



“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 – July 22, 2018

Heart to Heart...

The question asked by James: ***“What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him?”*** (James 2:14) Saving faith is the issue for all of us! Do we have a saving faith? The man sat quietly. His life was in turmoil and miserable. He felt he had no reason to be thankful as his heart was bitter. The question was asked, *“How’s your relationship to the Lord?”* He looked up and responded, *“I believe in God!”*

He believed in God but was his belief a saving faith? Where was the bitterness and misery coming from? A saving faith? Many don’t understand what believing in God means. His intellect tells him there is a God. His intellect tells him Jesus died for him. His intellect tells him the Bible is true. There seems to be a disconnect between what he said he believed and the effect on his life. Intellect is not saving faith!

What is saving, biblical faith? ***“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”*** (Hebrews 11:6)

Saving faith pleases God and looks to please God above all else. It is impossible to please God without saving faith. What are the elements of a faith that saves? It’s a faith that moves us to doing the will of God! The teachings of God are first in our lives. Saving faith believes *“that He (God) is.”* He exists and will always be. Added to His existence is that He rewards those who diligently seek, follow Him. A saving faith seeks God. Without these two elements in our faith it will be impossible to please Him.

There is action in saving faith! ***“By faith Abel offered to God...”*** (Hebrews 11:4) ***“By faith Noah in reverence prepared.”*** (Hebrews 11:7) ***“By faith Abraham obeyed.”*** (Hebrews 11:8) Saving faith doesn’t say “I believe in God” and does nothing. Saving faith responds to please and walk where God asks us to walk.

Saving faith trusts God at His word! It is a faith that responds to doing His will because He will do as He says. ***“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”*** (Proverbs 3:5-6) Saving faith doesn’t rely on your understanding.

Saving faith always seeks after the will and purpose of God in our lives. Saving faith brings an honest, earnestness in following His word and His desires. In other words, saving faith obeys! Saving faith responds! ALWAYS!

Saving faith pleases God, believes that He is, trusts Him for their every move, seeks Him with diligence in their daily life and obeys His voice spoken through His word. Those who say they believe in God and have little to no response to God do not possess a saving faith, just intellect and intellect alone never saved anyone! When the gospel of Jesus Christ was preached by the apostles 50 days after His death and resurrection, some asked, “What shall we do?” (Acts 2:37) They were told what they must do and those with a saving faith responded. The rest remained lost in their sins! Do you have a saving faith? It takes an honest, sincere heart for such a faith. Think about it!!!

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