

What is true salvation? How do you know if you are truly saved? Many people have asked the question when someone is saved, are they always saved? The real question seems to be, is it possible to be saved and then fall away, back slide (not a Biblical term, by the way), and they will still go to heaven? Or can someone be saved, lose their salvation and then be saved again? It is truly amazing that these questions are asked when the Bible is so clear on the definition of true faith.

Colossians 1:21-23 - And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach - IF INDEED YOU CONTINUE IN THE FAITH FIRMLY ESTABLISHED AND STEADFAST, AND NOT MOVED AWAY FROM THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL THAT YOU HAVE HEARD, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

At least sixteen times in Scripture we are told that faith is proven to be true faith when we remain faithful to the end! We have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. *Colossians 1:13-14 - For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.* This transfer is a completed action. We are no longer in darkness, we are now in the light. We died to the old and live in the new. There is no room for going back and forth or sitting on the fence. It is one or the other; it cannot be both! How will your life look and continue to look each and every day if you are truly saved - this transfer has taken place? Paul showed us the continual, habitual, lifestyle of someone who is redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. Look at the prayer for the Colossians.

Colossians 1:9b-14 - . . . that you may ① BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL IN ALL SPIRITUAL WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, so that you may ② WALK IN A MANNER WORTHY OF THE LORD, to ③ PLEASE HIM IN ALL RESPECTS, ④ BEARING FRUIT IN EVERY GOOD WORK and ⑤ INCREASING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD; ⑥ STRENGTHENED WITH ALL POWER, according to His glorious might, for the ⑦ ATTAINING OF ALL STEADFASTNESS AND PATIENCE; ⑧ JOYOUSLY GIVING THANKS TO THE FATHER, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Is the desire of your heart to daily live out the eight principles listed above? From the time you received the word, have you turned to and served the living God, faithfully walked in a manner worthy, each day learning and growing in your relationship with your precious Savior? If you continue to fight the good fight, finish the course, keep the faith, and anxiously await Christ's appearing, then you can know that your faith is true, your future secure, a crown of righteousness is stored up for you, and your eternal destination will be in the Kingdom of God.

Let's go back to the beginning of this introduction and the question of once a person is saved, is he always saved? I believe that is the wrong question to ask because we ask it with the wrong motivation. Instead, the question should be, was that person truly saved? If they were, Scripture tells us that they will be faithful to the end.

Approach this week's lesson with a prayerful spirit as you look at a true conversion experience. Study well not only for your own benefit, but to help others who doubt or question.

DAY ONE

You completed a chapter overview last week, which means this week you can begin to dig into the depths and riches of chapter one. You will be dissecting the passage by looking at the flow, observing the teaching, using word studies and cross references, and delving into interpretation and application. Let's begin.

1. Remember to begin your time in prayer. Ask God through the Holy Spirit to open your mind so that you may know Him and the hope of His calling. Read through I Thessalonians 1 and allow the truths to wash over you. Take your time and think through the passage asking the 5 W's and H questions. Don't write anything at this time, just soak it in.
2. You answered this question last week, but this week we want to study the process carefully. Reading through verse five alone, how did the gospel come to the recipients? You should see five distinct steps explaining how Paul, Timothy, and Silvanus brought the gospel. Record them below.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.

DAY TWO

What you are about to look at over the next couple of days is essential doctrine for the Christian life. There is much to think about and process because it has the power to ground the believer, change lives, and bring confidence or answers to those who question their salvation.

1. In I Thessalonians 1:2-3, Paul commends the people for three deeds of service. What are they?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. Notice that he didn't commend them for faith, love, and hope. These are intangible since they are emotions or thought processes. If someone says they have faith, love, and hope how do you know they are speaking the truth? How do you know they have a real faith — a living faith? Read James 2:14-24 and look back at what exactly Paul said about their faith, love, and hope in verses two and three and then answer that question.

