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# Profession without possession Or Possession with Profession

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## Summary

Nearly everyone today professes to be a Christ-ian. Why then are our churches empty and our people are living in sin? Why then when we face the slightest difficulty we fall apart? The reason is because some of us have not allowed the spirit of God to change us and are stuck OR we are mere professors and not possessors of the faith!

Do you know that almost 50% of so called Christians today, believe that the bible is not the infallible word of God? And that the Holy Spirit and Satan is not real.

The Question I have for us today: Are we “**Professors and not Possessors OR Possessors and Professors of the faith.**” For some of you who know me and my method of teaching and preaching, know that we are about to face reality as declared in the Word of God?

I refer to Our Lord as my neighbor, the question that always remained alive in me is. What do I do and how do I live when my next door neighbor is the creator of the universe? I walked where he walked; I breathed the same air he breathed; I ate the same food he ate; I saw and felt the same land; I drank the water he walked upon and I touched his very house.

I live my daily life in the light of eternity, looking and waiting for his next move in his church and the world at large. His word means everything to me; it is the source of wisdom and knowledge that the Holy Spirit uses to direct me in living a holy and righteous life.

I am what you called a possessed person! NO! Not by demons BUT by the Holy Spirit of God. For the Bible tells me in **1 Cor 6:19-20** *“do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”*

**Galatians 2:20** *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”*

1 John 2:3-6 “We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

Titus 1:16 “They profess to know God, but they deny Him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, and disqualified for any good work.”

We are living in a day when everyone claims to be a Christian, everyone claims to know Jesus Christ but in works they deny him. Their lifestyle says something altogether different.

God now is

- **Challenging us and Daring us to change:** God intervened and Saul’s life changed forever (Acts 9).

- **Challenging us and Daring us to Speak Up:** Saul grew “more Capable” as a disciple, which often includes taken a stand in a dangerous situations.
- **Challenging us and Daring us to believe:** That God is at working before our very eyes.
- **Challenging us and Daring us to Serve Faithfully:** Given up everything to know Christ was Paul’s motivation for faithful service.
- **Challenging us and Daring us to Trust:** God is bigger than our fears and He often uses our experiences to help others.

Now what do I mean a professor?

1. One who claims to be saved
2. One who claims to know Christ as savior
3. One who claims to have a relationship with God but you do not possess salvation profession w/o possession.

Here Titus exclaims that those people were professing Christ, but in works they denied him. In other words, their walk was in contradiction with their talk. They claimed to be a Christian, but their lifestyle said something altogether different.

We are living in a day when people are claiming to be Christians, but in words and deeds they deny the lord Jesus Christ.

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**WHAT YOU DO IN SECRET IS WHAT YOU REALLY ARE**

Repeat after me

**WHAT I DO IN SECRET IS WHO I AM**

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Think and be truthful to yourself, it will save your life. The question is:

**WHO ARE YOU?**

Let me introduce to us some marks of those who profess Christ, but do not possess him as their lord and savior.

## **There will be change**

**If** we are professing Christ as our savior, there must be a change. Without exception, there must be a change in our lives.

**If** we are going in the **wrong direction**...We must change **direction**. How lost do we have to be before we ask for direction? Finally forced to do what all men hate to do worse than anything else. That's right. We had to admit that we were lost, stop our car at the local gas station and ask for directions

**If** we have the **Wrong Attitude**...We must change our **attitude**. The best advice that I could give anyone, other than God's plan of salvation, is to answer the question: "How can I constructively change my thought pattern?"

God's Word tells us that we can change our habits and be released from our reactions to circumstances that happen to us. We do not have to be impatient, depressed, angry, or entertain imaginations that are harmful. However, we must first recognize our need for changing our attitude.

**Proverbs 4:23** states, "Watch over your heart with all diligence for from it flows the springs of life!"

**(Ps 119:9-11)** "How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. <sup>10</sup>With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!

<sup>11</sup>Your word I have hidden in my heart that I might not sin against You.”

**2 Cor 5:17** “Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” I am not talking about instant maturity, but I am talking about a definite change.

**Genesis 1:1-3** “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

I believe that this evidence can be seen in (1 - 3) areas. First of all there will be a:

Change in way we live - when we get saved, we will not...

- a. Go to same places we used to go.
- b. We won't say the same things we use to say.
- c. We will react differently than we did before

- d. Our language will be transformed from cursing to praising there will be a definite change in our life.
- e. People around us will know that we are not the same.

### **In the things we love**

It bothers me that those who profess Christ as their savior and yet we almost have to drag them to church. I am wondering if it is because they are just professors and not possessors of the lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus promises us that believers are saved through his grace. However, in **1 Peter 4:18**, Peter talks about the difficulty of salvation even for the righteous. We have all met people that profess to be believers yet they live with little or no regard to the commandments of God. Our Lord. Jesus Christ urges us in the New Testament to seek the Kingdom of God and his righteousness. Paul tells the Philippians how to live and “inherit the Kingdom of God”.

Some contemporary Christian authors believe that while our salvation is by God’s grace a person has not totally received

God's Gift of salvation until it is reflected in his or her lifestyle. While we all sin and fall short of the glory of Jesus Christ you can tell a committed Christian by his or her daily actions, thoughts and deeds.

I want to be more than just a Professor; I want to be a Possessor.

### **Scriptural Principles**

1) **Call upon the Name of the Lord for Salvation** – Paul tells us in **Acts 2:21; Acts 16:31** and **Romans 10:9** that anyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

2) **Unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom** – In **1 Corinthians 6:9-10** and **Ephesians 5:5** Paul describes in vivid detail the life styles of the unholy and tells us that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God. 1.2 billion People of the world describe themselves as believers yet many partake regularly in the sins that Paul describes in **1 Corinthians 6:9-10**.

3) **Righteous may be scarcely saved** – Peter tells us in **1 Peter 4:17-19** that many of the righteous may be “scarcely

saved”. If that is true than what will heaven be like for those indicating their belief in Christ yet refusing to conform to Christ’s example for us?

**4) Seek the Kingdom and his Righteousness – In Matthew**

**6:33** Jesus implores us to put away our desires for earthly pleasures and seek the Kingdom of God and his righteousness.

**5) He saved us for a purpose – In 2 Timothy 1:9** Paul tells the

believers in Ephesus that they have been saved for a purpose and he encourages them to seek to fulfill the purpose that God has preordained for them.

**6) Layup Treasures in Heaven – Jesus encourages believers in**

**Matthew 6:19** to lay up treasure and reward in heaven and not to concern ourselves with the cares of this world.

**7) Your treasure is where your heart is – In Matthew 6:21**

Jesus tells us that our heart will be where our treasure is.

**Paul defined Christians to the Philippians as:**

8) **Be of good conduct, striving and suffering for Christ –**

Paul clearly loved the church at Philippi and the commitment of the believers there for their service to the Lord. In **Philippians 1:27; 29** Paul encourages them to continue their efforts in the face of suffering and persecution.

9) **Preoccupation with the welfare of others – In Philippians**

**2:3-4** Paul indicates that true believers will have a concern for the welfare of others.

10) **Serve without complaining and disputing – In**

**Philippians 2:14-16** Paul indicates that the true believer and servant of the Lord, serves without regard to personal recognition or gain and in good cheer without disputes.

11) **Stand fast in the Lord – Finally in Philippians 4:1** Paul

encourages the believer to stand fast in the Lord and not to succumb to the evils of this world.