

## SERMON: THE WORD IN YOU

Romans 10:8-13

02252007

Rev. Ike Parker

“As Above . . . So Below  
As Within . . . So Without”

Say the Welcoming Word – “*Faith*”

“So what exactly was Moses saying? The word that saves is right here, as near as the tongue in your mouth, as close as the heart in your chest. It’s the word of **faith** that welcomes God to go to work and set things right for us. This is the core of our preaching. Say the welcoming words to God – ‘Jesus is my Master’ – embracing, body and soul, God’s work of doing in us what he did in raising Jesus from the dead. That’s it. You’re not doing anything. You’re simply calling out to God, trusting him to do it for you. That’s salvation. With your whole being you embrace God setting things right, and then you say it, right out loud. ‘God has set everything right between God and me!’”

**Introduction:** A man walked into a bank and asked to borrow the sum of two thousand dollars for two weeks. The loan officer asked what collateral the man had. The borrower replied, “I’ve got a Rolls-Royce. Keep it until the loan is paid off. Here are the keys.” So the loan office arranged for the car to be driven into the bank’s underground parking for safe keeping, and gave the borrower two thousand dollars. Two weeks later, the man walked back into the bank, paid back the two thousand dollar loan plus ten dollars interest, and regained possession of the Rolls-Royce. The loan officer was mystified: “Tell me, sir,” he said, “why would someone who drives a Rolls-Royce need to borrow two thousand dollars?” The borrower smiled and replied, “I had to go abroad for two weeks – where else could I store a Rolls-Royce for that length of time for ten dollars?”

Now there’s a person of means who knows how to get the most out of what he’s got. That’s a smart fellow who has wealth and still gets the best car storage bargain in town.

*But like the banker, I’m puzzled, mystified a little,  
about people who have great wealth and yet they  
ask for and live in so much less, or seem to live  
beneath their wealth.*

### ( ) ARE WE PEOPLE WHO ARE LIVING BENEATH OUR WEALTH?

People, like you and me, who have been so blessed of God with abundance who are living, not out of the abundance – but out of our poverty. Folks who have within them, as close as the heart that’s beating in their chests – exactly what

they need to experience a fulfilling life, but who occupy their time doing things that keep them from worthwhile living.

I'm speaking here of how we often give ourselves to things that keep us from the joy of life, when what we can have (joy and peace) are so very close – within our reach, if we'd only

**Stop Doing and Start Living In What's Been Done For Us,**  
living in  
what we already have – through simple faith. The man with the Rolls-Royce, enjoys the benefits of what he has and the benefit of cheap car storage **because he knows what he has, and how to use it.** Instead of chasing after what he does not have, he uses what he possesses to get the best out of life.

So what do you have in your heart? What's as close as the word in your mouth that makes it possible for you to first believe in what's been given you and, second, to speak it into life?

#### ( ) **WHAT HAS GOD DONE FOR YOU?**

God has already done some things for you. One of them, which Paul is writing about in Romans, is the **most important thing** that God has done for you. And Paul is pointing out just how close that action of God is for you.

What God has done for you in a few words is

#### **Made Everything Right Between You and God.**

This includes everything that has been wrong in your life: wrong beliefs, wrong choices, misdirected actions, things harmful to yourself and others – God has corrected them. It can be summed up in one word

**SALVATION** – the forgiveness of your sins.

And the second thing God has done for you is to give you **PURPOSE** and **PASSION**. God has created you with a uniqueness and you have that uniqueness to make a big deal out of God every day of your life.

But where do you find these two things God has done for you?

Right there within you. How do you get that which God has done? What is the word that welcomes God?

#### ( ) **WHAT/WHERE IS THE WORD THAT WELCOMES GOD?**

It's the word of **faith** that welcomes God to go ahead and set things right and that brings to you your *purpose and passion*. **Faith** is the word in your heart and in your mouth. You believe in your heart and you speak it out in your life. See the cycle --- *word of faith in your heart, spoken out through your mouth.*

## ( ) SAY THE WORDS OF WELCOME

The word **faith** is right in your heart, right in your mouth. Just say the welcoming words to God. “Jesus is my Savior.” Paul taught that you don’t have to know and do all the laws. Just receive the grace done for you. **The work behind the words is already done** – God did it, just say the name. A popular song has those simple words, “Say My Name, Say My Name, Say My Name.” If you are to claim for yourself what God has done for you – say, “I welcome you Christ, my Savior.” That’s salvation, the welcoming of what God has done for you through Christ; as simple as believing and speaking.

