

Certificate of Occupancy

Galatians 2:20 "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

To qualify for the new house stimulus package, one of the requirements you must have, is a "Certificate of Occupancy"; Proof to the government that you're actually living in the house that you purchased. You can tell when someone lives in a house, and when Jesus lives in a person's heart.

Well, the Bible makes it clear that there are proofs of God's occupancy in a person's heart. Healthy emotions and obedience are fruits, but not the roots, of His proof of purchase. Many Christians don't "feel" saved or loved by God all of time. Though obedience is a natural product of faith, there is no child of God walking this planet that is obedient 100% of the time.

So how do we know for sure that God resides in our heart? The Holy Spirit dwelling in us is proof (Ephesians 4:30, Romans 8, Galatians 5, 1 Corinthians 6). 1 Corinthians 12:3 says that no one can say, "Jesus is Lord", except by the Holy Spirit. So, do you say Jesus is Lord? Acts 2:38 makes it simple, read it. This leads to another proof of residence, which is faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 3 & 4). You can confess, get baptized, repent, and take communion, but if you do those without faith in Christ, still be eternally separated from God. Hebrews 11:6 says, "Without faith it is impossible to please God." And the last proof of residence I see is the love of God in a person's life. I've seen the meanest, back-biting, gossiping, religious people who call themselves Christians, who have all kinds of doctrine, but no love in their heart. Where God lives, God's love is revealed.