If we analyze and dissect Matthew 7:21-23, 2 Corinthians 13:5 and Titus 1:16, what we end up with is a dilemma between people who say they have faith and people who claim to know God...but whose lives show no tangible evidence of either!

People are confused about their salvation...or misguided at best.

In medical terms, a man is pronounced dead when he has no brain waves, no blood pressure, no pulse, and no heartbeat—these are vital signs—and no one argues this!

In a similar way, there are vital signs that determine if a person is spiritually alive or spiritually dead! And that’s what we want to look at today. Our focus is not those “unique” experiences a person might have after coming to Christ—but those “vital signs” that are NECESSARY for a person to be called a Christian.

14 Vital Signs of The New Birth

NOTE: These are “vital” signs—so I want you to put a little box out to the left of each point and a check mark by each that is true in your own life. By the end of this message, every box that is not ticked is a reason you should examine yourself to see if you’re alive...in Christ!

I realize that all of us can occasionally slip in any one of these vital signs...but if they have NEVER been a part of your new birth experience, then you have no reason to believe that you’re alive...in Christ!

What are “the 14 vital signs“ of someone who has truly been born again?

1. The first vital sign and the thing that ALWAYS PRECEDE the new birth is REPENTANCE!

Go to Luke 13:1-5. Simply put: If there is no repentance—there is no conversion!

If you can’t remember a time when you—of a broken and contrite heart—pointed to the cross and cried out to God to personally forgive you of your sins because of the shed blood of Jesus—then conversion did not take place! We’ll say more about repentance as we go along.

2. The second vital sign of the new birth is a WATER BAPTISM.

   • Mark 16:15-16: “Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved.

3. The third vital sign of the new birth is a NEW SPIRIT.

   • And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them are not Christians at all.” Romans 8:9

   • John affirms this same truth in 1 John 4:13: “And God has given us His Spirit as proof that we live in Him and He in us.”

   • When does a man receive the Spirit of God? Acts 2:36-39 "Each of you must repent and be baptized for forgiveness of sin. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
The Holy Spirit is responsible for producing the fourth and most visible vital sign—which is a **new life**!

4. **NEW LIFE.** “It doesn’t make any difference now whether we have been circumcised or not. What counts is whether we have been changed into new and different people.” Galatians 6:15

Have you been changed? Matthew 3:1-9  The NEW LIFE we’re talking about is not the result of will-power, positive thinking, some 12-step program, or behavior modification. Church membership and programs can cause people to modify their behavior—but only God can change a man and give him new life from the inside out!”

Paul puts it this way in 2 Corinthians 5:16-17: “Those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!”

Ask yourself—do I have a new life? How can I tell? Is Christ the center, Head, and most important Person in my life?

- Another aspect of the new life is new values. That’s because the new life that Christ gives us results in a new set of values—**have your values changed since you believed?** Colossians 3:1-2

5. The **fifth** vital sign of the new birth is **LOVE**—love for God and love for others. Mark 12:28-31

- **By this shall all men know that you’re my disciple.** John 13:34-35
- **“If we love our Christian brothers and sisters, it proves that we have passed from death to eternal life. But a person who has no love is still dead.”** 1 John 3:14

Love for God and love for others leads to the **sixth** vital sign of the new birth and that is...

6. **A BURDEN FOR LOST SOULS.** Romans 10:1 and 1:14

Show me a believer who has no burden for lost souls and I will NOT show you a Christian, but one who is not true to the very faith he professes! Even people who are not Christians are motivated by some burden! Take for example, people who overcome some terminal illness—**what do they tend to become?** Passionate spokespersons for that very cause! **Are you a passionate spokesperson for the cause of Jesus Christ—who is not willing that any perish?** When was the last time you led someone to Jesus?

I want to show you two people who had a life-changing encounter with the Son of God—one was a demon-possessed man and the other an immoral woman. ** Afterwards, they both had the same desire—and that was to tell others about Jesus!**

- **Man who was delivered of demons.** Mark 5:1-20
- **Immoral woman at the well.** John 4

Jesus said:  **“All those who want to be My disciples must come and follow Me, because my servants must be where I am. And if they follow Me, the Father will honor them.”** John 12:26

7. **The seventh** vital sign of the new birth is **PRAYER.**

Show me a believer who NEVER prays and I’ll show you one who is beset by sin and deceived in his salvation! Men ought always pray. Luke 18:1  Pray without ceasing. 1 Thessalonians 5:17

8. **The eighth** vital sign of the new birth is **A DESIRE TO KNOW AND LOVE FOR THE TRUTH.**

- **Love of the truth compels people truly born-again to “walk in the light”.** 1 John 1:5-6
As the born-again believer walks in the light and the light of God’s Word illuminates their spiritual eyes, they begin to see the world around them as God sees it. Titus 2:11-15

I have no greater joy than to hear that you’re living in the truth. 2 John 1-4 and 3 John 1-4

People who love the truth and people who want to know the truth will invariably find themselves in Bible Study!

- Private study—to shew thyself approved unto God. 2 Timothy 2:15 KJV
- Group or shared study. Why study with other believers?—so that in the mouth of two or three witnesses God can confirm His Word and purpose in your life.

9. The ninth vital sign of the new birth is GOOD WORKS. Now, people are not saved by good works—they are saved for good works! Titus 3:5-8 Want an example? Look at 3:14.

10. The tenth vital sign of the new birth is AN AWARENESS OF SIN. This awareness of sin is why believers see the need for on-going repentance. 1 John 2:1-2

11. The eleventh vital sign of the new birth is FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER BELIEVERS.

- All believers make up the family of God. Therefore, if we’re in God’s family, we will want to spend time with other believers who are like-minded. 1 John 1:7
- Needed encouragement lately? This another reason Christians fellowship. Hebrew 10:23-25

12. The twelveth vital sign of the new birth is SPIRITUAL MATURITY.

One evidence of spiritual maturity is a willingness to teach others about Jesus and the Law of God. Are you growing spiritually?

- Psalm 51:10-13, Hebrews 5:12-13 and 6:1-3, 2 Peter 1:3-11

13. The thirteenth vital sign of the new birth is ANTICIPATION OF THE LORD’S RETURN. 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 Show me a Christian who is not earnestly looking for Christ’s return and I will show you someone who has fallen madly in love with this evil world!

14. The fourteenth and last vital sign of the new birth is OBEDIENCE.

- Matthew 7:21: “Not all people who sound religious are really godly. They may refer to Me as “Lord”, but they still won’t enter the kingdom of heaven. The decisive issue is whether they obey My Father in heaven.”
- Go to 1 John 2:3-6.

Are these vital signs evident in your life? And are you looking Christ’s return?

If you have never experienced these vital signs in your life, then God was calling you to salvation through the message you’ve just heard!

Are you living as though you might die tonight?