

# Truth or Chains



## THE MARKS OF THE LIFE OF FAITH

When the believer lives by faith:

### 1. He has no agenda

“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of Him Who sent Me and to finish His work.” John 4:34

“For I have come down from heaven not to do My own will but to do the will of Him Who sent Me.” John 6:38

"He has no agenda. "

**Point:** Having an agenda involves the will. The believer who has no agenda is fully content with Christ’s will. Because Christ is the head of the Church, and is the all-powerful God, it only makes sense that he would seek and be content with His will. To be where the Lord wants, doing what He wants is his greatest desire and provides his greatest joy.

### 2. He doesn’t step into tomorrow

“Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.’” James 4:15

“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself.” Matthew 6:34

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

**Point:** Because he has no agenda, the man of faith seeks only God’s plan for his life. He does not plan for the future, even a day ahead, except as the Lord directs Him. Once a plan is made it is always subject to change by God at any time. He is as thrilled with a no answer to a plan as he is with a yes. One of his greatest joys is to hear from the Lord.

### 3. He lives as if Christ is enough

“For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” Philippians 1:21

“For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power.” Colossians 2:9-10 KJV

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**Point:** The one who walks by faith daily has found that Jesus Christ is the preeminent One. He created all things and holds all things together, is the head of the Church, and loves him. He can trust Him to be all he needs at all times. He is content with Him, and doesn't need anything or anyone to make his life fruitful or complete. Jesus Christ is quite enough.

## **4. He refuses to depend upon the flesh**

"I know that nothing good lives in me , that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out." Romans 7:18

"In order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit."  
Romans 8:4

**Point:** The flesh or the sinful nature is the source of all sin in every human being. Although the believer has a new life in him, the life of Christ, he also must contend with the flesh. Nothing good can come from the flesh and so the child of God who walks by faith has learned to walk in the Spirit. Only then can he expect to live godly in Christ Jesus.

## **5. He knows that waiting on the Lord is never time wasted**

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait I say, on the Lord." Psalm 27:14 KJV

"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him; do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes." Psalm 37:7

**Point:** The child of God who waits patiently on the Lord knows that he will never miss anything important in his life. He occupies himself with the Savior in the quiet confidence that the Lord whose voice he heard when he wasn't looking for Him as an unsaved person, is the One he will hear now that he is a child of God and has a listening ear.

## **6. He dares to trust the Lord in everything**

"Apart from Me you can do nothing." John 15:5

"I can do everything through Him Who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

**Point:** The one who will walk by faith knows that the Creator of all things is all-powerful. To him it only makes sense that the God Who saved him and wants him to trust Him is honored when he does trust Him in all things and for all things.

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## 7. He will not bare a burden that is not from the Lord

“Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

“For when we came into Macedonia, this body of ours had no rest, but we were harassed at every turn—conflicts on the outside, fears within. But God, Who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus.” II Corinthians 7:5-7

**Point:** The saint who will live a life of faith knows the difference between a burden from the Lord and one that is self-imposed. And those that are from the Lord (such as prayer burdens) God places on his children in order for him to take to the Lord in prayer. He finds this daily burden-bearing a source of unending comfort and a means of continuous praise as he watches the Lord answer his prayers and make every burden light.

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