01 Dec 2013 Sermon Acts 8:1-25 True or False Believers by Roger Ng

Background of passage:

Acts 1-7 is about the church in Jerusalem but in Acts 8 it is talking about a differnet area in Judea (south of Jerusalem) and Samaria (north of Jerusalem)

Main aim of book of Acts:

Acts 1:8 ESV

[8] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

The gospel of jerusalem (Acts 1-7)

The gospel in judea and samaria (Acts 8-12)

The gospel in the end of earth (Acts 13-28)

All Christians have the holy spirit in them

Romans 8:9 ESV

[9] You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

1 Corinthians 12:13 ESV

[13] For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free-and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Believed, Baptized, Behaviour

False believers:

No share in the word of God (not matter or ministry)

Acts 8:21 ESV

[21] You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

Heart is not right (cannot be faked)

1 Samuel 16:7 ESV

[7] But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

Deuteronomy 6:5 ESV

[5] You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

2 Chronicles 16:9 ESV

[9] For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to give strong support to those whose heart is blameless toward him. You have done foolishly in this, for from now on you will have wars."

2 Corinthians 13:5 ESV

[5] Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?-unless indeed you fail to meet the test!

Matthew 7:22-23 ESV

[22] On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' [23] And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

Truly believe

Romans 10:9 ESV

[9] because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Truly baptised

Romans 6:3-4 ESV

[3] Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? [4] We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

James 2:20 ESV

[20] Do you want to be shown, you foolish person, that faith apart from works is useless?

If we dont fear, we are worse than the demons

James 2:19 ESV

[19] You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe-and shudder!

James 2:26 ESV

[26] For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

Acts 8:21 ESV

[21] You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

True believer. To know how to identify, 1 John is the best book

For believers:

1 John 5:13 ESV

[13] I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.

Have you truly received the word of life

1 John 1:1-3 ESV

[1] That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life- [2] the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us- [3] that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Do you truly confess your sins?

1 John 1:9 ESV

[9] If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Do you live a holy life?

1 John 1:6 ESV

[6] If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

Do we truly live an obedient life?

1 John 2:3 ESV

[3] And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.

Do you love god?

1 John 2:5 ESV

[5] but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him:

Do you love your brothers?

1 John 2:9-10 ESV

[9] Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness. [10] Whoever loves his brother abides in the light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling.

1 John 3:14 ESV

[14] We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death.

Do you love the world?

1 John 2:15 ESV

[15] Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

D you persevere in the truth?

1 John 2:24 ESV

[24] Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.

So are you a true or false believer?

2 Corinthians 13:5 ESV

[5] Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?-unless indeed you fail to meet the test!