

solitudinarian

noun [sol-i-tood-n-air-ee-uh n, -tyood-]

a person who seeks solitude;
recluse.

Minerva

noun [mi-nur-vuh]

a woman of great wisdom.



"You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror" (James 2:19). This verse got my attention in early moments of my faith. I knew demons were once angels who had been in the presence of God. They enjoyed intimacy with Him as worshipers and servants without the need for redemption or mercy. Crazy to think demons have better faith than some humans!

I remember the exact moment I was born again. I was sitting in a cubicle with a pastor who was also my team leader. The man of God did not ask me to repeat a quick prayer, but instead opened the book of James and let it expose all my inner impurity and hypocrisy. Oh, I had said the "sinner's prayer" many times in the past. I even served in a local church, gave in the offering, and cried in the altars. None of these resulted in a genuine transformation. I still craved sinful things and lived my own way. I was as close to God as I wanted to be without changing my lifestyle.

This pastor knew I believed in God, but saw I did not live according to that confession. I had no fruit, no evidence, no works to prove I truly belonged to Christ. It was when he confronted my dead faith (**James 2:26**) I realized I'd been living as a false convert for nearly six years. Do I believe in the grace of God? Yes. But I do not believe unmerited favor or the power to obey His commandments is at work in those who willfully sin and resist the Holy Spirit. It is not God's will for anyone to be deceived about their salvation or live as a lukewarm, nominal believer. A relationship with God requires a new birth and a new mindset (**John 3:1-8**; **Romans 12:1-2**).

I have only one regret about my decision: I wish I would have chosen to follow Christ sooner! The Lord has completely changed the trajectory of my destiny. Aside from the day I joined a church or finally quit a bad habit, I can testify to the exact moment the Holy Spirit washed me clean and I was made right with God. I will never forget the surge of supernatural power that caused me to commit my life to following Jesus! To love God is to obey Him, to obey Him we must first believe!