing manner and contrary to my former dead works
 - i. Gal 5:16-22- The fruit of the Spirit (compare each with its opposite)
 - O) Is the Holy Spirit causing me to think more about eternity and the use of my time, and less about chasing the world?
 - 1. This is not simply fear of death drawing near, but is more concerned with service to Christ
 - i. Col 3:1-2- Set your affection above
 - P) Have I at times been in doubt about my salvation and then been assured by the Holy Spirit?
 - 1. This in contrast to the "I know that I know that I know" folks
 - i. Rom 8:16- The Spirit beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God
- If I can say that any 1 of these truly applies to me, then I am a child of God, although perhaps very young/immature. The more that applies to me the more assurance I will have