But it doesn’t stop there. God has done even more for you than just set things right between God and you. Why would God say I’ve made things right, so just go on your way? Having put things back in right relationship, God has also given to you the opportunity to live that way in that kind of new order. But you and I must speak the words that keep that order in place. That is, we speak the words of **faith** that not only does God restore the relationship that was broken between us, but that God also has in mind for us, a way to live a most fulfilling life. We speak **faith** in being able to live a worthwhile existence. That’s a done deal by God too.

When God gave you life, you were packaged on purpose with a purpose. You see – you are not encouraged as a person of **faith** to be just ordinary. You are encouraged to live with purpose, with meaning. We’re not to be like the character in Bruce Wilkinson’s book The Dream Giver whose name was Ordinary. Ordinary in that parable story lived in the town of Familiar, doing as Familiar citizens do; going to work, coming home, watching “the box,” getting together with others and having a life without purpose or passion. Ordinary discovered that he had a dream. In his dream he heard the words, “Everything you need, you already have.” There was something very near and dear to his heart. There was a passion burning in his heart that Prilosec could not stop. That passion was put there by God. But it was hard for Ordinary to have faith in his abilities and capabilities to pursue that passion.

Oh my, and was there ever opposition to his speaking, much less doing that God-given passion. Why there were family members – mom, dad, uncle and friends, co-workers, best friend, who said you just can’t do your passion. We won’t let you. Isn’t that something! God had given Ordinary a passionate purpose and others close to him wanted to change what God had done. They wanted to limit it within their own plans and ideas for Ordinary.

Does that match your experience in some way?

But Ordinary wouldn't sell out to the whims of others. He had the words within him (*What You Need You Already Have*). He had the **passion** and **purpose**, he spoke the words of faith in what God had done and given to him. Therein lies his own deliverance and yours; his own becoming of his purpose.

What was dear and as close as the heart beating in his chest matched the words he spoke from his mouth --- words of confidence and faith that he could find and do the purposes for which he was given life.

How about you?

( ) **THREE KEY QUESTIONS AND YOUR RESPONSE:**

1 What is the Word of God in you?

**I Believe – FAITH**

2 What has God done for you?

**Believe in it.**

3 What has God given you to do?

**Speak/Live out your you-niqueness**

You-niqueness – my computer didn't like that word and neither does my dictionary. But I like the word, as it describes the "you" that God has created you to be. There are words in your heart that your Creator has placed there. Do you welcome them? Do you have faith in them?"

*First*, what is your response to the words of forgiveness and of making right that which has been wrong?

*Second*, what are the words of purpose and passion that speak to you of your mission and path in this life? Are you speaking them from your heart into existence?

Oh, don't let anyone speak you into other paths – or keep you on the wrong one. God has given you so much. God has done so much for you. Speak welcoming words of **faith** to what God has done and given you.

( ) **Every single human being has a dream purpose from God. The words to that are within you.**

**Hear them . . .**

**Speak them . . .**

**Live them!**

On the visuals on the screen in the sanctuary you see the word **Faith** over rippling water. The center of the rippling waters is the place where you first found your faith. But you aren't meant to stay there. No, you are meant to follow the expanding circles of your faith along the rippling waves to see

what more God has for you. Your first faith in what God had corrected between you has rippled out and invited you to see in how many different ways God has corrected the mistakes between yourself and God, yourself and your self, and yourself and others. See what healing can come to relationships, to life purpose, to making things better here and now. Get on your spiritual surf board and surf all 360 degrees around the realms that are expanding outward. Once you've been around one realm, surf over to the next and ride all the way around, getting the most out of each wave.

Now do the same with your *purpose and passion*. Begin with **faith** at the point where you first began to understand what that passion and what your purpose is. But don't stop there. Get on that surf board and ride all the way around and then surf on to the ever expanding waves from your initial **faith** and understanding to all that's there from God for you.

