

## **Faith Comes By Hearing (Romans 10:9-17)**

This passage is one that reveals that salvation from sin is based upon our belief in the Lord Jesus Christ. **Romans 10:9-11** relates that faith begins in our heart as we believe in Jesus, but that it is also made known to others as we confess Him with our mouths. **Romans 10:12-13** mentions that, because of this belief, any that call upon the name of the Lord will be saved from sin.

A seldom considered concept is given in the following verses (**Romans 10:14-17**). How can a person call upon Jesus, if they have not believed in Him? They cannot. How can a person believe on Jesus if they have not heard of Him? They cannot. How can a person hear of Jesus if no one tells them about Him? They cannot. How can someone tell another about Jesus if they have not been sent with the message? They cannot.

At the beginning of this order we see the Word of God being preached, while at the end we see it being believed by faith; which takes us to **Romans 10:17**. Our faith only comes by hearing the preaching of God's Word.

### **I. Why Were We Created? (Revelation 4:10-11)**

The age-old question of civilization is, "Why am I here?" Thankfully, the Bible is sufficient to answer such questions and does so in **Revelation 4:11**. The answer is that we were created by an Almighty God to serve Him at His pleasure.

Why were we created? All men are created to please God. Do all men please God? No, certainly not; but it is His will that we please Him. If this is true, how can we know that we are pleasing God? Thankfully, God tells us clearly what pleases Him in His Word.

### **II. What Pleases God? (Hebrews 11:6)**

God wants us to live in the certainty that we are pleasing Him. According to **Hebrews 11:6**, the only thing that does this is called faith. Having much money or power does not please God; it does not even make Him smile. There is only one thing that pleases Him: faith. Without faith it is not just *difficult* to please God; but *impossible* to do so.

### **III. What Is Faith? (Hebrews 12:2)**

**Hebrews 11:1** is a good description of our faith. It is described as *a hope in the invisible*; that which we cannot see. Faith in the visible is not faith, but sight (**II Corinthians 5:7**); our faith must be in something that is invisible.

Faith is described as *hoping in the invisible*, while it is defined as *looking unto Jesus (Hebrews 12:2)*. Jesus Christ is our Shepherd (**Psalms 23**), but we cannot see His actions. He is our Captain (**Joshua 5:14**), but we cannot vocally hear His orders. He even gives us spiritual and visible fruit when we sow, though we cannot see His tending and watering (**John 15:1-8**).

Faith is trusting in Jesus to do all the work He promised to do for us, though we cannot see Him doing it. In other words, it is taking Him at His Word. Each promise the Jesus gives us has two parts: our obedience to His promise by faith and God's reaction to our faith through blessing. In other words, if we do our part, God will do His part.

#### **IV. Where Does Faith Come From? (Romans 10:17)**

True faith only comes from believing the Word of God and acting upon its promises. Faith does not come from working it up within ourselves, until we feel like we have it. Nor does it come from certain feelings or actions. When we apply the promises of God's Word to our lives and see God fulfill them, we will have increased faith.

This verse tells us that faith comes by hearing the Word of God. This means that in order to know the promises of God and have faith to believe them, we need to be in it as often as possible. We cannot know the promises of God if we do not read or hear them!

We live in a day that minimizes the preaching in the local church and maximizes the music, programs, entertainment, and whatever else could be done in the name of God. However, God's Word places a distinct emphasis on the preaching time being the most important part of the service (***II Timothy 4:1-2; I Corinthians 2:2; Acts 2:14-41***).

We live in a day that also minimizes true, Bible preaching. It is one thing if preaching occurs during church meetings and another if the preaching is being done according to God's Word. If the preaching is not being done right, then it sometimes hurts more than if it did not occur at all!

So, what sort of preaching should we have in our churches? God tells us that the best sort of preaching is that which takes a text from the Bible and clearly explains it to the hearers so they can apply it to their lives and grow in the faith (***Nehemiah 8:8***). This sort of preaching is called expository preaching.

Why is preaching so important? Is it because the preacher is so great? No, the preacher is just a messenger; the greatness lies in the message. The only message a true, God-honoring preacher brings forth is consistently from God's Word. Where does our faith spring forth from? It comes from hearing the Word of God and believing it.

How is your faith? Is it springing from your reading of God's Word and hearing of sound Bible preaching? If you have a thirst to learn more about God in His Word, I encourage you to visit one of our services or contact me during the week. We are here to help you grow.

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