You know that someones faith is genuine — the conversion was real by observing a faith which works, a love that labors, and a hope that remains steadfast no matter what may come. Words are empty if they are not backed up by action.

3. Paul's commendation is rightly bestowed by the proof exhibited in the lives of the Thessalonians. Read through all of I Thessalonians and record examples of how this was lived out in their lives. Don't forget to include chapter and verse with your observations.

DAY THREE

Today you are going to look at faith's work, love's labor, and hope's steadfastness. You will certainly not exhaust the Scriptures that speak to each of these points, but you will grow in your understanding of each attribute. If you have time and the desire to grow still more, you can use your study resources to look at each of these words in more depth.

Read through each of the Scriptures and record what you learn about. Be detailed and specific (include verse numbers for each point). Take the time to look up words that you may not understand in your Strong's Concordance, Word Study New Testament, or online. You may need to use more paper to write your observations.

1. **The Work of Faith** - Paul clearly teaches that man is justified (declared righteous before God) by faith alone apart from works; however, he also teaches that real faith produces good works.

- a. Titus 1:16-2:14

- b. Ephesians 2:8-10

- c. James 2:14-26 (these should sound familiar)

d. Hebrews 11

2. The Labor of Love

a. I John 4:7-5:3 (If you have time read through the whole book of I John to see what it says about love.)

b. I Corinthians 13:4-8a

3. The Steadfastness of Hope

a. Romans 8:18-25

b. I Corinthians 15:58

c. Hebrews 3:6-14; 6:9-12

DAY FOUR

1. Today you are going to look through I and II Thessalonians and look at the usage of faith, love, hope, and choice/chosen (election, KJV). You may have already marked faith, love and hope in I Thessalonians. You can mark it the same way in II Thessalonians (Observation Worksheets have been included with this lesson). Choose a new marking for choice/chosen (election) and mark that in both I and II Thessalonians.
2. Record what you learn about each of these words on the next page. Include book, chapter, and verse.

I Thessalonians

Lesson 3, Chapter 1

Faith	Love
Hope	Choice/Chosen

DAY FIVE

1. Read through I Thessalonians 1 and follow the gospel's progress. Where did it start and where did it end up going and how did it get there?

2. What did the Thessalonians become in verses 6-7?

3. Let's take a closer look at those two words.
 - a. Imitators (followers, KJV)
 - 1) #G3402 - mimeomai
 - 2) we get the English word "mimic" from this
 - b. Examples (ensamples, KJV)
 - 1) #G5179 - typos
 - 2) we get the English word "type" from this
 - 3) translated in other places as print, figure, pattern, fashion, form
 - 4) a figure formed by a blow or impression
 - 5) comes from #5180 - typto - a primary root
 - a) to strike, beat, smite, with repeated blows
 - b) struck with a die for casting
 - c) a stamp or scar

4. Have you mimicked another Christian's walk? Have you ever thought about someone mimicking you? Would you say to another person, "Follow my example." Why or why not?

5. Notice that they became imitators first and then became examples to other people. Fill out the chart on the next page to show what you are to imitate and how you should then be an example. In the second column make personal applications to your own life.

Imitators/Followers	Personal Application
<p>I Corinthians 4:16</p> <p>Ephesians 5:1-2</p> <p>Philippians 3:17</p>	

Examples/Ensamples	Personal Application
<p>I Corinthians 10:6, 11</p> <p>I Timothy 4:12</p> <p>Philippians 3:17</p> <p>I Peter 5:1-3</p>	

- c. What effect has your conversion had on others?

- d. Can others look at you and see your faith, love, and hope? If so, how?

- e. Did you turn to God? If so, what did you turn away from?

- f. Are you serving the living God? If so, how?

- g. Are you expectantly awaiting Christ's return?

- h. If you know the Lord is going return, how should that impact your life?

- i. What things in your walk are worthy of imitation?

- j. What things in your walk should not be imitated? Why?

- k. What should you do to change those things in your life?