

Devotional from Pastor Ho
August 20, 2020

Romans 10:9-10, *“Because, 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. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”*

The two verses above say in parallelism what the mouth confesses and what the heart believes. The intent is to emphasize that both the confession of the mouth and the belief of the heart are one and the same, whether Jesus is Lord or God raised Jesus from the dead. With this confession and this belief, we are saved.

What the mouth confesses is the window into the heart, which is otherwise unknown to the outside world, even to oneself. Didn't Jesus say that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks? (Matt 12:34) But the Bible also says that the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? (Jer 17:9).

When the heart truly believes, the mouth can't help but confessing. Yet, when the mouth confesses, we can't tell whether the heart truly believes. I recall a story from my youth about a young boy who went to church with an umbrella in hand, because the church had a special service to pray for rain, but nobody else did. In fact, people questioned why the boy brought an umbrella. This is a case of misalignment between the professed belief of the mouth and the functional belief of the heart.

Many a time our functional belief is put to the test. We profess to believe God and trust him (with all the divine attributes attached, such as power, presence, kindness, faithfulness, etc.), but when the rubber meets the road, we trust ourselves more. We want to be sovereign rather than handing over control to God. As schools and colleges are reopening, and our church plans to reopen more widely in stages, many are understandably sitting on edges, because we fear the situation may get out of hand. Faith in God means that even if unfavorable outcomes emerge, we believe God is still in control, provided we are not being willful in following the guidelines.

Prayer: Dear Lord, from the moment we confess that you are Lord, we are taking baby steps in surrendering control to you. Would you help us to grow continuously in faith? In your name we pray. Amen.

何牧師的靈修

2020年8月20日

羅馬書 10 篇 9-10 節：“你若口裡認耶穌為主，心裡信神叫他從死裡復活，就必得救。因為人心里相信，就可以稱義；口裡承認，就可以得救。”

上面兩節經文以平行的方式來說口裡所認與心裡所相信的。目的是強調口裡所承認與心裡所相信的是一致的，無論是耶穌為主還是神叫耶穌從死裡復活，。有了這種承認與這種相信，我們就必得救。

口裡所承認的是通往心裡的窗口，否則外界無法得知的，甚至包括自己。耶穌不是說，“心裡所充滿的，口裡就說出來嗎？”（馬太福音 12:34）但是聖經也說，“人心比萬物都詭詐，壞到極處，誰能識透呢？”（耶利米書 17:9）

當心裡真正相信時，口不得不承認。但是，當口裡承認時，我們無法判斷心裡是否真正相信。我回想少年時聽過的一個故事。有一個小男孩拿著一把雨傘去教會，因為教會有特別聚會為求下雨禱告，但其他人都沒有帶雨傘。實際上，人們還質疑那個小男孩為什麼帶了雨傘。這是口裡承認所信的與心裡功能上所信的不一致的案例。

許多時候我們在功能上所信的受到考驗。我們自稱相信神並信靠他，（含蓋所有神的屬性，例如權能，同在，良善，信實等等），但當真正行出來時，我們會比較信自己。我們要擁有主權，甚於把掌控權轉交給神。隨著學校和大學重新開放，而我們教會也計劃分階段更加開放，可以理解，許多人在坐立不安，因為我們擔心情況可能會失控。信靠神意味著，即使出現不利的情況，我們還是相信神掌控一切，除非我們隨意不遵守條例。

禱告：親愛的主，從我們承認你是主的那一刻起，我們在一小步一小步的將控制權交給了你。求你幫助我們的信心持續的成長。我們奉你的名禱告。阿們。

何牧师的灵修

2020年8月20日

罗马书 10 篇 9-10 节：“你若口里认耶稣为主，心里信神叫他从死里复活，就必得救。因为人心里相信，就可以称义；口里承认，就可以得救。”

上面两节经文以平行的方式来说口里所认与心里所相信的。目的是强调口里所承认与心里所相信的是一致的，无论是耶稣为主还是神叫耶稣从死里复活，。有了这种承认与这种相信，我们就必得救。

口里所承认的是通往心里的窗口，否则外界无法得知的，甚至包括自己。耶稣不是说，“心里所充满的，口里就说出来吗？”（马太福音 12:34）但是圣经也说，“人心比万物都诡诈，坏到极处，谁能识透呢？”（耶利米书 17:9）

当心里真正相信时，口不得不承认。但是，当口里承认时，我们无法判断心里是否真正相信。我回想少年时听过的一个故事。有一个小男孩拿着一把雨伞去教会，因为教会有特别聚会为求下雨祷告，但其他人却没有带雨伞。实际上，人们还质疑那个小男孩为什么带了雨伞。这是口里承认所信的与心里功能上所信的不一致的案例。

许多时候我们在功能上所信的受到考验。我们自称相信神并信靠他，（含盖所有神的属性，例如权能，同在，良善，信实等等），但当真正行出来时，我们会比较信自己。我们要拥有主权，甚于把掌控权转交给神。随着学校和大学重新开放，而我们教会也计划分阶段更加开放，可以理解，许多人在坐立不安，因为我们担心情况可能会失控。信靠神意味着，即使出现不利的情况，我们还是相信神掌控一切，除非我们随意不遵守条例。

祷告：亲爱的主，从我们承认你是主的那一刻起，我们在一小步一小步的将控制权交给你。求你帮助我们的信心持续的成长。我们奉你的名祷告。阿们。