

HAVE YOU MADE A FALSE PROFESSION?

Is it possible to think that you are a Christian and not really be one?

Yes

Can a person make a "decision" for Christ, walk an aisle in a church or Crusade, have an "experience" with God, be baptized, pray the "sinner's prayer", "believe" on Christ, and still not be bound for heaven?

Yes

Can a person think that they're going to heaven and end up in hell?

Yes

The reason for concern is because "False Professions" give people false assurance, and believing that they are already "saved", seek no further and are deceived through this counterfeit experience.

Many people do not become Christians because they think they already are one!

IT'S NOT A NEW PROBLEM ...

This situation is very prevalent today but it is not new or unique. It is presented several times in the Bible; for example, the Parable of the Sower and the Seed, Matthew 13:4-23, the Parable of the Ten Virgins, Matthew 25:1-13, and it is also spoken of in Matthew 7:21, II Corinthians 7:10, Titus 1:16, II Peter 2:21,22, and I John.

You may have made a False Profession if,

1. It was a time when you were going through serious personal problems, maybe facing surgery, emotional stresses, having family discords, etc., and you wanted Christ to help.

You may have made a False Profession if,

2. It was an emotional moment. The church service, sermon or music emotionally moved you, and at the encouragement of the Pastor, Evangelist or family members, you went forward and prayed the "sinner's" prayer.

You may have made a False Profession if,

3. You made a decision because you were afraid of going to hell. You wanted to go to heaven and certainly not suffer in hell.

You may have made a False Profession if,

4. Other members of your family "got saved" so you wanted it to be a family "thing"; after all, "the family that prays together, stays together."

You may have made a False Profession if,

5. You made a "decision" as a child at a Vacation Bible School, or an AWANA-type Children's Program, or church service.

You may have made a False Profession if,

6. You made your "decision" before you were truly convicted or understood enough.

You may have made a False Profession if,

7. You believed what a church told you without first searching the Scriptures to see if it agreed with the Bible.

You may have made a False Profession if,

16. You'd rather be with unchurched friends and go to worldly places of amusement.

You have made a False Profession if,

17. You were not "Born Again", John 3:3. Real, Biblical, salvation is a work and miracle from God, not self-reformation. It is authenticated by spiritual changes that only a new nature and God the Holy Spirit can produce. John 1:13

HOW CAN YOU KNOW? ...

The Bible remedy to this spiritual deceit is to "examine yourself", II Corinthians 13:5, and see if the biblical evidence of real salvation is in your life. Some of these evidences are ...

1. There is now a new desire and joy to read, learn and obey God's Word, the Bible. This new love for the Scriptures especially shows the reality of the New Birth. I Peter 2:2
2. Your life-style changes because of a new desire for personal holiness. You now feel convicted and guilty about things you never did before. I Peter 1:15,16, I John 2:3,4, 3:3
3. Losing your old friends because now you want to go to church and live differently. Your new friends are Christians because there is a shared Godly purpose and spiritual meaning to your life. I Peter 4:4, I John 3:14
4. Your "faith" passes the test of "trial by fire", I Peter 4:12,13. No matter what pressures are put on you to return back again, you remain faithful to the Lord, His Word and His church. Revelation 2:10
5. You have growing discernment about Biblical truth. You recognize and turn from false teachings and now even realize the doctrinal errors of your previous church. If a person is "carried about with every wind of doctrine", it is cause to question their salvation. Jude 3, I Corinthians 2:14, Ephesians 4:14, John 4:1

6. You have a new humility in your service and love for the Lord and other Christians. You are willing to do whatever the Lord wants. Acts 20:19, James 4:6, I Peter 5:5

7. Being laughed at, mocked, or forsaken by family, friends, or others does not cause you to quit your witnessing or deny the faith. Matthew 5:11, Hebrews 11:35-39, I Peter 4:14

8. It lasts, it endures. After some time passes, and the emotion of the moment faded, you did not drift or remain away from church, Bible reading, etc. Although you can have times of spiritual coldness, they do not last, but God lovingly chastens and you return. John 8:31, Acts 20:24, I Corinthians 15:58, Hebrews 12:6-8, I John 2:19

These are some of the Bible evidences of real salvation. Look up these verses and "examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith", II Corinthians 13:5.

Do you have these traits?

Salvation is more than a prayer or intellectual "belief". Jesus Christ is not someone to call on only when you're in trouble. He did not die on the cross to solve your personal problems. Having "Intellectual Assent", or "Head knowledge" only of Christian truths does not make you a Christian. Many people want deliverance from the punishment of sins (hell), but not deliverance from sin itself. Mistake not your fear of hell for salvation. "Godly sorrow" and "repentance" are missing, II Corinthians 7:10, Luke 13:3,5, and Acts 20:21. You are still "lost" and need the Lord's forgiveness for sin.

Be thankful for this new understanding, correction, and warning.

Even though you now realize that you are still under judgment and condemnation, be thankful that there is time to repent and seek the Lord.

You may have made a False Profession if,

8. You were raised in a church from a young child and were taught the Bible. You know the Bible, but it is only an intellectual understanding and does not direct your life-style, decision making or personal plans.

You may have made a False Profession if,

9. You thought all you had to do was 'believe' and 'trust' in Jesus Christ as your 'Saviour' without making any difference in your life.

You may have made a False Profession if,

10. When asked when you became a Christian, you tell them when you got baptized.

You may have made a False Profession if,

11. You didn't desire to go to church after your 'decision' or 'profession' of Christ. You said a prayer but it didn't motivate you to begin or continue attending services.

You may have made a False Profession if,

12. You're not living for the Lord now, you say you're "backslidden", but you want to make sure that you'll go to heaven, so you remind yourself of the doctrine of "Eternal Security"; after all, "Once Saved, Always Saved".

You may have made a False Profession if,

13. It didn't last. The "decision" or spiritual experience did not keep you living the separated Christian life. Your (false) "hope" lies in a "decision" made years ago but you are not now living for the Lord.

You may have made a False Profession if,

14. You used to attend church but now justify your absences with weak excuses or criticisms of churches, Pastors and faithful Christians.

You may have made a False Profession if,

15. You don't seem to have the same "faith" as other Christians who witness, faithfully attend church, enthusiastically read their Bibles and pray on a regular basis.

Search for the Lord and His salvation now.
Someday it will be too late.

*"... behold, now is the accepted time;
behold, now is the day of salvation."
II Corinthians 6:2b*

*"How shall we escape, if we neglect
so great salvation;" Hebrews 2:3a*

*"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when
ye shall search for me with all your heart."
Jeremiah 29:13*

Sincerely call upon the Lord Jesus Christ
in real repentance, obedience and faith.
Luke 14:33, Acts 20:21, Romans 10:13

It is best to use your own words,
but a suggested prayer would be ...

Dear Lord Jesus Christ,

Please forgive me for my sin
and time of spiritual disobedience.

Thank you for opening my eyes to
the truth of my willing deception.

Thank you for dying in my place and
taking the punishment for my sins.

I want to receive you now as my
Lord and Saviour, and serve you for
the rest of my life.

Amen!

If you prayed this prayer and would like
more information, please call or send your
name and address to the following church ...

**BIBLE BAPTIST TEMPLE
1565 Chardon Road
Euclid, Ohio 44117**

*(Just a half block North, off Euclid Avenue,
across from the fire station - parking lot in back)*

BBT Ministries
P O Box 32005, Euclid, OH 44132
(Biblebaptisteuclid.com)
216-531-1273