



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Hearing in Faith!

Focus Verse: Romans 10:17 - So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Lesson Text: Romans 10:8-17

Truth About God: God's Word produces faith.

Truth For My Life: I will trust God's Word.

Faith must precede the call that saves. **Where there is faith, it always produces obedience.** The two are inseparable. James said it best: *"Faith without works is dead"* (James 2:20). Obedience is an indivisible attribute of faith. When we genuinely believe, we always respond with obedient action. Unfortunately, not everyone who hears the gospel obeys it. In Romans 10:16, Paul reinforced this unfortunate truth with from Isaiah: *"But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?"* The writer of Hebrews devoted an entire chapter to heroes of the faith (Hebrews 11). In every case, a person's faith is evidenced through acts of obedience. Faith produces obedience, and faith without obedience is not faith at all.

In Romans 2:7-8, Paul divided the lost and saved into two groups: those who obey the truth are saved, and those who obey unrighteousness are subject to the wrath of God. Faith always produces action. In Romans 10:17, Paul explained, *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* This kind of saving faith that gives rise to obedience and results in salvation finds its roots in the Word of God. The Word of God provides the indispensable origin of faith. Not all who hear believe, but it is impossible to believe what one has not heard (Romans 10:14-16). **When we hear the good news, it is incumbent upon us to believe it and obey it.** This is the only way the bondage of sin can be broken in our lives.

Paul and the Jews story teaches us it is possible to be zealous, sincere, and enthusiastic about God while, at the same time, be completely wrong, having no understanding of truth, and having no knowledge of the actual plan of God. No one tried harder to please God than them, yet missed God completely. According to Galatians 3, the Law was supposed to lead them to faith in Jesus, but they took the Law God gave them and constructed their own, self-righteous means of salvation. The blood of bulls and goats cannot save men and women from their sins (Hebrews 10:4). The only way Jesus' blood can be applied to our lives is through faith.

The Jews were condemned, not because they did not have the Word, but because they did not obey it. Paul told the Romans: *"The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach"* (Romans 10:8). When Jesus encountered the rich young ruler (Mark 10:17-21), Jesus asked him to obey out of faith by letting go of what he possessed to gain what he could never obtain by himself. Jesus was trying to show him true righteousness does not come from self-righteous law-keeping; it comes from faithful obedience to God's Word, which was readily available to the Jews.

To be saved we must believe and obey the gospel. Belief will lead to repentance and confessing Jesus is Lord, particularly in water baptism administered by calling on the name of Jesus. And without faith it is impossible to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. That is our right response to the gospel message, the word of faith, Paul preached. Sin never satisfies; however, putting our faith in Jesus Christ will never disappoint. God will save all those who believe in Him, obey His Word, and continually manifest their faith in word and deed as they live. The Christian life is embodied in living out our faith in Jesus. That kind of life will bear righteous fruit, and we will not be disappointed when Jesus comes again.

Today is the day of salvation. Now is always the right time to respond to the gospel message. No matter what you have done or how far from the grace of God you may have wandered, Jesus always stands with arms open wide. Lay down your burdens and cast all your cares of this life upon Him. Run to the safety of the Cross. God will never give up on you. Long after people have walked away from God, all the way to the end of life's dusty road, God will be there with outstretched arms, beckoning them to return to Him. Nothing in this world can hinder a repentant sinner's access to Jesus Christ, the true Redeemer of all who are lost.