

## Heart Faith

Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1991

### Mark 9:23-24

Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

I'm going to talk kind of plain to you today. The Title of this message is: "Heart Faith." We're going to talk about what faith is, which is the gift of God. Faith is a marvelous, supernatural work of His grace in the heart. Will you listen to me for a little while? Just sit down there and listen to the message. I want you to weigh these things that I have to say on this subject, "Heart Faith."

I've chosen as my text, Mark Chapter 9: verse 23. *"And Jesus said to him, if you can believe all things are possible to him that believeth."* The man answered in verse 24: Straightway he cried out, *"Lord I believe, help thou mine unbelief."*

What is this all about? These are the words of a father who had brought his poor, sick, ailing son to the Lord Jesus Christ. He said to Him, *"Lord, if you can do anything, (if you can do anything), help us."* That is a strange question to ask the Sovereign, Omnipotent, and Almighty God. Our Lord turned it around and He said, the *"If you can believe all things are possible to him who believes."* That is when the man cried out, *"I believe, help thou mine unbelief."*

I believe I can say today that I believe. I do believe but I must also add; *"Lord, help mine unbelief."* My faith is not perfect. The apostle Paul said, *"I'm not perfect. I haven't arrived; I haven't laid hold upon that for which the Lord hath laid hold of me."* I must continually examine my faith. Do you?

Peter said that, he said, *"Give diligence brethren to make your calling and election sure. If you do these things you will never fail."* Again, Paul said in Corinthians, *"Examine yourselves whether you are in the faith."* Examine yourselves whether you are in the faith, not a faith, some faith or any faith. I'm talking about the faith. *"Know ye not your own selves how that Christ dwelleth in you except you are a reprobate?"*

Listen, every time we come to the Lord's Table, Paul said; *"Let a man examine himself and so let him eat."* Don't take these things for granted. Don't presume on God's mercy; examine yourselves. Don't be afraid of self-examination. Don't be afraid to take inventory. Don't be afraid to search your heart. I will tell you this; death is too certain.

Judgment is too sure and eternity is too long for you to neglect these things. Don't be presumptuous of these things.

Do you know what John Newton said? I'm talking about the great preacher. Many of you have heard of John Newton. He wrote *Amazing Grace*. He was a great preacher of the gospel many years ago. He said this; "When I get to heaven there will be three things that amaze me. First, I'll be amazed to see some people in heaven that I did not expect to see." Then he said that the second thing that would amaze him is; "He's going to miss some folks that he thought would be there." The third and most amazing thing of all will be, "To find old John Newton himself in the presence of the Lord."

Do you have that kind of spirit and that kind of attitude? Well, if you do, you don't mind to take a look at heart faith, do you? "*Lord, I believe, help Thou mine unbelief.*" I want to take a good look at this matter of heart faith, the faith that saves. Listen to me and think about this. Don't get upset, just think about it and see if what I am saying is not true.

Everything that goes by the name of faith is not heart faith. Everything that goes by the name of believing is not saving faith or believing faith. Throughout the Word of God, religious people had much that looked like faith that wasn't faith at all. There were a lot of religious people that produced a whole lot of things that looked like faith and appeared to be faith. This faith made them think that everyone around them knew God.

I will give you some examples. First of all, these Pharisees acknowledged God to be their Father. They looked at our Lord Jesus Christ and said; "*We are not sinners. We are not born of fornication. God is our Father. We have one Father, even God.*" Do you know what He said to them? This will shock you! He said; "*If you were of God, you would hear Me, you would believe Me, for God sent Me. You're not of God, you are of your father the devil.*" That is what He said to them! They claimed that God was their Father. They were Israelites, they were Abraham's seed and they were keeping the Sabbath. They were paying their tithes; they were attending the synagogue, and were trying to keep the law. They had missed the gospel.

