

FAITH



3. Faith and Confession

(Leader's Notes)

The Bible speaks a great deal about faith. We have learnt that faith isn't something we can work up, rather it is produced by the Holy Spirit when we hear God speak to us. If it is genuine faith it will result in confessing what God has said, and obeying what God has told us to do. In this study we will find out how faith and confession are linked.

The word 'confess' in our Bible actually means 'to speak the same thing as.'

- ♥ What are we to confess, or 'say the same thing as', according to Romans 10:8-10?
(We are to confess what the Word of God says, not what our feelings tell us.)
- ♥ How are our hearts involved in our confession? See Matthew 15:8-9
(True confession is not just saying the words from our lips, but it is speaking from our hearts.)
- ♥ What does the Bible mean when it speaks of our 'heart'? Discuss. Also look at Proverbs 4:23
(The heart refers to our inner person, and this is why the book of Proverbs calls our heart the wellspring. A wellspring is the source where a river comes from, and in the same way, all we think about and speak, comes from our heart.)
- ♥ How will we know the true condition of our heart according to Jesus? Matthew 12:33-37
(By the words we speak! In fact the words we speak are so important, we will be judged by them as they show the true condition of our hearts.)

If there is truly faith in our hearts then it will be evident by our thoughts, words and deeds. Let's check our own thoughts and words. What kind of words have you spoken this week? Do they demonstrate faith or unbelief?

- ♥ Many Christians know they are meant to confess the right things and so they quote verses, but they don't see any results. Why do you think this is? Discuss. Also look at 2 Corinthians 4:13
(Simply confessing the right words does not produce faith. We don't speak so we will believe, but first we believe, and then we speak. It is faith in our hearts that activates God's word in our personal lives.)

First we must believe what we confess, or it will produce nothing, as we cannot create faith ourselves. How then can we prepare ourselves so we can receive faith?

- ♥ Share ways that will help you receive and cultivate faith in your life.
(Since faith comes by hearing God's word we need to spend time listening and reading his word. It is good to meditate on what God has been saying to us and ask the Holy Spirit to work within us. In this way we open ourselves to receiving faith, which is a gift from God.)

God's Word is living and active and has the power to do great things! Most of us believe this in our minds and speak about it, but we don't always see those mighty things come to pass in our lives. It is faith that activates the word that God has spoken to us, which will produce results. Let's prepare ourselves to receive faith by spending time with God each day. Then think about it!