

Convictions

“But having the same spirit of faith, according to that which is written, I believed, and therefore did I speak; we also believe, and therefore also we speak; knowing that he that raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also with Jesus, and shall present us with you” (2 Corinthians 4:13-14). How would you define your convictions?

In 2015, in an interview with Benjamin Netanyahu, prime minister of Israel, he said, “I think there’s a huge difference, no matter what people believe in. The question is ‘What do you do about those beliefs?’ ”

What do we do about that which we believe? Do we believe, as Romans 1:18 tells us, that God’s judicial wrath will be meted out “against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hinder the truth in unrighteousness?” Do we believe that “we must all be made manifest before the judgment seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad”? (2 Corinthians 5:10). Do we believe that “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God”? (Hebrews 10:31). Do we believe that “Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried; and that he hath been raised on the third day according to the scriptures” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4), and do we believe that we have a responsibility to give heed to ourselves, and our teaching, “for in doing this thou shalt save both thyself and them that hear thee”? (1 Timothy 4:16). Do we believe that the only way we can be “pure from the blood of all men,” is if we shrink “not from declaring unto you the whole counsel of God”? (Acts 20:26-27). There are several things that we profess that we believe, but do we really possess an understanding of the true nature of what we confess?

The apostle Paul put it this way, “But having the same spirit of faith,” the faith that possessed David when that which is believed produces a certain spirit, a spirit that produces a positive and consistent response. Paul, having that spirit of faith, said, “I believed, and therefore did I speak... knowing that he that raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also with Jesus, and shall present us with you” (2 Corinthians 4:13). If we have such a lofty belief structure, what do we do about those beliefs?

Remember the words of the apostle Paul, who said, “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall” (1 Corinthians 10:12). ret