I will tell you something else, some of these fellows spoke well of Christ. Nicodemus came and said; "*I know you are from God.*" Nicodemus was not a believer. Nicodemus was not born again. Nicodemus didn't know Christ and Nicodemus didn't know God. He did say, "*I know you come from God. No man could do what you do except God be with him.*" Pilate was no Christian. He spoke well of Christ. He said; "*I find no fault in Him.*"

The soldiers were not Christians. They said; *“Never man spake like this.”* They came to arrest Him one day and came back without Him. The authorities said; *“Why didn’t you bring Him, and where is He?”* They said, *“We couldn’t touch him, no man ever spake like that Man.”* The Centurions stood at the foot of the cross and said; *“Surely, this man was a Son of God.”*

So, a man can claim that God is his Father. He can speak well of Christ. He can even reform the outward man. We know that the Pharisee in the temple was not saved. He was not a child of God. We know that, because Christ said; *“He went home not justified.”* He said; *“The Publican went home justified rather than this man.”*

Do you know what this Pharisee said? *“I thank you God, I’m not like other men. I tithe, I fast twice a week, I give tithes of everything I have, I give alms to the poor. I am not an adulterer, I’m not an extortioner, I’m not unjust and I’m not like that Publican.”* Do you see what I am saying? A religious man in the name of religion and even in the name of God can produce a whole lot of outward morality and piety. This was not faith. This man had no faith. He wasn’t justified.

Then, they get excited over a kingdom. You hear about people saying that Christ is coming. He’s going to set up a kingdom and rule in Jerusalem. They say there is going to be a millennial reign and all of these things. They get so excited over the kingdom and the good times that we are going to have. The crowd did that at Jerusalem too!

When Christ rode into town on the donkey, they threw their clothes out in front of him and let the donkey walk on their clothes. They threw palm branches and said; *“Hosanna, Hosanna, to Him that cometh in the name of the Lord.”* These people wanted a kingdom. They wanted a King and a Jewish reign. They were hoping for David’s glory to be restored. They went wild about it. A few days later, they were hollering, *“Crucify Him.”*

They experienced sorrow over sin. Judas came back with the 30 pieces of silver for which he had betrayed his Lord. He said, *“I’m sorry, I’ve betrayed innocent blood.”* He just threw it on the floor. Esau sought repentance with tears. He sold his birthright for a bowl of beans. We run into that all the way through the Bible. People show great remorse after they are caught, and after they have lost out. King Saul, after God had taken his Spirit and kingdom away from him, he did a lot of crying after David. They gave large gifts to the church. You may say; *“That man is a good giver.”* Well, Ananias and Sapphira were good givers too. God killed both of them for lying to the Holy Spirit.

Well, you might say; “He was baptized and joined the church.” Remember Simon Magus? Peter said; *“Your heart’s not right with God. You are in the gall of bitterness.”* You might say; “They’ve been preachers, they preached in your name.” Well, Demas did too and so did Judas. But, “They hold an office in the church.” Judas was the only officer that the early disciples had. He was the treasurer. There was no other office.

They performed great works in the name of the Lord. Listen to the people at judgment in Matthew 7: *“Lord, we preached in your name, cast out devils in your name, did many wonderful works.”* They will say; “In the name of Jesus.” You hear them say that all the time on television. That is exactly what these people will say at the judgment. They will say; *“We preached in your name, we cast out demons in your name. We did many wonderful works in your name, but I shall profess unto them, I never knew you, depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.”*

Yes sir, works of religion without heart faith are works of iniquity. The works of religion are deceptive and deceiving. They are not honoring to God.

All of this proved to be sham and hypocrisy. Christ said; *“You are they that justify yourselves before men.”* Your religion is to be seen of men. Your prayers are to be heard of men. Your giving is to get a reward from men. All of these things you do to be seen, heard, praised and glorified of men. *“God knows your hearts.”* That’s what I am talking about, heart faith. *“God knows your hearts. That which is highly esteemed before men (looked upon by men with great honor and praise) is an abomination to God Almighty.”*

I told you that I was going to talk plain to you! Woe, unto the preacher that won’t talk plain to you. I know that true saving faith does involve the mind. Yes it does! Man can’t believe what he doesn’t know. He can’t believe what he hasn’t heard. *“Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. How shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed, and how are they going to believe of Him whom they have not heard and how are they going to hear without a preacher?”*

I know that in saving faith, the mind and the understanding are certainly involved. I have to know some things. I’ve got to believe God’s Word. *“Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”* These are facts. I have to believe that *“God is and is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”* I have to believe *“That in Adam, all die. By one man sin entered the world and death by sin, so death passed upon all men.”* I know that!

