A time to respond

Q. Jesus is doing heart work today. What is in your heart today? Who has your love and loyalty?

Q. Do you believe? Do you want Jesus? You can have Him!

A. Jesus came to save whosoever will, not whosoever won't.

For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

What Does it Mean to Believe?
Friend Day
11-8-26

Isa 45:22 *"Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other."*

What does it mean to believe?

Four questions:

- **Who came to earth?** – The Lord God came.
- **Who came to earth?** - He rose from the dead.
- **Who came to earth?** - In a nutshell, Christ is All – Sufficient, owning it all; He is willing to share with all who believe; He is all We need.
- **How do we believe?** What does that mean, to believe?

In Focus:

*…that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe **in your heart** that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.[10] For **with the heart** one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (NKJV)*

Observations:

- **Let me say at the outset that sin is a heart issue.**
- **As well, salvation is a heart issue.**
- **The story of Jesus, the gospel, does not always produce the same response.**
- **It is not for lack of intellectual understanding; it is for lack of internal response of love for the truth.**
- **The difference is the condition of the heart not intelligence in the head.**

What is the heart? *Mark 12:29-31; Rom 10: 6-10*

- **Paul says that believing is a heart issue.**
- **You assess with your mind, but you believe in your heart.**

*The heart is the citadel, the fortress of the personality. The heart is you; the totality of you. The heart ultimately **decides** concerning what the mind has **considered**.*

Three undeniable principles.

I. Jesus came to reach and convert your heart.

A. Our heart leads us to suppress truth that doesn't please us.

B. Our heart leads us to reject what we know about God.

C. Our heart leads us to ignore God.

D. Our hearts lead us to rebel.

Ps 14:1 *The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."*

E. Our heart is always revealed by what and whom we love.

F. Let's speak frankly. We do what we want to do. The saying is true; the heart of the problem is the problem of the heart.

II. Conversion first happens in your heart and then shows up in your life. *For with the heart one believes…* Have you believed from the heart?

A. When we believe in our heart, sin's bondage is broken.

Rom 6:17-18 *But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. [18] And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.*

B. When we believe in our heart God's word is never boring.

Matt 13:14-15*. And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; [15] For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed…*

C. When we believe in our hearts there will be spiritual fruit.

Lk 8: 15 *(speaking of the sowing of the seed) But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.*

D. When we believe with our hearts we will confess with our mouth (and actions).

Acts 8: 37 *Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."*

E. When we believe in our heart the Holy Spirit comes to live in us.

Acts 15:8 *So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, 9 and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.*

III. The salvation message is a message for your heart.

A. The desire in your heart is the evidence of God's work.

B. The illumination in your heart is the evidence of God's work.

C. Warning: the rejection in your heart shows that your loves and loyalties are for other things and not for salvation.

Heb 3:8-12 *… 'They always go astray in their heart,*