FAKE MEDICATION. FAKE MONEY. WHAT ABOUT OUR FAITH?



A sincere question about genuine Christianity

Imagine a mother caring for a seriously ill child. After much sacrifice, she obtains what she believes is the medicine her child needs. She returns home hopeful—only to discover that the medicine is counterfeit.

The packaging looked convincing, but its contents could not deliver what they promised.

Counterfeit money also has the appearance of value. Yet looking genuine does not make it genuine.

These examples raise a more personal question: Can our **Christianity** have the appearance of faith while lacking its life and substance?

This is not an invitation to condemn others. It is a call to examine ourselves.

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." — 2 Corinthians 13:5 (KJV)

More than an outward appearance

We may attend church, speak confidently about **God**, hold a position in ministry, or impress others with religious activities. Yet none of these things can replace a living relationship with **Jesus Christ**.

Jesus gave this solemn warning:

*"Many will say to me in that day, **Lord**, **Lord**, have we not prophesied in thy name? ... And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." — Matthew 7:22–23 (KJV, excerpt)*

The question is not simply, "Do people recognise me as a Christian?" It is, "Do I belong to Christ, and is His truth shaping my life?"

Scripture warns that some will depart from the faith and follow deceiving teachings (1 Timothy 4:1). But the existence of false teaching does not make the gospel false. It makes knowing the truth all the more necessary.

We are called to:

"...earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." — Jude 1:3 (KJV, excerpt)

How, then, do we recognise and live out genuine Christian faith?

1. You must be born again

Jesus said:

*"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of **God**." — **John** 3:3 (KJV, excerpt)*

Christianity begins with the new life **God** gives through **Jesus Christ**. It is more than adopting a religious identity or repeating words without meaning them.

A prayer of repentance can sincerely express our response to **God**. But the words are not a formula that replaces repentance and faith. **God** calls us to turn from sin, trust in Christ, and follow Him.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." — 2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)

We cannot earn salvation through good behaviour. We are saved by **God**'s grace through faith, and that grace begins to change how we live (Ephesians 2:8–10).

The repentant thief beside **Jesus** had no impressive religious record to present. He turned to **Jesus** in faith and received His promise of paradise (Luke 23:39–43). Our hope, too, rests in the Saviour.

Genuine faith does not make excuses for sin. It brings us back to Christ for forgiveness, renewal, and strength to obey.

2. Let God's Word guide you

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." — Psalm 119:105 (KJV)

Life presents many competing voices. Popular opinions, personal desires, traditions, and persuasive leaders can pull us in different directions. We need a dependable guide.

God's **Word** teaches us who He is, exposes what is wrong, and directs us towards what is right. Read it prayerfully, consider passages in their context, and put what you learn into practice.

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." — James 1:22 (KJV)

Respect Christian leaders, but test what you are taught by Scripture. The Bereans were commended because they searched the Scriptures to examine the message they received (Acts 17:11).

No leader's popularity, personal charm, or claim of spiritual power places their teaching above God's Word.

3. Walk by the Holy Spirit

*"For as many as are led by the **Spirit of God**, they are the sons of **God**." — Romans 8:14 (KJV)*

The Holy Spirit helps believers follow Christ, understand His truth, resist sin, and grow in godly character.

His leading is not measured merely by strong feelings, impressive experiences, wealth, or predictions about the future. Scripture directs our attention to the fruit He produces:

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance…" — Galatians 5:22–23 (KJV, excerpt)

Pray for His guidance. Test spiritual claims by Scripture. Seek wise counsel and grow in obedience. A season of uncertainty does not mean that **God** has abandoned you; keep seeking Him.

Jesus said:

*"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." — **John** 10:27 (KJV)*

4. Let faith become visible in your life

Genuine **Christianity** reaches beyond church meetings into our homes, workplaces, relationships, and private decisions.

It teaches us to speak truthfully, act honestly, forgive others, care for people in need, and remain faithful under pressure.

Jesus compared the person who hears His words and obeys them to a wise man who built his house upon a rock. The storm came, but the house stood (Matthew 7:24–25).

Faithfulness does not guarantee a life without hardship. Daniel faced the lions' den, and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego faced the furnace. Their trust in **God** endured when obedience became costly (Daniel 6; Daniel 3).

Jesus also teaches that our treatment of those who are hungry, strangers, sick, or imprisoned matters to Him (Matthew 25:31–40).

A faith that honours Christ should increasingly produce a life that reflects His love and truth.

Choose what is genuine

Do not settle for a Christian appearance while keeping Christ at a distance. Neither should the failures of others keep you from Him.

Come honestly. Turn from sin. Trust in **Jesus Christ**. Read His **Word**, seek the Holy Spirit's help, and join a church where Scripture is faithfully taught and lived.

The purpose of this message is not to leave you afraid, but to invite you to examine your faith and find your hope in Christ.

Do not merely carry the name. Follow the Saviour.

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The Last Messengers

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