That is a head fact. That is a fact of experience. That is a fact that you know and I know. We are sinners. It is so much easier to do wrong than to do right. Don't you find that true? It sure is a lot easier to get upset than to stay peaceful, restful and happy all the time, isn't it? I believe that God in eternity past determined to save a people. That's just so and that is fact. *"Whom He foreknew, He predestinated to be conformed to the image of His Son. Whom He predestinated, He called, whom He called He justified. Whom He justified, He glorified."* Those are facts! *"Salvation is of the Lord."*

Redemption is pictured and patterned in the Old Testament. Jesus Christ came to this earth and fulfilled all that was pictured, promised and patterned. He was typified in the Old Testament. I know those things and those are the facts. *"Jesus Christ was born of a woman, made under the law, (walked this earth in human flesh), was tempted and tried in all points as we are, yet without sin."* He went to the cross of Calvary and He died. Is there anybody listening to me that doesn't know that? Is there anybody listening to me that doesn't believe that?

Look at your calendar. It says, 1991, 1992, 1993 A.D, (in the year of our Lord.) There may be 200 or 300 years B.C, (before Christ). Does anybody doubt that? He died on a cross, was buried and rose again. But these people never had saving faith, or redeeming faith. The faith that these men had was produced outwardly. True faith is a heart work. This is also a work by the Spirit of God, using the Word of God, (the Seed of God) on the inner man. This heart work is in the innermost being. This is in the soul and in the heart where you are. This is not where everybody else dwells; this is where you live. God said; *"My son, give Me your heart. If I have your heart, I have everything else."*

You can start rationing and tithing parts of yourself and parts of your possessions to someone, and that person still not have your heart. If you love your wife with all your heart, she has everything you have. You may give her a hundred dollars a week or two hundred dollars a week to spend on groceries and anything else that she wants to. She doesn't have your heart. Christ says; *"My son, give Me your heart. The love of God is shed abroad in your heart."*

*"The Lord saveth such as be of a broken heart. The Lord is nigh unto them of a broken and contrite heart. Keep thine heart, out of it are the issues of life."* Christ said; *"These people draw nigh to Me with their lips, with their hands and with their feet, but their hearts are far from Me."* That is the problem. *"These people draw nigh to Me with their lips."* They may say; "Praise the Lord, thank God, Hallelujah, whoop-de-do!" There is excitement and their lips are saying; "blah, blah, blah." They wave their hands and walk up and down isles. They are dancing around and cutting up. God said this about their hearts, "Their unbelieving hearts are the problem."

A man may never open his mouth or wave his hand or his heart be knit to the soul of the Saviour. I am telling you the truth. *“If thou shall confess with thy mouth, Jesus to be Lord and believe in thine heart God raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness.”* It’s not a mental ascent to a few facts.

Some say; “Well, I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross, was buried and rose again.” Sure, who doesn’t, the devil knows that. He says; *“My son, give Me your heart.”* That is where the work of grace is done. *“With the heart man believeth.”* Listen to me; *“With the heart man believeth unto righteousness.”* It is heart faith that brings a man into a living union with Christ. The answer is not mental agreement with facts.

You don’t walk down an isle to get to Christ. He’s not down there. You come to Christ without moving a muscle. You don’t move a leg, a foot, a hand or a hair. You come to Christ in your heart. It is heart faith that makes a person a new creature in Christ. Christ said; *“I’ll take that old stony heart out and give you a heart of flesh.”* That is God’s Word. This is not something that you do or the preacher does. A soul-winner or no one else can do it.

He said; *“I’ll give you a new heart. I’ll write My Word on your heart.”* It is a heart faith that causes a person to forsake everything and follow Christ. You might get those church members to come to church on Sunday. They may come once in a while and do a few duties. I will tell you this, the man that forsakes all and follows Christ, has had a heart work. All the persuasion, pulling, promising and rewards along with whips and laws, does not motivate him. He is motivated by love of the Redeemer who has his heart. It is heart faith that makes a person love God and love others. It is heart faith that produces the fruit of the Spirit.

What is the fruit of the spirit? The answer is love, joy, and peace. That fruit cannot be produced except from one fountain and that fountain is the heart. The fruit of the Spirit will dwell only in the heart where Christ dwells. There will be love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, meekness, and temperance. These are attitudes. These are not outward acts. That is the spirit of a person. That comes from the heart. That does not come from a natural, stony heart; it comes from a new heart.

