

# Sure Evidences of Conversion

When Jude exhorts the church to “*Keep yourself in the love of God*” we can easily think that he is hinting at legalism of self effort, but he is not. We are the “*beloved*” of God as Jude already explained. Romans 8 tells us we cannot be separated from the love of God and nothing in all creation can tear us away from God’s love. He does not mean you have to work your way into God’s good graces. Grace has already been lavished on you. You cannot earn it. You already have God’s favor.

So, what does Jude mean by this expression? Psalm 91 says, “*He that dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.*” He is stating a fact. When you draw near to God, he will draw nearer to you. To keep yourself in the love of God means to keep yourself from wandering away from His presence. Don’t run away from him. Stay close to Him. Camp out on His doorstep in prayer. Run to Him whenever you are in trouble or have a need.

## 1. His Spirit – The seal, tattoo, magnet, umbilical cord

The day that you invited Jesus to come into your life was the moment that the Spirit of God came in to take up residence with you. Romans 8 says “*He that has not the Spirit of God is none of his.*” So, from this you know that the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, dwells in you as Jesus promised in John 14 to 16. Jesus said, “*The Spirit is with you but will be in you.*” Therefore you can know that you are in the love of God when you know that the Holy Spirit is in you. It is the Spirit that gives you the desire to cry out to God when you are tempted or when you fail. When God convicts you of sin it is because He loves you and wants you to stay close to him.

### Ezekiel 36:26

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

### 1 John 4:13

We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

### Romans 8:8-10

Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

Romans 8:15 For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, **Abba**, Father.

### Romans 8:22-23

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Galatians 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, **Abba**, Father.

## 2. His Word – His commands are not burdensome

The Word of God, the bible, is an important part of the life of every believer. The Spirit that dwells in you gives you a hunger to know God better. The Word of God is food for our hungry souls. It is the nourishment that we need to grow strong in the Lord. It is the umbilical cord to our Father in heaven. He gives every believer a hunger and a true longing for God and that hunger is satisfied when we feast on His Word. It is the means by which we stay close to God, therefore it is another way we know we are in Him, that is, that we are abiding in the love of God.

### Deuteronomy 17:18-19

When he (the king) takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites. It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees.

### Matthew 4:4

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

### John 15:7-8

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

### John 15:9-11

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you: continue in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full.

### 1 John 5:3

This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,

### Acts 20:27-32

For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost has made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he has purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

### 3. His Lordship – Who’s the Boss?

Jesus asked a question of would-be disciples, “*How is it you call me Lord, Lord, but do not the things I say.*” The answer is you cannot be his disciple and not surrender to the Lordship of Christ. Someone has said, “Either he is Lord of all, or he is not Lord at all.” You cannot have it both ways. You cannot serve two masters. Either Jesus in your Lord and Master, or you are your own master. Those who have surrendered their hearts and lives to Jesus not only “confess him as Lord,” but obey him as Lord. Because of our love for him for what he has done for us in taking our sins in his body on the cross, so we willingly and lovingly take up our cross and follow him.

This is why almost all the New Testament writers introduced themselves as “*a bondsman of Jesus Christ.*” They weren’t complaining. They were following the pattern of Deuteronomy 15 where a slave who loved his master could become his slave for life by submitting to have his ear pierced with an awl and a ring placed there to signify he was a “*willing slave.*”

Scripture teaches that real faith inevitably produces a changed life (2 Cor. 5:17). Salvation includes a transformation of the inner person (Gal. 2:20). The nature of the truly born again believer is new and different (Rom. 6:6). The unbroken pattern of sin and enmity with God will not continue when a person is born again (1 John 3:9-10). Those with genuine faith follow Christ (John 10:27), love their brothers (1 John 3:14), obey God’s commandments (1 John 2:3; John 15:14), do the will of God (Matt. 12:50), abide in God’s Word (John 8:31), keep God’s Word (John 17:6), do good works (Eph. 2:10), and continue in the faith (Col. 1:21-23; Heb. 3:14).

#### Luke 9:23

Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

#### Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship. 2. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

#### 1 John 2:6

He that says he abides in him ought himself also so to walk, **even as he** walked.

## 4. His Love – Love of God

Another evidence of being born again and “*kept in the love of God*” is that we fall in love with Jesus. Yes, the Scripture says, “*We love him because he first loved us.*” Our love for him is not a work that merits salvation, but the fruit and response to our great Savior. We cannot earn God’s love and favor by loving him back. True believers have a mark on their hearts, minds, and souls that they love God and Jesus Christ their Savior. The believer expresses this love for God in worship, praise and thanksgiving and in devotion to His Word. A true believer also loves the name of Jesus and delights in the promises of God. He also loves obedience and hungers to be holy. That desire stirs him to look forward to the coming of the Lord to rescue us from this present evil world.

### Deuteronomy 6:5

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

### Mark 12:30

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'

### John 15:8-9

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

### Romans 5:5

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts (*the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts*) by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

### 1 John 4:7-8

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

### 1 John 4:16-19

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us.