



# Church of Christ

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204 Dix Road Jefferson City, MO 65109

## Heart to Heart...

One cannot force their way into gaining faith. You can't demand faith, work harder for faith and strain at building faith. One cannot make themselves believe.

"So faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." (Rom. 10:17) How many times have we heard that? One has to be receptive to what they hear and what you hear must come from Christ! Christ's word, joined with faith in the heart will affect your life to change. It results in trust, no matter what.

John paved the way for Jesus. Sitting in prison, treated as a common criminal, he heard about the works of Jesus. John preached against sin and mightily for righteousness and it resulted with him being imprisoned. He sent messengers to Jesus asking, "*Are you the expected One, or do we look for someone else?*" (Luke 7:19) As the messengers approached Jesus, they saw things being done before their eyes. People were cured from diseases, sight was restored to the blind and afflictions were lifted. Jesus said to them, "Go and report to John what you have seen and heard..." (Luke 7:22). Could Jesus deliver John from his imprisonment and spare him from troubles? Certainly! Jesus gave no explanations and John asked for none. It's called *faith!* John trusted His Lord! Did he expect Jesus to change all His circumstances? No! There was an abiding trust of faith within the heart of John.

How do you learn to trust another? You don't demand their honesty and upright behavior. You stay around them, listen to them, and share in their life. They show their trustworthiness and reliability, so your trust in them grows. So it is with Jesus. You stay around Him, read His proven record, realizing how He sees things and deals with people. It affects your heart and you bring in the truth of His teachings. Faith begins to enter the heart. You respond by giving of yourself back to Him because you can trust Him. Things that once were important to your life start growing dim and you begin to see the worthwhile, unseen things that could never be grasped before. Difficulties hit, circumstances change for the worse, and what do you find? Comfort and peace that "*surpasses all comprehension.*" Does it hurt? Yes it hurts! The difference in dealing with the difficulties is faith!! Faith is what allows you to trust in the Father. You continue to follow the path He shows because you know good will be the end result in every difficulty. Your attitude doesn't become embittered and you won't blame others. You simply stand by faith, entrusting yourself to Him who is righteous. How well do you hear the Word? Think about it!!!

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