It is heart faith that makes a wife submissive. It is heart faith that makes a husband loving. It’s a heart faith that makes a child obedient. It is heart faith that makes a workman a diligent laborer. It is heart faith that makes a boss generous and kind. It’s heart faith that rejoices in Christ and has no confidence in the flesh. It is heart faith that

makes a person a giving person. He will be generous, and forgiving. It is heart faith that says; *“Not my will, but Thy will be done.”*

You can't whip that out of a natural heart. This is a subdued heart, a broken heart and a bowing heart. The man will say; *“It's not my will, but Thy will be done, O Lord.”* I'll challenge you to produce that! All of the isle walking in the world won't change that. Isle walking will not do it.

Churches are like revolving doors. There are people coming in and people going out. There can be 2,000 members and 100 in a prayer meeting coming in and going out. There is no heart faith. It is heart faith that continues in spite of trial, troubles or difficulty. You can offend a church member next Sunday morning. You preachers offend one of your leading members and watch them quit. Replace that Sunday School Teacher with someone else and watch him or her quit. Tell your choir leader that he is not going to lead the choir anymore because you have someone better. He will quit!

It is heart faith that makes a man continue in spite of trial, trouble, conflict and difficulty. It is heart faith that will worship God in sunshine or in shadow. It is heart faith that looks on the things of others more than your own welfare. It is heart faith that *“Counts all things but loss, for the excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ My Lord.”* It is heart faith that says; *“O that I may win Christ and be found in Him.”* It is heart faith that says I am content wherever God puts me and with whatever God gives me. *“O that I may know Him.”* It is heart faith that lives, speaks, prays, walks and gives for the glory of God in all things. That is heart faith!

That, my dear friends, is saving faith. Now, that is just so! *“With the heart man believeth unto righteousness.”* I'm telling you what troubles me in this day is that we are trying to do mechanically and outwardly with human means, what cannot be done. We are bringing forth children into the kingdom of God. They have to be born. They have to be born of God, born of the Spirit, born from above and born of the Word of God. It can't be done any other way.

Let me show you four things before I close. It doesn't matter what experiences and feelings, works, decisions or professions a religionist may make or produce. There are four things that a religionist cannot produce. He cannot do it for the life of him; he cannot do it. Four of these are essential to heart faith. The first one is this: A natural religious man cannot produce a heart broken toward God over his own sin. Read Psalm 51. There is a man with a broken heart. Listen, *“Lord, have mercy upon me according to Thy loving kindness, according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out my*

*transgressions. Wash me from mine iniquities. Cleans me from my sin. My iniquities and sins are ever before me.”*

You will never get an unsaved religionist to talk about his sin. He will talk about everybody else's. He will talk about sin in general. He'll talk about everybody else's sin. He'll talk about everyone else's faults. He'll be like the Pharisee in the temple, he will down the Publican but he won't acknowledge his sins and his transgressions. David said; *“Against Thee have I sinned.”*

Not only did David acknowledge his sins and transgressions, but he also justified God in damning him. He said; *“Lord, you're clear when you judge me and just when you condemn me.”* That comes only from a broken heart.

Secondly: The other thing that a religionist cannot produce is that he cannot acknowledge that he has no righteousness and no goodness. Man may talk about his sins. He may talk about his faults and he may talk about what a rascal he use to be. The trouble is that he is going to brag about what he's doing for God, now. He's going to brag on the fact that he preaches, sings in a choir, teaches or gives a little money. He's going to brag about that.

He doesn't realize that his righteousness is filthy rags and even his goodness. There is enough sin in our prayers to damn us. Our tears need to be bathed in the blood of Christ. Our repentance needs to be repented of. Nothing we do pleases God in the flesh. We repent of our righteousness. A natural heart cannot see that either.

Thirdly: The false religionist will never acknowledge that salvation is wholly, completely, and totally of God. *“Salvation is of the Lord. The Lord quickeneth whom He will. It's of God, not of the will of the flesh, not of the will of man, but of God that we are born. It is not of him that willeth nor him that runneth, it is of God that showeth mercy.”*

That old leper knew it. He came in his scaly, corrupt, condition and looked at Christ. He said; *“Lord, if you will, You can make me whole.”* Today, the preachers look at the sinner and say; *“If you will, God will.”* You have it backwards. You should say; *“If He will, you will.”* *“He will make you willing in the day of His power.”* His will is what determines your salvation. Do you believe that? Well, it is so, anyway. *“Salvation is of the Lord.”*

Last of all, an unsaved religionist can never receive Jesus Christ alone, plus nothing and minus nothing. This includes wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. “Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to Christ Jesus and Christ alone I cling!”