

**What does it mean for Jesus to be my Lord, for me to be His follower, to not neglect my salvation and for God's mercy toward me to triumph over His judgment of me?**

Is Jesus Christ my Lord – for real, or do I just say that He is when it isn't true?

According to Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, the Greek word, Kurios, translated as Lord, denotes one having power or authority over, and is also translated Master and Owner. So, does Jesus own me and hence all that I have, truly?

1 Cor 6:19 **Or 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?**

20 **For you were bought with a price (by Jesus at Calvary); therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.**

For Jesus to truly be my Lord means He owns my body and my spirit, and as Owner, He is to decide each day to what use my body and spirit are put. That is, provided I continue to lift up my soul to Him, which means I continue to yield my will to my owner.

Ps 25:1 **Unto you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul** (submit my will, to my owner, my Lord).

Despite the fact that many Christians casually say Jesus is their Lord, while clearly He is not their owner, how does Jesus really become my Lord? God answers that no one can truthfully say that Jesus is their Lord except by the Holy Spirit indwelling them:

Luke 6:46 (Jesus) **Why do you call Me 'Lord , Lord,' and not do the things which I say?** (and so prove that despite what you say He truly is not your Lord).

1 Cor 12:3 **...No one can (truly) say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.**

To have the Holy Spirit means to be owned by the Holy Spirit, for the Lord is that Spirit.

2 Co 3:17 **The Lord is the Spirit; where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.**

When the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit, is my Lord, I will be led continually by God's Spirit, I will be taught by God's Spirit, I will be caused to obey God by His Spirit, and I will be anointed to speak by God's breath or Spirit. Only then, by that anointing, can I truthfully say, Jesus is my Lord. If, as a born again Christian, I am not voluntarily owned and controlled by the Holy Spirit, then I do not currently belong to Christ and I am not living as a child of God, as the following scripture, written to Christians, reveals:

Rom 8:9 **But you are not living the life of the flesh (self-will), you are living the life of the Spirit (God's will), if the Holy Spirit of God really dwells within you, directs and controls you. But if anyone does not possess the Holy Spirit of Christ, he is none of His, he does not belong to Christ, is not truly a child of God.** AMP

Rom 8:14 **For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.**KJV

Am I really a follower of Jesus Christ, or do I just say that I am when it isn't true?

The word follow implies that someone is leading so that I can follow. To be a follower of Christ means that Christ is leading me. Yes leading me by His Spirit, the Holy Spirit, as we saw above. Does follower mean an occasional follower with Christ occasionally leading me, or does it mean He continually leads me and I continually follow Him?

Isa 58:11 **The LORD** (your Owner) **will guide you** (that is, lead you) **continually**...

God's Spirit is God's voice, and He speaks to me deep in my spirit, which is my heart:

Rom 8:16 **For His Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts...** TLB

If I am a follower of Christ my spirit will continually be hearing and obeying God's voice:

John 10:27 (Jesus) **My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.**

Prov 3:6 **Listen for GOD's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go...** MSGE

In order to be a consistent hearer and obeyer of God's voice and hence a follower of Christ, my soul or will must be dead to the voice of my flesh or human nature. In other words I will have to have believed that I am crucified with Christ to the will of my flesh:

Luke 9:23 (Jesus) **If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily (re-affirm he died with Christ to sin), and follow Me.**

Gal 5:24 **Those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its...desires.** AMP

As a Christian, is Christ my Lord, do I follow Him, or am I neglecting this great salvation?

Heb 2:2 **For if the message given through angels, the Law spoken by them to Moses, was authentic and proved sure, and every violation and disobedience received an appropriate, just and adequate, penalty,**

3 **How shall we escape appropriate retribution, if we neglect and refuse to pay attention to such a great salvation, as is now offered to us, letting it drift past us forever?...** AMP

Salvation means to be saved from sin, and sin is "self-will" as opposed to "God's will". If I belong to Christ, if I am a follower of Christ, He will have conformed me to His death on the cross to sin, to "self-will". Hence He will be both my Savior from sin and my Lord or Owner. Or am I making light of and neglecting my own great salvation from self-will?

Matt 22:5 **But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business.**

Sadly many Christians are taking their own salvation lightly, they need to be revived.

Matt 13:13 (Jesus) **...Because seeing (naturally) they do not see (spiritually), and hearing (naturally) they do not hear (spiritually), nor do they understand (what it means to be saved from self-will, for Jesus to be their Lord, to be a follower of Christ, nor their danger in neglecting their own great salvation).**

May God have mercy on these prodigals, if they will turn back to Him and show mercy:

Matt 17:15 **Lord, have mercy on (Your own former, but now prodigal) son...(Children).**

Isa 55:7 **Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man (forsake) his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD (submit to His ownership), **And He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.****

Ps 85:9-10 **Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him...Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed (in Christ).**

Ps 2:10-12 **Now therefore, be wise...Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son (Jesus, by believing God's words in your heart),**

James 2:13 **For there will be no mercy to those who have shown no mercy. But if you have been merciful, then God's mercy toward you will win out (triumph) over his judgment against you.** TLB

Matt 5:7 (Jesus) **Blessed are the merciful (who forgive everyone of everything from their hearts – Mat 18:35, Luke 11:4 NIV), For they shall obtain mercy.**

Why follow Christ as Lord and Savior? To enjoy a fruitful life, and to know God eternally:

Jer 7:23 **Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be my people. And walk in all the way that I command you, that it may be well with you.** ESV

Isa 58:11 **The Lord will guide you continually...You shall be like a watered garden ...a spring of water, whose waters do not fail...you Shall build the old waste places...And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach...**

John 14:23 (Jesus) **I will only reveal myself to those who love me and obey me. The Father will love them too and we will come to them and live within them.** TLB

Heb 5:9 **..Jesus became the giver of eternal salvation to all those who obey Him.** TLB