



"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 – January 7, 2024

Heart to Heart...

I write to get us to think about where our faith really has its footing. Paul said, ***"So that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God."*** (I Corinthians 2:5) It amazes me as I hear people quote books and authors as if they hold the answers to man's problems. I want to say up front, I read books and there are some good reads, but I make certain, even if they quote Scriptures, they are not a substitute for our Creator that holds every answer to man and his makeup!

A while back, I was looking around in a bookstore. I walked over to the religious section just to read the covers and some of the brief words on the covers. Sometimes I would take a book and look at the table of content and thumb through some of the chapters. I came across a book titled: *"The Answer Book"*. It stated it was a book that supposedly answered all the questions that no one wanted to answer in other books. One chapter was about God, so I turned to it to read a little. It began in the opening statement: *"Whatever your belief is in God, He is an under-achiever!"* He stated that all the problems in this world and all the failures are tied directly to God. His conclusion was, if God has the power as many claims, He must assuredly lack the drive! At first this bothered me but then as I thought about it, maybe this book is saying what many are thinking but afraid to say. The book is completely wrong on God but many, even some in Christ Jesus, live like God is an under-achiever! Books are everywhere. Each time people are faced with difficulties in their lives, someone gives them a book that deals with their problem. Books on psychology, self-help, depression, anxiety, grief, power builders for your life and the list continues to grow. Those who claim Christ as their sin-bearer and God as their Father are turning to man's writings to solve their problems and are saying exactly what "The Answer Book" was saying about God. We say He has all power but where is God's drive to exert His power? More books pile up about the secret of unlocking God's power but upon careful examination they are nothing more than 'rah-rah' books with no substance. Many times, the books are nothing but

humanism. (Some probably don't know what that means and it would do you well to find out!) When people are struggling, people become rooted in man's writings rather than God and His power. When this happens, God is absent because He will not give His power nor direction when one turns to man. Many do not see God addressing depression, anger issues, mental stress, addictions of all types and marriage difficulties. God's word for man just doesn't seem to amount to much and lives become empty and powerless. The result? We are finding there is no real faith built in God and that's because His word is not what is trusted. No word of God, no faith built. God designed it that way. No wonder people question God and His power.

Here's something to mull over: If all the books that are written have the answers for man, why are there so many written? If one book has the answers to a particular problem, should that be it and no more? I realize writers can bring us God's word. I enjoy writers who confront me with God through His word that make me think looking only to Him but they are still nothing more than man's writings. We need to believe in Jehovah God and His word! We need to learn to trust in His power and what comes from trusting His word! We need to know how saving faith is created! The greatest failure of man is NOT KNOWING GOD! Have we not believed in the fruit, produce of the Spirit? (Galatians 5:22-25) Now that's power! But we sure trust books. Think about it!!!

Brent