

The Servant

A Newsletter for Christian Servants

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How ya Feeling?

Salvation is not based on feelings. Salvation is not an emotion. Our salvation rests on the solid bedrock of fact: Jesus Christ died in my place and paid for all my sin. Feelings have very little to do with it. Having said that, pity the bride who has no “feelings” for her husband. Forget the patriot who is unmoved when Old Glory passes by on the Fourth of July. Call 911 if you find a man without a pulse. Feelings are important. It is one of the five senses God gave us. Feeling is not only on our finger tips, it is in our heart. It makes us weep with those who weep and laugh with those who laugh.

He who worships with no “feeling” is worse than a dead fish or a limp handshake. Jesus was “moved” with compassion.” “Because,” said God “ye are neither cold nor hot I will spew you out of my mouth.” Paul was “stirred” by the idolatry on Mars Hill. Why- even Lot was grieved by what he saw in Sodom. This is not to say that we are to be blown about or be led by our emotions. This is not to say we must offer strange fire upon holy altars. It means getting excited when Jesus is “passing by” (Luke 19). It is saying with David, “I was glad when they said unto me let us go into the House of God.”

When Jesus met the two on the road to Emmaus they said “did not our hearts burn within us as he walked with us in the way and opened unto us the Scriptures.” We would do well in following that example and read the word of God until He Himself draws near, walks with us and stirs our hearts to feel His presence. ☪

Problems Problems!

There are so many problems, it is hard to know where to begin. Man’s main problem is a sin problem. Man’s sin problem is a heart problem. Man’s heart problem is a faith problem. Man’s faith problem is a Word problem (or to put it another way, it is a problem man has with God’s word).

God’s Word is written for our hearts, for our hurts, for our hopes, for our help, and for our happiness.

The place where the word of God starts its work is in our heart. Christ began His ministry explaining how it works. The Kingdom parable about the sower is a description of the ministry of the Word. In each case the seed is perfectly good seed. It holds the promise, the potential, and all the possibilities of the harvest. Some is sown on the way-side and the fowls come and take it away. Some falls on shallow ground which has no depth. Some falls on infested soil and is choked. At last, some falls on good ground and prospers. Christ explains the parable. The ground is the human heart. Let there be no mistake, the problem is not with the seed (the word); the problem is with the heart.

The two on the road to Emmaus were disconsolate until they met the “stranger” who brought them back to the Bible and something happened in their hearts. “Did not

(continued)

Maiden America

Lift high your torch of freedom’s light
for all the world to see
God: the secret of our might
who gave us liberty
She stands upon her pedestal
and on the dreams of men
Her creed “all things are possible,”
through faith and work “All can.”
Her children all are immigrants
whose feet once found our shores.
Her eyes a gaze of vigilance
above our gates and doors.
Come all who love this land and law
whose hearts are pure and brave
who would with blood defend our shore
and honor all who gave. -id

our hearts burn?”

I don't want to get bogged down in stating the obvious, but sin is a heart problem. The "sin" we read about and experience and see every day can be addressed by policemen, and jails, and prisons, and electric chairs- but that is not really going to solve the sin problem. The problem is in the heart (remember the parable- hard hearts, stony hearts, divided hearts). How do we address the heart problem- How is the heart problem fixed? Every sin problem is a heart problem, every heart problem is a faith problem (what people believe). What people believe about abortion, marriage, morality, the supreme court, even off shore oil drilling- is all directly related to a person's faith. For example: are we the product of evolution, a freak chance of nature, simply molded by our society, or by our education, or our economic circumstances, or are we created by and made in the image of God for a purpose and given a mission?

A faith problem can only be addressed one way, not two ways, not using plan A, plan B, or plan C. Only one way. Every faith problem is a Word problem (how do we respond to the Word of God?). Satan undermined Eve- by challenging the very foundation of faith "God's Word." So it all comes back to God's Word.

The Psalmist said "Thy Word

have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee." Paul prayed "that Christ might dwell in your hearts by faith..." Jesus said "the greatest commandment is to Love God with all your heart..."

So it all starts with the heart- or if we lose heart- it breaks down with the heart. The Bible was written for our Hearts. How does that work?

The formula is given many times in the Bible itself. We will look at one example: Ps 37 describes the good soil heart (the one field in four that brings forth fruit).

1. Real Faith Trusts. Every relationship involves trust. Either you trust someone or you do not. Before you buy a product, vote for a candidate, enter into a partnership, or agree to marry someone you must first ask- Can I and do I trust this person?

2. Real Faith Delights. This takes us another step closer. The heart must really want, enjoy, or delight in the idea or person being entertained. You can have a happy marriage if you simply Trust- but "delighting" in the person you marry takes it to another level. So it is with the God relationship of faith. (which is a matter of the heart).

3. Real Faith Commits. There comes a time when we must act on our **need**, our **trust** and our **delight**. You must put your money down. You must sign the contract. You must take the step or make the plunge. You must say "I do." Faith, (Bible faith) in-

volves Trust, Delight (or Desire), and Commitment.

4. Real Faith Rests. Once you have made the decision faith rests, waits, (Hopes). It is at peace. Once you sow the seed you have to let nature work. The sun warms the soil and the moisture emulsifies and the nutrients permeate as the seed germinates. Wait. David said in a later Psalm "I waited patiently for the Lord." Using marriage and the heart faith analogy. The question is Can I trust? What do I desire,? Have I committed? Is God in this? Is this in accordance with God's Word? If it is, then faith believes God will bring the desired result and harvest.☺

In God we Must Trust

If God's not with our army
Then our armies march in vain
and matters not how many
or which way our weapons aim.
Not chariots or horses
or the swords with blades of steal,
or earthly man-made sources,
or a patriotic zeal.
To win-God needs not many
nor some number great or few;
just **one** with God is plenty
and faith in His word will do- id

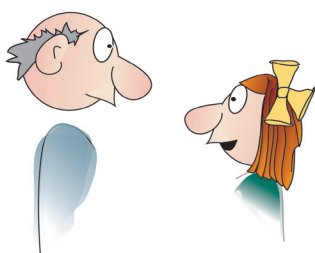
Good Start

One guy reads the Bible
the other the Obits
one starts his day
with hope and joy
and the other in the pits

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Okay-Pop Quiz. Why did Zacchaeus
cwime da Sycamore twee ?



Actually, I think he was a branch manager
for the IRS.

