

Acts Chapter 29 – Part 4

“What is Faith & Believing in Your Heart”

October 24, 2021

Good morning! And welcome to the Well of Christ, where the life giving water Jesus gives....

Welcome to our Sunday Gathering where we learn the word of God and interact with each other so we aren't just hearing a message but we are getting tools in our tool belt to be able to put into practice this new life in Christ we've been given.

Hope you had a chance to view the Housekeeping slide we had up there earlier so I don't have to bore you with that.

Be sure to check out our new website

Like to announce that we will have our open house celebration Nov. 13, 2021 3-5pm. Want to welcome the public and any of your un-churched friends to come and visit and check out what we have going on here. More details to come.

Let's all stand together and worship our God!

Video: My Jesus

Been in a series **titled Acts 29**. If you look in the bible there is not an Acts 29. I'm looking at Acts 29! It's you! We are to carry on the story of the life, death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ and why that is so important. The past 3 weeks we've looked at a few of the things that Jesus did, who He is and why we need to carry on this story to every one we meet.

The book of Acts, that we've been looking at this month is officially titled, the **Acts of the Apostles**. This is Luke's account of what the disciples and His followers did to carry on Christ's story after He died, was raised from the dead and continued to teach them for 40 days before He literally ascended up to heaven and disappeared into the clouds. (yep, Jesus is a really big deal! If you haven't been here go to our website and read the first 3 weeks of this series). **These apostles**, were the 12 men that Jesus picked to follow Him for the 3 years that He stepped into

His role as the Messiah, the Savior of the world. And that was an incredible time for these men, and the ones that followed Him because they were touched by Jesus and their lives were radically changed. I mean, if you were **born blind** and now could see, you'd probably would want to follow the guy around that gave you your sight back. If you were **crippled for 38 years** and Jesus said, "get up and walk" and your legs were immediately strengthened and you could run and leap, you'd probably follow Him around. If you had a **legion of demons** that caused you to live in a cemetery and the people chained you there because you were so crazy, cutting your self with stones and screaming, then Jesus comes along and casts all of those demons out of you and you were immediately in your right mind, you would probably want to follow Him around. If you had seen Him **take 5 loaves** of bread and 2 little fish and feed over 5,000 people, you would probably want to follow Him around. My point here is that, again Jesus "was, is and always will be a really big deal"!

Video: Jesus Messiah

These folks were an eyewitness of Christ's sinless life, His miracle working power, seen Him crucified and then He raising from the dead, talking with Him for the next 40 days and watching Him float up to heaven thru the clouds. Then they waited 10 more days like Jesus asked them to and they received the **power of the Holy Spirit!** Holy Spirit gave them the ability to speak in languages that all the different nationalities there could understand so they too heard the good news about Jesus Christ. And 3,000 people were saved, baptized and changed that day. **Then HS continued to** give them power in the name of Jesus Christ to do many miracles, sign and wonders! We could understand why they were so excited and "on fire" for this gospel message, but why are we still giving our lives to this message and carrying on this story that happened so long ago? Because, **He's changed our lives!** And He's continuing to change our lives, because we are believers, we have faith. And when you believe, He actually comes in and lives inside you!

I was asked earlier this week, **what does it mean to "invite Jesus into your heart"**. That's a phrase that I have used a lot this past month, so let's dig into that a little deeper.

Romans 10:8b-10 says,

We are going to look in depth at two of the words that we read here; "Faith" and "believe in your heart"

Dictionary defines faith as complete trust or confidence in someone or something (2) strong belief in God or in the doctrines of a religion based on spiritual apprehension rather than on proof (something that you can't yet see) (3) a strongly held belief or theory

