



“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

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**Sunday – February 5, 2017**

## Heart to Heart...

Many do not realize the purpose of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. People believe they are the same events told in a different way. These inspired writers are not just repeating events but there is a purpose in each. Matthew is written to the Jewish Christian to prove that Jesus is the Messiah. There is extensive quoting from the OT Scripture. Mark is written to the Jewish Christian showing Jesus is the Son of God stressing His miracles. Luke is written to the Gentile Christian (what most of us are) showing Jesus is the Savior of all mankind. John is written to the church to produce a deeper faith in Jesus.

John, in his inspired writings, uses the term *‘believe’* many times. This trips up many into believing a “faith alone” concept. Matthew uses the verb *‘believe’* 10 times. Mark uses the verb *‘believe’* 10 times. Luke uses the verb *‘believe’* 9 times. John uses the verb *‘believe’* 99 times! *‘Believe’* is a verb meaning it has an action to it!

Too many are claiming that just *‘believing’* in the Lord Jesus will save you and use John’s writings to prove it. What they fail to recognize is to understand the nature of *‘believe.’* To *‘believe’* there are three elements involved: (1) A conviction that starts in the heart which brings about confidence. (2) A trust and complete reliance upon. (3) An obedience willing to follow and respond to what He teaches us. These three elements are seen clearly in Hebrews 11. It takes all three to produce a belief that brings one into fellowship and the life of Jesus. Many profess to *‘believe’* in the Lord but it never takes them into His life. Let me illustrate. We *‘believe’* that Abraham Lincoln lived and the facts about his life. We don’t take confidence and conviction about him or trust and have reliance upon him to obey. We simply believe he lived and the facts about his life and nothing more. ***“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.”*** (John 5:24) It begins by hearing His word and *‘believes’*, drawing a conviction and making a response to what you hear and that’s what will bring one into His life. That is the nature of *‘believe.’* Hearing the word and responding according to what is spoken is to *“believe.”*

When Jesus sent His apostles into all the world to preach the gospel, those who *‘believe’* must make a response to His word by being baptized (Mark 16:15-16). They are the saved. They come into the life of God. They *‘believe’* and that is shown by their response to what they hear. Those apostles preached that gospel the first time after the ascension of Jesus and they preached

Jesus was the Messiah (Christ) and Lord. Some were moved in heart to draw a conviction of faith in their heart (Acts 2:37). As they drew a conviction in the word preached they responded by being baptized into His name (Acts 2:38). God's word tells us they received the word (Acts 2:41) and were baptized (faith responding). There were no arguments about faith and baptism as a response. It was all by faith and they *'believed'* with all their heart by responding to the word spoken. Think about it!!!

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