

FOLLOWING JESUS WORKSHEET

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John 15:8 (CSB), "My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples."

A Committed Follower of Jesus Christ:

A follower of Jesus Christ is simply this: A person who *admits* they are a sinner, in need of saving. They *believe* in their heart that Jesus can forgive them of their sins and have *confessed* Jesus to be the LORD and Savior of their life (Romans 10:9).

How do I know if I have genuine relationship with Jesus?

We live in a world that embraces superficial things, is always looking for whatever is "new and next," and will ultimately follow things that are only important to them. The moral compass of what is right and wrong is ever-changing and it seems that every time we turn on the TV something is going wrong. In the middle of this we do see things that excite us and things that are good. Maybe its our kids achieving a goal they have worked really hard on, our team excels and is in the state playoffs, we get a promotion at work, we find out that "the news" at the doctor's office is not as bad as it could have been.

In the middle of all these ups and downs is the prominent priority that is on every Christ followers heart, following Jesus. "*How do I know if I'm truly following Jesus?*" For the most part, at the bottom of this, is a sincere heart that desires to make the name of Jesus famous. While it may not be announced from a stage with a microphone, it seems that many Christ followers, at the same time, feel as if they are consistently wondering what God thinks about them. "*Man, I messed up this week*" or "*Wow, that didn't go like I had hoped, how did that go so wrong*" fills our minds. This leads us to wonder if our commitment to Jesus is *genuine*. While the enemy is masterful at "getting in our head" and lying to us in order to take eyes off of Jesus, there are at least four indications that we can tangibly see that affirm we did have a genuine relationship with Jesus, the Savior.

Four Indicators We Follow Jesus:

1. The Pursuit of God in His Word.
2. The People Around Us.
3. Our Perception of Life and Eternity.
4. The Manner in Which We Pray.

III. OUR PERCEPTION OF LIFE AND ETERNITY.

A true follower of Jesus has an eternal mindset on all things. When Jesus changes a heart and life, how we deal with conflict, how we react to situations, and how we view what is most important all changes. We do not simply live for the here and now. A Christ follower knows that eternity is at stake. They simply do not go to work with the goal of making money. While bills must be paid, we go to work and view it as a mission field. A Jesus following high school football player is not simply on the team to break records and get a scholarship. He views his team as a mission field.

Evaluation of Our Perception of Life and Eternity:

a. *What teams, organizations, or activities are you involved with the most? List the places you tend to go the most on a weekly basis. This gets you to think through where you are spending your time, energy, and resources.*

b. *Why are you apart of these teams, organizations, and activities. List what your honest motives are in being apart of the things you just wrote down.*

c. *What would you do if you only had a certain amount of time? List the top three things you tend to get done everyday no matter what.*

A genuine Christ follower wakes up with this on their mind, "*Jesus, how can I love and pursue you more today than I did yesterday?*"

IV. THE MANNER IN WHICH WE PRAY.

The more we follow Jesus, the more we will be conformed to His ways and thoughts. It is incredible to hear a genuine, heartfelt, prayer of a faithful saint. In this you will hear struggles, victories, and a heart for the nations. *A true Christ follower rarely prays for something that will only benefit themselves.*

Evaluation of Your Prayer Life:

a. How often do you have meaningful prayer time? Be specific and list how often you tend to pray past meal times.

b. What or who do you pray for the most? Yourself? Others? Be honest and list the last three specific things or people you have prayed for including yourself.

c. How is prayer changing your walk with Jesus? List tangible ways you see your prayer life is real and effective. You may even want to write down a specific situation or circumstance.

A key question to consider here is, "Do I tend to pray more selfishly or sacrificially?" Your prayers and your "Christmas wish list" should not sound the same. While it is definitely appropriate and encouraged to pray for your walk with Jesus and things on your heart, a Christ follower is always others-focused.

John 15 is an incredible chapter in the Bible. It has great words of wisdom from Jesus about *abiding* in Him. John 15 shows us that if we are truly connected to the True Vine, others will be able to see it. *Can others see this in you?*