Did you know that we operate in faith in our daily lives all the time? When you walked in here, I didn't see one of you hesitate to sit in these chairs. You didn't pick them up, check it to make sure it wasn't broken or that it was stable enough to hold you. Nope! You all just plopped your bottom right down on it and didn't give it another thought. LOL you know why? You had faith that it would hold you. You are going to leave here today and have faith that your car is going to start when you turn the key. Why? Because it started and got you here. Some people will say, "well I just can't have faith in something I can't see" but we do that all the time. I can't see those microwaves warm up my food when I turn it on but I have faith that it will! Now I do see the result of those microwaves, but I don't literally see the microwaves itself. Right? So we do believe in things we can't see. I can't see the wind but I can see the results of the wind by how it feels on my body, or how it moves the leaves on the trees. Those of us who have truly said "yes to Jesus in our hearts" can't physically see the change that happened on the inside of us, but we have experienced the results of that transformation and our lives are not the same.

Did you know that the bible defines the word "faith" for us? **Heb. 11:1 says**, "Faith is the substance of hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." KJV Let's examine this scripture further. **In the AMP** version it says, "Now faith is the assurance (title deed, confirmation) of things hoped for (divinely guaranteed), and the evidence of things not seen [the conviction of their reality-faith comprehends as fact what cannot be experienced by the physical senses]"

Then in verse **3 the AMP** bible describes further what faith is; [that is, with an inherent trust and enduring confidence in the power, wisdom and goodness of God]

Inherent – literally refers to something that is stuck in something else so firmly that they can't be separated. **Inherent trust** -that you believe in God so firmly that nothing can take it from you. **Enduring confidence** – that no matter what circumstances or trials you go thru, nothing will change your mind, or deter you from God's truth. **Power** – you believe that this all powerful being just spoke and created all the universes, planets and earth and everything in it and on it. Including you and me.

Wisdom – that by His incredible intelligence He masterminded everything to work together in perfect harmony and for an eternal purpose. **Goodness** – that He loved us so much that He was willing to give up His Son to take the punishment for our sins so that we could have relationship with Him now and forever.

So I would describe this word "faith"-trusting in God so firmly that now matter what I face He's going to see me thru it because He's all powerful, wise and good! Nothing is impossible for Him.(*Matt. 19:26*)

Now understand, that when you are just checking out this "being a Christian thing", and you're looking in His direction, you aren't so sure that you can "firmly trust Him". You've seen some stuff go on and you may be hesitant. That's ok! I heard a lady tell me one time, " you give God an inch and He'll give you a mile." lol If you sincerely turn in His direction, He will be there to meet you. If you sincerely search to know Him, He will reveal Himself to you. Why? Because He

created you to have relationship with you and He wants that relationship with you more than you do right now! (*Eph. 1:4-5*)

Jesus told His disciples (**Matt. 17:20**) that *“If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain to move from here to there and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.”* You may not know this but mustard seeds are very small seeds that grow into plants big enough that birds can nest in them. So it's not about the size of faith (or trust) you have, it's the great big God that that faith is connected to the moves the mountain and nothing is impossible for.

Ask anyone in here that's been walking with Jesus for awhile now, your faith will grow as you come to know Him. Like any other relationship we have to spend time and get to know HIM. God loves it when you **spend time in His word**, praying, singing or listening to worship music, and gathering together like we are doing today. All building our relationship with Him and with each other. Growing in our faith and trust in Him.

Video: Faith

So let's move to the **“believe in your heart”**. When the bible says, “in your heart” it's not talking about that fist shaped muscle that pumps the blood thru your circulatory system, it's the inner core of your being. When the bible **talks about the heart** its describing the spiritual part of us where our emotions and desires dwell. Did you know the bible tells us that God has a heart? That He too has emotions and desires? We have a “heart” because God has a “Heart”. We are made in His likeness and His image.

Acts 13:22 says, “David was a man after God's own heart”.

The bible also tells us that The human heart, in its natural condition, is evil, treacherous and deceitful. [Jeremiah 17:9](#) says, *“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”* In other words, the Fall, which is the sin-nature that we inherited from Adam and Eve has affected us at the deepest level; our mind, emotions and desires have been tainted by sin—and we are blind to just how pervasive the problem is. But Jesus knew and He pointed out the fallen condition of our hearts in [Mark 7:21-23](#): ”

Our biggest problem is not external but internal; all of us have a heart problem.

