



The Power of Faith and Confession

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Introduction:

There is an important connection between confession and faith. We are going to explore that this morning as we think of this in light of believer's baptism.

Text: [Romans 10:9-10](#)

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord" and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

I. Confess with your mouth

Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. We can not keep silent about what we really believe.

Those of us who have been baptized, and those who are being baptized this morning, are speaking out about what is in their heart.

Our text tells us that confession is important. There are three reasons why confession is so important.

1. It is important for our sake. When it comes to faith, no one is twisting our arm to follow Christ. The decision to accept His forgiveness and to follow His leadership in our life is a decision that we make on our own. We are made with a free will. God loves us and wants us to serve Him but He never forces us to do so.

When we come to this point of confession, it is for our sake. We speak out about the things that impact our lives. It is important that we hear ourselves verbalize what it is that we do believe.

2. It is important for the sake of others. It has been said that it is sometimes harder to live for Christ than to speak about Him. There are opportunities given to us when we have to speak up for what we believe. When we look at the early followers of Jesus, they spoke out about their faith in Jesus Christ. They all suffered for their stand, but they boldly confessed Jesus Christ as Lord. Other people came to faith, were healed, and delivered, because they did not remain silent about their faith.

So for the sake of other people, we need to confess our confidence in Jesus and His work in our lives.

3. It is important for the sake of Christ Himself. Even though it seems popular to be a person of faith, and committed to Christ now, Jesus still is despised, and rejected, He is denied access to people's lives, He is unpopular. He calls men and women and young people, to join Him and frankly and openly identify with His cause on earth.

No one can say Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

II. Believe in Your heart

Believing is something that is very different from knowledge. We have to have knowledge to believe,

but believing is acting on the truth and knowledge we have.

The apostles did not argue, they affirmed, “we have seen Him.” They knew that Jesus was alive, because they had spent time with Him. They knew that the person who showed up before them was none other than Jesus. They experienced first hand the reality of having a relationship with Him.

It is that type of belief which brings us to salvation. This is not mere intellectual assent. I can believe that George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, George Hamilton all existed and I have read about them and seen their signatures on the declaration of independence. I have knowledge that they lived and died and were great Americans. But I can not ever say, “I know them” because of a personal relationship.

This is the believing I’m talking about – in your heart. The kind that says I haven’t just read about Christ in the Bible or been taught about Him in Christian Education classes, or in messages or small group studies, but I believe because I know Him personally and have a relationship with Him.

The belief that is in our heart is based on a living Lord. What does this scripture say? Believe that God has raised Him from the dead. If Jesus was still dead, then we wouldn’t know Him in the power of His resurrection, and we wouldn’t be able to have a relationship with Him. You cannot have a relationship with someone who is dead. You can be related, but not have relationship. Relationship is something that takes place between people who are alive.

In the heart is where the issues of righteousness and unrighteousness lie. When we look at even some of the events in our neighboring city of Milwaukee this past week, it is dreadful to think about. We see murder, theft, rape. These are the manifestations of the condition of the heart.

It is there in our heart where true repentance takes place. Where we see how much we need a Savior, and yield ourselves to His authority and righteousness. It is in the heart where believing faith is rooted and grows and lives. It is in the heart where a living and loving relationship is developed with God the Father through Jesus Christ His Son.

Believing comes from the heart; confession of that belief comes from our mouth.

I can have all the emotions and thoughts and belief about my love to Julie, but for there to be no question, I need to acknowledge with my words openly my love for her.

Articulating what is in my heart and thoughts is necessary when it comes to expressing my innermost feelings.

Those who follow Jesus need let their allegiance to Him be seen both in their actions and in the confession of their words.

Jesus came to change the heart. It is the character of man, the heart of man that God’s Spirit is always working in to transform it into what He wants it to be. What we believe should have an impact on the way we live, and what we say.

We are saved then because of the relationship we have with God through Jesus Christ. There can be no real faith and no real love unless we do the things He says and surrender in obedience to His word.

III. Show your union with Christ through obedience.

The act of baptism speaks of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ and that the person being baptized obeys Christ in that expression. The people being baptized this morning have a relationship with Christ.

When we are baptized we have opportunity to confess with our mouth the belief we have in our heart.

I always emphasize in class that baptism does not save us. The washing of the flesh is not that which cleanses our soul from sin. There is an old hymn of the church:

What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again,
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus.
Oh precious is the flow,
That makes me white as snow,
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.

We believe and are saved by faith in Christ. Then we confess with our mouth and are baptized.

Conclusion:

As we conclude our service this morning with celebrating the baptisms of Heather and Mitchell, I would ask that you reflect on your own baptism. Please look at your relationship with Christ. Where do you stand today? Are you growing in Christ? Are you allowing Jesus to be seen in you daily? Are you confessing Him as your Lord to other people?