

## FAITH COMES BEFORE WORDS

### Romans 10:10

**Introduction:** People are always talking about all sorts of things and often the ones doing the talking don't really know what they are talking about. Sadly, the same thing occurs within the Church family. Often church members talk about things that they have never really experienced personally. Paul gave the proper order that is to be followed when talking about one's spiritual life. He said that one must first believe in his/her heart about the Lord Jesus Christ and then to speak out about it. To talk about being saved and never really have believed in Jesus is hypocrisy and a lie. First comes one's heart believing and then comes talking about it, thus confession. Because there is belief first, then talking about it comes automatically.

### I. WHAT IS IT THAT BELIEVERS IN CHRIST ARE TO CONFESS (TALK ABOUT)?

1. One is to confess that Jesus Christ is the only Savior of/for sinners.
  - It is all of Christ, everything about Him that one is to talk about, to confess, not just parts.
  - To "confess Jesus Christ" is to say that one has received Him into his/her heart/soul as Savior, his/her only hope for all eternity, that he/she will honor Him as the Son of God, submitting to all He says, that He is worthy to rule all, throughout all eternity and that Jesus is co-equal with God the Father and the Holy Spirit."
2. When one confesses faith in Jesus Christ, one must be sure to confess everything Jesus has said and all that Jesus claims to be.
  - *"...Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words .....of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed...."*
  - Confessing faith in Jesus Christ is to not leave out a single fact about Jesus or a single word Jesus spoke.
3. When one confesses faith in Jesus Christ, he/she is to confess his/her total, clear faith in Jesus Christ.
  - One needs to talk about being saved by Jesus alone and that he/she is totally dependent upon Him.
  - Having been saved by Jesus, no person should ever be ashamed to talk about the circumstances surrounding one's being saved.
  - Never be ashamed to talk about the change that happened, detailing what one was like before saved and then how things were changed after being saved.
  - Being saved is the greatest thing that can happen to a person and one should never stop telling others about his/her experience.
    - Tell young people, tell people of one's same age, tell people who are seniors and even when on a sick bed, tell those who come to visit.

### II. WHEN SHOULD ONE WHO HAS BEEN SAVED TALK ABOUT IT?

1. Obviously as soon as one is saved he/she should begin to tell others.
  - No one should be afraid to talk about being saved by his/her belief in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. When partaking in the two ordinances Jesus left for believers to do, one is openly confessing Jesus.
  - Upon one's belief in Jesus and then his/her public confession, then follows baptism which is a public identification of believing in Jesus Christ.
    - It is saying that one believes that Jesus died, was buried and rose again on the behalf of those who believe and that he/she will one day rise from the grave as Jesus did.
  - Taking part of the Lord's Supper is another way of publicly identifying with Jesus Christ as He said, *"...This do in remembrance of me..."*

3. Every Christian should proclaim his/her faith in Jesus Christ every time he/she can when possible.
  - It is not on some special occasion that one is a Christian, but believers in Jesus Christ are Christians always if they are Christians at all.
  - To the Christian every day is a holy day and every place is a holy place and everything can be holy.
  - It is the believer's duty to talk about Jesus when someone asks him/her about Jesus.
  - One should always be ready to talk about his/her faith in Jesus to those who ask questions or raise objections just to argue.
  - Any time a believer can really help by talking about Jesus, never keep silent.
  - Believers should also remember that anytime they talk about Jesus they may be ridiculed for it.

### **III. WHY SHOULD ONE TALK ABOUT HIS/HER FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST?**

1. To talk about Jesus Christ is paying homage to God which is naturally, rightfully due Him.
  - Prayers and praises are rightly due to God who created, preserves and provides and who is behind the plan of redemption which has enabled believers in God's Son to have eternal life.
2. Believers should talk about Jesus because He expects them to do so.
  - *"...whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels..."*
3. Believers should talk about Jesus for their own sakes.
  - It does a Christian good to just openly say "I love the Lord Jesus..."
    - It brings happiness, comfort, satisfaction and joy to that person when they talk about Jesus.
4. To talk about Jesus is good for those listening/hearing.
  - Who knows what good one may do in his/her family or friends when he/she talks about Jesus?
    - One may not be liked for doing so but talking about Jesus tells others that the old faith that started the Church has not died.
5. History gives plenty of reasons that Christians should talk about Jesus publicly.
  - Think of all the martyrs, the persecutions that have happened to those who publicly talked about Jesus and how the Church grew because of such talk.
    - "We are followers of Christ, we have the Man of Nazareth as our Lord and Savior..."
    - They did not hide nor were afraid, nothing could quench their courage.
      - They knew in whom they had believed and were persuaded that He was able to keep that which they had committed unto them..."

### **IV. WHAT ATTITUDE SHOULD ONE TALK ABOUT HIS/HER FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST?**

1. One should examine him/herself carefully and be sure of what he/she is calling "faith."
2. When one has believed with his/her heart, then he/she should quickly confess/talk about Jesus aloud.
3. When talking about one's faith in Jesus Christ, do so boldly, openly.
4. When talking about one's faith in Jesus Christ, do so very clearly, plainly.
  - Do not speak in mystical ways.
5. When talking about one's faith in Jesus Christ, make sure that what is being said is consistent in how one is living.
  - Do not be one thing in Church and another in the world.
  - Remember that one is always a Christian if ever a Christian.
6. When talking about one's faith in Jesus Christ, do so modestly, do not act as if Christ or the Church is better off now that you are a Christian.

7. When talking about one's faith in Jesus Christ, do so wisely. Do not try to leave the impression that you are an asset to God's kingdom.
  - Be willing to suffer for the Lord's sake if necessary, but don't make a martyr of one's self when there is no reason for it.
8. When talking about one's faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, do so because one just cannot remain quiet.
  - Make it clear that he/she is not ashamed of being called "Christian" but proud to be one of the family of God through belief in His Son, Jesus Christ.

## **CONCLUSION:**

1. Belief/Faith comes before talking about it.
2. Once one has believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, identify with Him publicly but talking about it, by being baptized publicly, by partaking of the Lord's Supper.
3. Anybody can talk about things they have never experienced but ONLY a true believer in Jesus Christ can talk about being saved and how it happened from personal experience.
4. Believers in Jesus Christ should talk about Jesus Christ at every opportunity, to every person who will listen, under all/any circumstances.
5. Be sure to be living the life you should be before trying to tell others how they should be living theirs.
6. Every believer is expected to be witnesses, to tell others about Jesus Christ.