

May 31, 2009
“Believe and Confess”
Romans 10: 9-15

Today is a Pentecost Sunday. Not as big as Christmas, Christmas is a big holiday; not as big as Easter, Easter is a big holiday, but a holiday just the same. Not as big, but it should be. Today the church celebrates it's birthday. Today is Pentecost Sunday, the Sunday we remember the pouring out of God's Spirit, also known as the Spirit of Christ, and the Holy Spirit upon and into the believers or followers of Christ. Jesus promised power for the believers, power to be His witnesses, Jesus said in ...

Acts 1:8 (NLT)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

That power promised by Jesus came on the day of Pentecost. The presence of Jesus would be with them, and always present with them in a way He couldn't be when He was here in the flesh. God would live in us and His Spirit would give power to witness, to reveal Jesus and the truth of Jesus, by living like Jesus, and talking about Jesus, telling people everywhere about Him.

When the Holy Spirit was given to the believers, Peter stepped forward and gave a sermon, witnessing for Jesus with this new power of the Spirit he had just received. In that sermon he told his listeners that what they were seeing and hearing was the fulfillment of the Prophet Joel's words.

Acts 2:17, 21 (NLT)

**'In the last days,' God says,
'I will pour out my Spirit upon all people...But everyone
who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.'**

Between verse 17 & 21 are things that are mentioned that did not happen that morning of Pentecost. Rather, the verse from Joel mentions what will happen during the second coming of Christ, at the end of time when it will be too late to be saved. The second coming of Christ will be a terrible day for some and a great day for others. "But everyone who calls on the name of the Lord (Jesus now) will be saved."

Paul also quoted from this OT verse and it is our text for today:

Romans 10:9-13 (NLT)

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved. ¹¹ As the Scriptures tell us, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." ¹² Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. ¹³ For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."

Paul mentions two things necessary to be saved (by saved we mean forgiven of sin and reconciled to God, and given Eternal Life): (1) Confess with your mouth and (2) believe in your heart. To confess with your mouth means to verbally affirm that Jesus is Lord (that Jesus is God who came in the flesh to be the sacrifice for your sins, He was dead, but He was raised from the dead for you. That is what all Christians believe.

Notice in verse 10 that Paul reverses the order and mentions believing in the heart first, then confessing with the mouth. That's the way it has to be. Talking about faith means nothing if there is no power of that faith in the heart. We must first believe in our heart, to have power in the words we confess with our mouth. Anyone can say what they believe, but only God knows our heart. It is not enough to have words, they must come from the heart, with conviction.

V10 says it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God (Being right with God means that God declares you "not guilty" – only God can.). Notice that there is no mention of works or rituals. We are not one with God and declared not guilty by being religious, or following a certain religion, or by going through certain religious rituals, or trying to do all your religion requires and commands, or by working hard at being a good person. None of these are mentioned in this verse. Rather, we are made right with God by faith, by believing in our heart; by trusting Jesus to atone for our sin.

Then we confess, we confess to God our sin and our need for and belief in Jesus. Then we confess to others that we are now followers of Jesus. We tell others of our belief in God and what He has done for us. In a nutshell: If you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, and confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord you will be made right with God, and you are saved from the penalty of sin.

To believe and confess Jesus as Lord is to acknowledge Him as the Supreme Being and to pledge to Him our worship and obedience. Salvation is as close as your mouth and heart. Salvation is not complicate: If you believe in your heart and say with your mouth Jesus is the risen Lord, you will be saved. To call on the Lord Jesus is a call for Him to be your Savior and Lord.

We must devote, dedicate, give up to God our soul and our body, our soul is our heart and our mouth is our body. Jesus must be Lord, we must follow and obey Him in all things. Then we are saved and will receive His Spirit, the Holy Spirit.

Paul concludes with this in v13, For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Everyone! Jesus came for everyone, for all people, without exception, no one is left out, all can be saved. It doesn’t matter what your race is, or your nationality, it doesn’t matter what you have done or who you are, Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord Jesus will be saved. Peter concluded his sermon on Pentecost the same way:

Acts 2:38-39 (NLT)

38 Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins, turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ to show that you have received forgiveness for your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** This promise is to you, and to your children, and even to the Gentiles—all who have been called by the Lord our God."

You know we look at the supernatural things, the miracles that happened on Pentecost, and we say, “why don’t we see miracles like that? But is it any less a miraculous how the lives of people have been changed, who have put their faith in Jesus.

All believers need share their story, as we have been saying the last few weeks – The mission of the church is to go out filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, and confess Jesus Christ; or as Paul closes our text:

Romans 10:14-15

14 But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? **15** And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, "How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!"