



HEART TO HEART TO HEART

(Part Two)

Picking up where last Sunday's teaching left off, I want to finish sharing some thoughts from **my heart to your heart** because I believe they are on **God's heart** for each of us personally, and for our church family as a whole. A week ago, we were reminded that the turbulent, spiritually dark times in which we live are indicative of what the Bible calls *the last days* (2 Timothy 3:1,13; Matthew 24:24). That's scary, and it raises some really big questions: What are people supposed to do as the culture keeps getting crazier? What can I do to keep from fear as the world keeps getting wackier? What can I do to help the people in this needy place? Here's exactly what Jesus said to do: "**Follow Me.**" Christ is telling us: "*Hey, society is going more and more astray. Get right with God, overcome the fear, fulfill your purpose, and make an eternal impact in other lives by walking the path I lay down for your life.*" Hmm, clear enough. But it is one thing to know **what** it means to follow Jesus (last Sunday's Bible lesson), while it is quite another thing to understand **how** to actually do it (this Sunday's Bible lesson). Today we want to focus on some foundational, intentionally chosen commitments that God calls us to make if we're really wanting to know how to genuinely live for Jesus. I pray that this message won't come across as a "laundry list" of things that "good little Christians" do. You know, one of those sermons which might make you feel guilty, but that you will most likely choose to ignore. 😞 Rather, I hope you'll feel the Holy Spirit touching your heart to intentionally follow your Lord by choosing Biblical lifestyle action steps that will delight His heart, enrich your own, and make an impact in precious lives for Christ. 😊

"Prove yourselves to be doers of the Word, not mere listeners who delude themselves." (James 1:22)

THE FIVE "P's" OF PEOPLE TODAY

FOLLOWING JESUS IS ABOUT ...

1. (Hebrews 12:2) The Step of ...
2. (1 John 5:14-15) The Step of ...

3. (Psalms 100:2) The Step of ...
4. (2 Corinthians 9:11) The Step of ...
5. (Philemon 1:6) The Step of ...
6. (Hebrews 3:13) The Step of ...
7. (John 4:23-24) The Step of ...
8. (Acts 10:43; 22:15) The Step of ...

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

FOR THOUGHT & TALK

In your small group take 5-10 minutes to review the main points of this week's message. Discuss the following questions, taking your time as the Spirit leads, realizing you don't have to cover them all.

1. Take a closer look at the **five "P"** terms that PJ used to describe the sorry state that our culture is in. What are some ways you've seen this happening at your work, or amongst friends and family? An even greater issue is that these words describe what is happening in so many churches today, even our own to some extent. What will happen if NCFF allows these words to define us? Why would "settling" for this as a church (simply living with this at NCFF), break the heart of Jesus?
2. Have you ever experienced a time when you, as a Christian, heard the Holy Spirit say to you that it is time for you to get "full-on" serious about following Jesus? What were the circumstances surrounding that experience? How did the Holy Spirit help you make changes so you would walk more closely with the Lord?
3. The first step in following Jesus is being focused on Jesus. When we're focused on Jesus, what do we see about Him? How does keeping our eyes locked on Jesus help us succeed when it comes to taking the other steps?
4. In your group, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you ... pick-up, wise-up, look-up, and rise-up in relation to following Jesus in our community and in our church. If you genuinely ask Him, the Spirit will definitely answer this prayer for you. In fact, your heart probably began sensing His response the moment you asked. He wants to guide your steps to follow Jesus in Clatsop County and in NCFF. What are you hearing the Spirit say to you, about steps you need to take as you follow Jesus, in regard to our community and our church?