



"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 – September 26, 2010

Heart to Heart...

Forgiveness from Christ and His blood creates confidence! Those with a genuine faith in the Lord find great confidence in their forgiveness. ***"And we have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him."*** (I John 4:16) Confidence grows stronger and stronger from knowing the love of God toward us.

Do you notice how many claim Christianity but have no confidence? Their relationship with God is tentative at best. They are uncertain of their salvation so they are uncertain in their confidence. When they deal with God it is ***"I sure hope He's there!"*** attitude. People that lack confidence in Christ Jesus are fearful of judgment. They have no reality of ***"blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!"*** They just aren't sure of God's salvation and not sure He hears their prayers. ***"Since therefore, brethren, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus."***(Hebrews 10:19) The blood of Jesus brings us to the very throne of God! I know men who preach/teach and they aren't sure themselves if they are really saved. They hope they are but have little confidence in Christ's blood. What kind of teaching/preaching do they share? Hope? Assurance?

Faith in the blood of Christ brings assurance to our lives. When difficulties hit, we can know that God will work it for the best because we love the lord with all our heart and walk according to His will. ***"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."*** (Romans 8:28) The forgiveness of our sins is to bring us confidence in our eternal home. Judgment is for the lost, not the forgiven! There is no fear in God's love. ***"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts our fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love."*** (I John 4:18) Love breeds confidence! Faith in His love brings confidence!

For one in Christ to be without confidence provides a pitiful image. They declare faith in God, but live as if they do not know how God will respond to their needs. They claim Christ as theirs and they are God's child, but shrink away in times of distress and difficulties. When faced with uncertainties, they fear rather than trust. They speak of faith but have little confidence. Faith is being sure in the things of God and convinced they exist and will be there for you, even though you can't see them (Hebrews 11:1)

I want to encourage us to be strong toward the Lord. Listen to His word and let your heart rest on His promises. The blood of Jesus has been applied, our sins removed and we stand in His presence, seated with Him (Ephesians 2:6). The examples we set before the lost & dark world around us should draw people to the Christ who saves. Why should our family, our friends, co-workers or neighbors trust in the God of our salvation when we show little trust and love? Are we living no better than they? Think about it!!!

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