



Fairgrounds Road
C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

MESSENGER

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

Sunday – August 20, 2017

Heart to Heart...

A trusting faith is the only faith that will save you. Many have a faith of intellect but trusting is another story. Let me show you. John sat in a prison cell. Treated as a criminal but having done no wrong. He heard about the works of Jesus. John had paved the way for the Messiah and was now in prison. He sent two messengers asking, “*Are you the expected One or do we look for someone else?*” (Luke 7:19)

As the messengers approached Jesus asking him what John had inquired, things happened right before their eyes. People were cured from diseases and afflictions and evil spirits. Jesus also gave sight to many who were blind. Turning to them he told the two messengers saying: “*Go and report to John what you have seen and heard.*” (Luke 7:22) They rushed back to John and made their report. If Jesus had all this power, could He have delivered John from prison? Could Jesus have freed John from all his troubles he was facing?

Jesus gave no explanations to John. There was one over-riding theme: TRUST IN ME! John was going to have to accept the report without any questions or fear. There were no words mentioned about changing John’s circumstances. There was something greater involved in John’s life. FAITH! He would trust in His Lord no matter what his circumstances were like. Interestingly John didn’t ask for release by Jesus.

How does faith like this come? Can you force your way into a trusting faith? Do you resolve to work harder at it and strain? Do you pray more often? None of these ways creates a trusting, saving faith. It can only be grown by responding to God’s word.

How do you learn to trust another person? You don’t demand their honesty and uprightness. You don’t tell them you want to trust them. You stay around them, watch them, listen to them and share your life with them. As they show you that they are trustworthy and reliable, your trust grows in them. There is no force or gimmicks. You simply stay around them. And so it is with God. You stay around Him, read His proven record and see how He deals with real people. You look at Jesus walking and living among man as He showed man God. You begin to absorb His truth and His willingness to help. Unforced, unstrained but real. You give of yourself completely to Him because you do trust Him. Things that you placed value upon begin to grow dim, and you begin to see the real things, the worthwhile things that can only be seen by a saving faith. The

storms of life hit, circumstances change for the worse and what do you find? Strength, comfort and peace! Faithless people can't grasp that because they have little trust. Paul called it a peace *"that surpasses all comprehension."* (Philippians 4:7) Do things hurt? Oh yes, but there is something greater than the hurt. You know your God and Savior. You have a grasp that He will never desert you. You find comfort in the midst of pain knowing the pain is driving you to Him in greater ways. The difficulty becomes a blessing! It ends up that no one, no circumstance, no amount of pain can take away the relationship and that's where you stand! It's by faith! Think about it!!!

Brent