

# Plastic Christianity Series

## 5-Day Devotional

### Real vs Counterfeit Faith

#### Day 1 More Than Just Words

**Scripture:** Matthew 7:21-23

Jesus gives one of the most sobering warnings in Scripture. Not everyone who says “Lord” actually belongs to Him. These are people who looked like Christians, did Christian things, and believed they were good. But they missed the most important part, relationship. They knew about Jesus, but they didn’t know Him. That’s the difference between real faith and a counterfeit one. Faith is not about saying the right things, it’s about surrendering your life. This passage isn’t meant to create fear, but clarity. Jesus wants you to know Him, not just know about Him.

- What stands out to you most in this passage?
- What is the difference between knowing about Jesus and knowing Him?
- Where might you be relying on words instead of relationship?

**Prayer:** Jesus, I don’t want to just say the right things. I want to truly know You. Amen.

#### Day 2 Zeal Without Truth

**Scripture:** Romans 10:1-2

It’s possible to be passionate about God and still be wrong. Paul describes people who had zeal but lacked true understanding. They cared deeply, but their faith was built on incomplete or incorrect truth. That’s a dangerous place to be. Passion alone doesn’t equal truth. This reminds us that our faith must be grounded in who Jesus actually is, not just what we feel or assume. A counterfeit faith can look very sincere, but sincerity doesn’t make it real. Truth matters.

- Why is it possible to be passionate but still be wrong spiritually?
- Where do you see this tension in your own life?
- What is one way you can grow in understanding God’s truth this week?

**Prayer:** God, help me build my faith on truth, not just feelings. Amen.

#### Day 3 Drifting Happens Slowly

**Scripture:** Hebrews 2:1; James 1:22-24

Spiritual drift doesn’t happen all at once. It happens slowly, often without us noticing. Hebrews warns us to pay careful attention so we don’t drift away. James adds that hearing truth without acting on it leads to

self-deception. Over time, when we hear and don't respond, our hearts become numb. We start to think we're growing when we're actually just staying the same. Real faith responds. It listens and moves. Drift happens when we delay obedience.

- What does spiritual drift look like in real life?
- Where are you hearing truth but not acting on it?
- What is one step of obedience you've been putting off?

**Prayer:** God, help me not drift. Give me the courage to respond when You speak. Amen.

## **Day 4 Looking the Part**

**Scripture:** Matthew 23:25-28

Jesus calls out people who look good on the outside but are broken on the inside. They had mastered appearances. They checked all the boxes. But their hearts were far from God. This is the danger of performance-based faith. It's easier to fix what people can see than what God sees. But Jesus isn't interested in surface-level change. He cares about your heart. You can look like you have it all together and still be far from Him. Real faith starts on the inside and works its way out.

- Why is it easier to focus on outward appearance than inward transformation?
- Where are you tempted to "look the part" in your faith?
- What would it look like to invite God to change your heart this week?

**Prayer:** Jesus, don't let me settle for appearances. Change my heart from the inside out. Amen.

## **Day 5 Real Faith Produces Fruit**

**Scripture:** JMatthew 7:15-20; 2 Corinthians 5:17

Jesus makes it clear that real faith produces fruit. You can't fake it forever. Eventually, what's real shows. A healthy tree produces good fruit. A life transformed by Jesus reflects that transformation. Not perfectly, but genuinely. Paul reminds us that in Christ we are made new. Real faith changes how we live. It's not just a label, it's a new identity. This is the difference between plastic Christianity and authentic faith. One looks right. The other is changed.

- What kind of fruit is currently showing in your life?
- How does being a "new creation" change how you see yourself?
- What is one area where you want to see real growth and change?

**Prayer:** Jesus, thank You for making me new. Help my life reflect that change. Amen.

