



“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 – December 9, 2018

Heart to Heart...

People say they can “feel the presence of God” when they encounter certain situations. It may be through a difficulty or as simple as singing a song. There is no doubt people “feel” emotions in response to a song or the friendliness of a congregations or when we have been hit emotionally in a trial. But we need to learn something about God. God does not express Himself in emotions or our senses! To discern the will of the Lord based on whether or not you “feel His presence” is actually a dangerous way to live your life. It can be deceiving.

The God of Scripture is ‘omnipresent’ which means He is present everywhere. Paul was speaking to the Athenians who had an altar “TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.” ***“The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.”*** (Acts 17:24) When we begin relegating the presence of God to a certain place under certain conditions, we unintentionally imply He isn’t present at other places or times. David wrote asking where can he go from God’s Spirit? (Psalm 139:7-12) He concluded: nowhere! But there is one place where God dwells continually and that’s in the body of each child of His (I Corinthians 6:19). If you are in Christ you are taking God with you everywhere you go. But God is ‘omnipresent.’

Many people justify their decisions or actions by saying, “I knew I was doing the right thing because I could feel God’s presence.” Or they may claim that a “warm feeling came over me.” This type of emotionalism is not the discipleship found in God’s Scripture. The only way one in Christ can discern the will of God is through examining His Scripture, His Word and not trying to feel God through their senses. ***“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.”*** (I Corinthians 2:12-13) The spiritual guidance Paul said came in the form of spiritual thoughts and words! The Bereans were commended for examining the Scriptures to discern the things of God that were spoken (Acts 17:11). Paul told

the preacher Timothy: *“All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”* (II Timothy 3:16-17) Scripture tells us that our heart is the most deceitful part of us (Jeremiah 17:9). The wisdom given in the Proverbs speaks: *“He who trusts in His own heart is a fool, but he who walks wisely will be delivered.”* (Proverbs 28:26) There is a way that leads to death that seems to be right (Proverbs 14:12). Simply put, one cannot determine the things of God with emotions! Just because you feel like it is God is not a good indicator He is with you.

God is known through faith and trust in His word. Faith come from hearing the words of Christ (Romans 10:17). Faith is knowing God is there when you are down because you trust Him at His word! We can have emotional responses when we sing or hurt but we must approach God’s throne of grace with confidence because of Jesus so we will find mercy and grace to help us in time of need (Hebrews 4:15-16). To sing a song that hits our heart might bring us to tears but that doesn’t mean God just suddenly out of nowhere showed up! It means that a marvelous truth, that spiritual song or hymn just sank a little deeper into our heart.

What we need to learn is to get our guidance and input from God’s Holy Scripture as that is the only way we can discern and know His will. We need Christ to dwell in our hearts through faith (Ephesians 3:17). And the greatest of all, God is with us no matter where we are or how we feel because we are His children. No one feels their way with God. They can only trust in His word to discern His will! Think about it!!!

Brent