



## ... Heart to Heart ...

Bible classes, preaching and study are for one purpose, to build faith! How is faith built? Not in books, emotional stories, videos and entertainment. The faith that will save the soul is built only through the word. God designed it that way. God centered, spiritual minded people understand and accept the fact. **“So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”** (Rom. 10:17) How many times have we read or quoted this verse? But it’s true and powerful.

When Jesus was transformed on the mountain in Matthew 17, Peter, James and John thought they had a great idea of making three tabernacles for each one appearing with Jesus. That sounds spiritual and logical. God uttered these words that terrified the heart of the hearers: **“This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.”** (Matt. 17:5) Stability of faith is given to those who hear and act on Jesus’ word. (Matt. 7:24-27)

Take some time and read Hebrews 11, which speaks of saving faith. Faith was built by listening to God’s word. Noah was warned by God, (Heb. 11:7), and he responded to His word. Abraham was called and obeyed God’s word (Heb. 11:8-10). Sarah received the power to conceive a child beyond her years because she considered what God spoke (promised) would happen (Heb. 11:11). Faith is built and maintained by holding to the word. The message rings loud and clear: **“See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven.”** (Heb. 12:25) We need to make certain we do not refuse Him who speaks. How does God speak? Through His word. When people deviate from His word, faith cannot be produced, only warm fuzzies at best! Warm fuzzies will fail in times of trials and heartaches. Faith is what keeps one looking and holding to the promises from the Lord and moving forward during these times.

Teachers/preachers need to take to heart God’s way of faith building. Let the word of God speak in study and classes. Let’s not explain the word away with our opinions and ideas. Let’s not water down the word with unspiritual mindsets. Let’s remember the serious charge of preaching and teaching: **“I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word.”** (II Tim. 4:1-2) Souls are at stake and we are directly responsible. Think about it!!!

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