



"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 – November 14, 2010

Heart to Heart...

You cannot give another person faith. No matter how much teaching, listening, reading and praying is done, you cannot give another person faith! Faith is developed in the heart of each individual as they respond to the Lord and His word. ***"For with the heart a person believes..."*** (Romans 10:10). Faith begins in a heart that wants the Lord!

Faith is gained and strengthened as we take in and respond to God's word. When a person's heart starts wandering after other things, faith starts deteriorating and eventually will be lost! The heart that is turned toward the Lord has a desire to take in His directions and a willingness to follow will grow in faith. Faith reaches to God's promises. Faith moves one to worship. Faith produces a growing confidence and assurances. If there is no response to God and His word, there is no faith! If one isn't willing to do God's will and follow through with what God wants, there is no faith!

One of the greatest lessons on faith is seen in Romans 4 with Abraham. God made a promise to Abraham in his old age that he and Sarah would have a son. There were no physical guarantees as he was 100 years old and Sarah was 90. But Abraham took God at His word, brought it into his heart and faith took hold (4:18-19). How do we know it was faith and not some sort of false notion? ***"Yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God."*** (4:20) Abraham glorified God! That's what faith does. All the tangibles were crying out, "No way!" but faith looked, received and acted on the promise of God's word. The result was moving toward the Lord, giving Him glory and thanks!

You cannot give another faith. Faith depends on the condition of the heart of a person. A person whose heart loves others things, and pursues others things, keeps God and His promises at bay. There is no faith and therefore there is no response. Why do some find it so difficult to worship? Why do some have no interest in Bible study? Faith brings about a daily living in a relationship with the Lord. Faith brings discernment looking for what God wants and offering back to God of themselves. Faith responds to the will of God. We have 8760 hours to live each year. 5000 of those hours are spent sleeping and working. That leaves 3760 hours free. What you spend your time and energy toward reveals your faith. If our lives aren't filled with accomplishing the will of God, what use is it? Take a few minutes each day and read from God's word. Read with discernment and not just read to read. Take the things into your heart and respond to what God says. You will find your faith start to grow and the profit will be immeasurable! Think about it!!!

Brent