



"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 – April 10, 2011

Heart to Heart...

As time passes along have you ever thought about the possibility of being dull of hearing? I know that's a rather strange question because we would quickly speak up "no". Is it really a strange question? Maybe we need to examine the thought of being dull of hearing.

The Hebrew writer stated that he was concerned about these Jewish Christian's that over time, they had become dull of hearing. In fact, their becoming dull of hearing had led the writer to not be able to explain certain things of God (Hebrews 5:11). The difficulty was not the subject matter being difficult to understand but it was found in those hearing. The Greek term "dull" is 'nothros' which means "no push". It is used in the sense of a sick lion with numb limbs unable to go after its prey. With 'no push' there is a slow and sluggish movement. These brethren had become slow, sluggish within their hearts and had little push to move forward. Is that you?

To be dull of hearing is a serious problem. Over time, many have heard the good news over and over. They hear lessons preached/taught week to week and slowly they lose the interest they once had. The dulling of the heart has taken us to a sense where there is no longer a real drive, a deep interest in growing and gaining and little movement. The mind becomes lazy and apathetic. The spiritual heart stops the reaching out and taking in things to change our lives. The attitude, "I've heard this before" seems to prevail without being spoken so we sit and pick at our finger nails or day dream as the "push" has left us.

The Hebrew writer exhorts the saints: "And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises" (Hebrews 6:11-12). The term 'sluggish' is the same Greek word used for 'dull' in 5:11. Faith doesn't stop moving forward. Faith realizes each time we are confronted with God's word, God, not the preacher/teacher or anyone else is expecting a response from you! If we have become a little lazy or find our hearts not nearly as interested as we once were, what is happening within us?

When one becomes dull of hearing, the things that were once most important, that perk up the mind and heart toward growing, desiring and gaining insight have slowly faded to the background. In other words, one just goes through the motions in their desire, worship and walk. They have 'no push' from within the heart. It is a dangerous position that can creep into your heart. Jesus taught in Luke 8 about the seed that fell among the thorns. They hear the word and are excited but as time moves along the things of the world, worries and pleasures, choke the word out and it never matures. There is no push toward changing into the likeness of Jesus. Too many other things have crept into the heart. Listen carefully to God: "***But My righteous one shall live by faith; and if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him.***" (Hebrews 10:38)

Take a few moments and reflect: do you have that same zeal, that drive that you once had when you desired to hear the word, to fill your heart with the teaching of God? Do you remember when worship

was looked forward to and you couldn't get enough? If that has left you, why? Going backwards or treading water is a serious position to find yourself. Jesus told the church at Sardis if they didn't wake up, He would erase their names from the book of life (Revelation 3:3-5). God takes no pleasure in those who shrink back! Think about it!!!

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