So in order for a person to “believe in his heart” the heart has to be changed. This only happens by the power of God in response to faith. Which takes us back to our first scripture Romans 10:10 *“For it is by **believing in your heart** that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your **faith** that you are saved. “*

To **invite Jesus into your heart** is not to be coerced into saying a few words that we Christians call the “sinners prayer” and then just going about your life and nothing changes, thinking that you're good! Inviting Jesus into your heart means that you believe that the Holy bible is the very words of God and have faith that it is the truth. You believe it enough that you pattern your life after it. If it says that God loves you, you choose to believe and receive His love for you. (That is the deepest human need, by the way, is to be loved by your Creator, receive that love then give that love to others.) If it says to “throw off the sin that so easily trips you up”, then you discipline yourself to get that thing out of your life! Since it says that we need to set our own lives aside and serve others with our time, talents and treasures, then we get up out of our Lazy Boys and serve other people with our time, talents and treasures. We walk in obedience to what His word tells us. Not because we have to but because we get to! We love Him because He first loved us and gave His life as a ransom to save us from our selves and our sin nature.

If we are to carry on this story like we've been talking about this month, then you will need **faith, Holy Spirit and a determination** that you are going after this relationship that God longs to have with you.

I was listening to a preacher earlier this week and he stated that if we as pastors or teachers are not communicating with our people the truth about what's **going on in our country** then we are doing a grave dis-service to them. Our country and our world is going to hell in a hand basket and we better know what we believe in. It has went from embracing Christian values to turning those values around and calling them evil. God loves you but this leftist, liberal, communists regime that is trying to take over our country does not! If they don't bat an eye at ripping babies from their mother's wombs they are not going to hesitate taking you out! Keeping you “locked up in your homes” because you aren't complying to their demands. If they let biological males go into dressing rooms and bathrooms with your little girls then they will have no respect for your rights to say no to that. They want to inject you with nano particles so they can track you and make you comply. They want to police your bank accounts so they know every penny you spend and whether it was spent according to their agenda. I just read yesterday of a lady, who was a faithful 17 yr employee to this company was being fired from her job because she asked for 1 day off to go to church! **People you are going** to need more than just your will power to stand strong in these times. You are going to need all the power from heaven living on the inside of you, to stand up for what is right and good in these upcoming days. There is no man that we can depend on to turn this around. There is no political party that is going to save us. Only by the blood of Jesus Christ can we be saved. Only by the power of the Holy Spirit living on the inside of us will we have the strength to endure. Only Jesus Christ living in the hearts of the people are going to change our world. As I stated earlier we are Acts 29! We are to carry the message of our Lord Jesus Christ to our family members, to our neighbors, our co-workers and to anyone we meet.

Let's finish up our time together and read a few more verses in the book of Romans. 10:

Romans 10:14-17

they can't have faith if they don't hear it. And I've said this many times, we are His plan A. He has left us here on this earth to be His ambassadors to take His message to those that are in our lives. And give our resources to fund others that are spreading His good news! **Many people right** here in our own back yards are lost and need saved. Their soul is headed for hell if we don't tell them about the love of God. And the judgment of God if they don't have Jesus. They have a heart that is deceitful and need to have a changed heart to be saved. And Jesus told us to go! You don't have to have it "all figured out". He already does! Trust Him!

I'm going to make a habit of asking this question every week **Do you know Him?** Can you believe in your heart that God raised Christ from the dead? That He took your punishment for your sins upon Himself to save your deceitful heart? If you want to invite Him to come change you stand up right now. **Don't be afraid!** Let's take that first step to say yes to Jesus!

If you can't stand up here in front of a few people who love you and support you, you won't be able to stand up out there. Anyone?

What did you hear today that helped you understand what faith is? What believing in your heart means?

Let's pray,

Videos: There's Joy in the House of the Lord