

Growing in Faith through Confessing the Word (Rom. 10:8-10)

I. THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

- A. Jesus taught on the importance of faith as a foundational principle in the kingdom of God—God releases more blessing according to our faith (Mt. 8:13; 9:29; 17:20; Mk. 9:29). As we believe for more, we will experience more of His kingdom activity and Jesus’ provision for us, and enjoy our relationship with Him more. Some believe for very little and thus experience less of God’s blessing.

¹³*Jesus said to the centurion, “...as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” (Mt. 8:13)*

²⁹*Then He touched their eyes, saying, “According to your faith let it be to you.” (Mt. 9:29)*

- B. The Father has already given us the “title deed” of every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realm (Eph. 1:3), which include forgiveness, the gift of righteousness, the indwelling Spirit, the right to use Jesus’ authority, and God’s promised provision, protection, and direction to do His will, etc.

³*Blessed be the God and Father...who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. (Eph. 1:3)*

II. FAITH COMES BY HEARING

- A. Faith does not come by asking, but by *hearing* the Word. Our heart *hears* in the best and fullest way when the Word comes *from our own lips* as we speak it to the Lord or to the enemy. Our faith grows by speaking the truth about *who we are in Christ* and *what is available to us in Christ*.

¹⁷*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Rom. 10:17)*

- B. We release Jesus’ power in our life by the word of faith—by the confession of the Word.

⁸*“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart,” (that is, the word of faith...) ⁹that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart...you will be saved [from the penalty and power of sin and Satan]. ¹⁰For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation [complete deliverance]. (Rom. 10:8-10)*

1. The word that contains God’s promises and releases His power is so near to us (v. 8). It is as close as speaking it. There is a deep connection between what we say with our mouth, what we believe in our heart, and the measure of God’s salvation that we actually experience.

2. In Romans 10, Paul referred to Deuteronomy 30:14. In Deuteronomy 30, Moses taught that the command to love and obey God was not *too mysterious* (too hard to understand), nor was it *far off* (outside their ability to do it), nor did they need to *ascend to heaven* (have a heavenly encounter), nor *go overseas* (to receive it from others) to do it.

¹¹*“For this commandment...is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. ¹²It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us...?’*

¹³*Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us...?’ ¹⁴But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.” (Deut. 30:11-14)*

- C. Romans 10:8-10 refers to salvation *in every aspect*. We experience salvation through speaking the word of faith (v. 8). Faith includes believing the truth about Jesus with our heart and confessing it with our mouth. We receive each aspect of our salvation through this same principle of faith.
- ¹⁰For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation [from the penalty and power of sin and Satan]. (Rom. 10:10)***
- D. Paul mentions the mouth and the heart (v. 8). What we say with our mouth affects what we believe in our heart and, therefore, what happens in our emotions and circumstances. For example, with our mouth we confess what our heart believes in seeking to receive healing, deliverance, provision, protection, etc.
- E. Our confession of Jesus' lordship over our life puts us under His caring leadership (v. 9). Many believers do not understand the place that confessing the Word is to have in their lives—it includes what Christ has already done for us, what He is presently doing for us at God's right hand, what the Spirit will do in and through us, and all that we have received in our salvation, etc.
- F. Identify the scriptures with the phrases "in Him" and "in Christ" and confess them. For example, "In Him" (2 Cor. 1:20; 5:21; Eph. 1:4, 7, 10-11; 3:12; Phil. 3:9; Col. 2:10-11; 2 Thes. 1:12); "In Christ" (Rom. 3:24; 6:11; 8:1-2, 39; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 1:21; 2:14; 5:17; Gal. 3:14; 3:26, 28; Eph. 1:3, 10; 2:6-7, 10, 13; 3:6, 11; Phil. 2:1; 3:14; 1 Tim. 1:14; 2 Tim. 1:1, 9; 2:1, 10; 3:12)
- G. When condemnation, shame, fear, hopelessness, lust, etc., rise up in us to challenge what God promised in His Word about loving, forgiving, empowering, directing, or providing for us, then we must apply the promise of the Word to our heart, by *confessing the truth* and *resisting lies*.
- H. We must confess the Word over our heart and circumstances and against the works of the enemy. Our thoughts, words, and emotions are deeply connected. What we think and say greatly affects our emotions. We do not have to bow to the negative emotions that dictate the lives of so many.
- I. Our words are powerful in causing either faith or fear to grow in us. If our words agree with God's Word, we release His power. If our words agree with Satan's lies, we allow darkness to continue. We either overcome guilt, fear, and oppression or live in it, according to our confession. Many have "faith" in the devil's words. The war of words determines who has dominion in our heart.
- J. We are transformed by changing how we think. Transformation begins by *knowing* who we are in Christ. As our mind is renewed, our emotions are transformed, and thus our behavior changes.
- ²...be transformed by the renewing of your mind... (Rom. 12:2)***
- K. Anxiety and fear are not to dominate our lives. The Lord promised to *guard our heart and mind with His peace* (Phil. 4:7). In difficult circumstances, despair and frustration are not to overcome us because the Lord has promised that *we can do all things in Christ* (Phil. 4:13). When lacking finances to do God's will, we confess that He will *supply all of our financial needs* (Phil. 4:19).
- ⁷...the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ...¹³I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me...¹⁹And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ... (Phil. 4:7, 13, 19)***