

□ A Letter to the Guardians of the Faith

Dear Guardian of the Faith,

I want to begin by acknowledging you. I see in you a real love for God, a deep care for truth, and a heart that longs to see others safe in Christ. That is no small thing — it shows your devotion and your willingness to take faith seriously.

I also understand how heavy that responsibility can feel. If faith is framed as depending on having the creed exactly right, then meeting someone who speaks of Jesus without fitting the exact formulas can stir deep questions: *What if he's wrong? What if I'm being led astray? What if others are?* That's a heavy burden to carry, and I have compassion for the anxiety it can create.

I want to share a few Scriptures that have helped me rest more deeply in Christ's way — and that might also ease the weight of those questions.

1. The Archetype: Guardians of Orthodoxy

The desire to guard God's truth is a noble one. Scripture itself praises those who “hold fast” and “contend for the faith once delivered.” Yet alongside that noble calling, we also see a repeating pattern: a certain figure who leans so heavily on formulas for safety that they miss the living voice of God.

- **Old Testament prophets vs. false prophets:** the false prophets reassured with right-sounding, safe words — *“peace, peace” when there was no peace* (Jeremiah 6:14). The true prophets, like Elijah, Jeremiah, and Amos, spoke the uncomfortable truth from God's Spirit, often suffering for it.
- **Job vs. his friends:** Job's friends gave careful theological explanations, but God said they had not spoken rightly of Him (Job 42:7). Job's raw honesty was the one God commended.
- **Paul vs. the Judaizers:** some insisted on circumcision and the law as the safe formula of salvation, but Paul reminded them: *“For freedom Christ has set us free”* (Galatians 5:1).

Across the ages we see this archetype — the **Guardian of Orthodoxy** — seeking to defend God but relying on human systems of safety. And in every age, God vindicates those who humbly listen to His Spirit, even when their witness does not fit the formulas.

2. Jesus Faced the Same Suspicion

This same archetype rose against Jesus. The Pharisees and scribes heard His words and saw His deeds, but still accused Him of being wrong because He didn't match their formulas.

- *“Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”* (Mark 2:7) □ They recognized His words, but called His belief wrong.
- *“But the Pharisees said, ‘It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons.’”* (Matthew 12:24) □ They admitted the works were real, but claimed they came from the wrong source.
- *“This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.”* (John 9:16) □ He healed, yet they dismissed Him because He didn't fit their doctrinal framework.
- *“The Jews answered him, ‘Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?’”* (John 8:48) □ They tried to discredit Him by labeling His identity and allegiance as wrong.

Jesus answered these suspicions by pointing away from creeds and toward **fruit**:

- *“By their fruits you shall know them... A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit.”* (Matthew 7:16–18)
 - *“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter... but he who does the will of my Father.”* (Matthew 7:21)
 - *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees... you have neglected the weightier matters: mercy, faith, and love.”* (Matthew 23:23)
 - *“Do not stop him... For the one who is not against us is for us.”* (Mark 9:39–40)
-

2. Concern for Leading People Astray

This is perhaps the greatest weight: *What if others are led astray?*

Jesus did warn about false teachers — but notice how He told us to recognize them: not by doctrinal precision, but by their **fruit**.

- *“Beware of false prophets... You will recognize them by their fruits.”* (Matthew 7:15–16)
- *“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”* (John 10:10)

□ False teachers are revealed by their fruits of destruction — stealing, wounding, exploiting. In contrast, when the fruit is mercy, love, and abundant life, that is the Spirit of Christ at work.

Paul warns the Corinthians that some who came in Christ's name carried harmful patterns:

- **Comparing and commending themselves** rather than seeking God's approval (2 Corinthians 10:12, 18).
- **Acting like “super-apostles,”** impressing with eloquence or outward show while lacking true substance (2 Corinthians 11:5–6).
- **Taking advantage of others,** making them feel enslaved or exploited (2 Corinthians 11:18–20).

And Paul concludes:

- *“Such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.”* (2 Corinthians 11:13–14)

□ In other words, the hallmarks are pride, showiness, and exploiting others — the opposite of Christ’s humility and service.

By contrast, true teachers and true brothers do not need to elevate themselves or control others. They live humbly and let the Spirit’s fruit speak for them.

And Paul reassures us that the **Spirit Himself** is our safeguard:

- *“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”* (Romans 8:14)
- *“It is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”* (Philippians 2:13)

3. The Spirit Leads in Truth

Faith is not about clinging to the right mountain or label — it is about living in Spirit and truth.

- *“The true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people.”* (John 4:23–24)
- *“Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.”* (Matthew 16:17)

□ Jesus makes it clear: genuine understanding does not come by human reasoning or “flesh and blood” instruction, but by revelation from God Himself.

The prophets describe how God’s voice often comes quietly, not through outward show:

- *“And after the fire the sound of a low whisper. And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak...”* (1 Kings 19:12–13)

□ God’s Spirit speaks as a still small voice, guiding those who pause to listen in humility.

Paul echoes this when he says true wisdom is not of this world:

- *“Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.”* (1 Corinthians 2:12)

This is why meditation, prayer, and listening are so central. The Spirit brings living truth to the heart, beyond book knowledge or intellectual debates. Books — even Scripture — point us to Christ, but it is the Spirit who illuminates and writes His truth on our hearts.

- *“The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”* (2 Corinthians 3:6)

□ Creeds and writings have their place, but without the Spirit’s living presence, they become lifeless words. With the Spirit, the same words become living bread.

4. God Alone Sees the Heart

At the end of the day, we can both rest knowing that the hidden things belong to God.

- *“The LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”* (1 Samuel 16:7)
- *“Do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden... and disclose the purposes of the heart.”* (1 Corinthians 4:5)
- *“Who are you to pass judgment on another’s servant? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.”* (Romans 14:4)

□ This is the final release: we do not carry the burden of judging hearts. That is God’s gift and God’s alone.

5. An Invitation to Peace

Tom, my heart is not to argue, but to walk with Jesus. His yoke is easy, His burden light. The more I trust Him, the less I need to carry the weight of judging hearts or guarding creeds.

Jesus even said:

- *“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”* (Matthew 5:9)

That is the path I seek — peace through Christ’s Spirit.

□ Closing

When you see me walking this path, I hope you can rest knowing:

- My faith is in Christ.
- My life seeks to **demonstrate His fruit**.
- And God alone knows the depths of my heart.

If we both keep our eyes on Him, we can release one another from suspicion and instead strengthen one another in love.

Your brother in Christ, Andrii Zvorygin