From the book Cure for the Common Life, by Max Lucado, we share these facts:

Unhappiness on the job affects ¼ of the American work force.

¼ view their jobs as the #1 stressor in their lives.

7 out of 10 people are neither motivated nor competent to perform the basics of their job.

70 per cent of us go to work without much enthusiasm or passion.

(These are the folks you are working with each day).

70 per cent of us dread Mondays, dream of Fridays and drag through the rest of the week.

We've an epidemic of unhappiness and unfulfillment in the work place.

## **Why?**

We're not giving our time, energy and wealth to our God-given passion, our purpose. Imagine the difference. For example, you are working for Best Print and Design, and, ho hum, tomorrow, it's just another day. Same old printing. Different colored ink.

**OR**

I work for Best Print and Design and we are producing materials that are impacting lives, helping people find ways to connect with churches, communities of faith all over this country. Why, I'm a missionary, working in a mission station, producing that which helps people to connect with God, to make everything right between them and God, and to help them to discover and live their purpose with passion.

**WOW!!!** I can't wait to go back in today and make the difference.

I'm not telling you to quit your job tomorrow. Please don't unless it is not in keeping with you accomplishing your you-nique *purpose and passion*. But if your work has become unfulfilling or found not to be in keeping with your

purpose, let it go as you pursue that which fulfills. Otherwise, find and rekindle your passion. (This is true for your work in the church as well).

Can you do something about all of this?

Yes you can.

- 1) *Know what God has given you*
- 2) *Believe in it*
- 3) *Speak it out in your life.*

( ) **NOW COMES THE TEST**

Complete this multiple-choice question by completing the words, "I AM":

- a. \_\_\_\_ a coincidental collision of particles
- b. \_\_\_\_ an accidental evolution of molecules
- c. \_\_\_\_ a soulless existence floating through the Universe
- d. \_\_\_\_ fearfully and wonderfully made, skillfully created with a Divine design

Answer "a" is obviously incorrect. You're not just a happenstance, a coincidence what to collide into what ever next comes your way.

Answer "b" is also not correct. You aren't just evolving molecules on an accidental path floating aimlessly to your next form.

Answer "c" a "soulless existence floating" is clearly without support because you know that you were created not just for time but for eternity, with an eternal soul.

So obviously there is only one correct answer, "d". You have been fearfully (not afraid but reverently made with value) and wonderfully made. **Created by the Divine Designer, a Designer's Original.**

With "d" being the correct answer, why then are many of us living like we can't choose or can't change what we are doing – to live out our unique design? Why? Because of disconnect between what God has done and given to us and the word we speak from our lips. Know the Word that is in you . . . Speak them out into your life.

*You are created to do things no one else can do in a fashion no one else can do it.*

**Believe – Welcome – Be You – You-nique!**

**SLIDES**

# Romans 10:8-13

“So what exactly was Moses saying?”

The word that saves is right here, as near as the tongue in your mouth, as close as the heart in your chest.

It's the word of faith that welcomes God to go to work and set things right for us.

This is the core of our preaching. Say the welcoming word to God – ‘Jesus is my Master’ – embracing, body and soul, God’s work of doing in us what he did in raising Jesus from the dead. That’s it. You’re not doing anything, you’re simply calling out to God, trusting him to do it for you. That’s salvation. With your whole being you embrace God setting things right, and then you say it, right out loud. ‘God has set everything right between God and me!’”

# THE WORD IS IN YOU

“As Above. . . So Below  
As Within. . . So Without”

Are We People . . .  
Living Beneath  
Our Wealth?



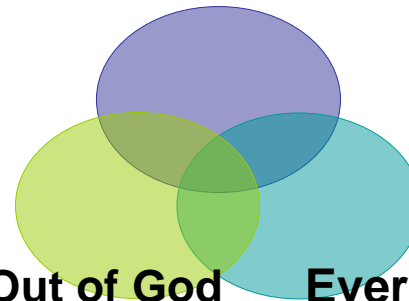
# Things God Has Done For You

- Provided You  
SALVATION



- Given You  
PURPOSE & PASSION

Use Your Uniqueness



To Make A Big Deal Out of God

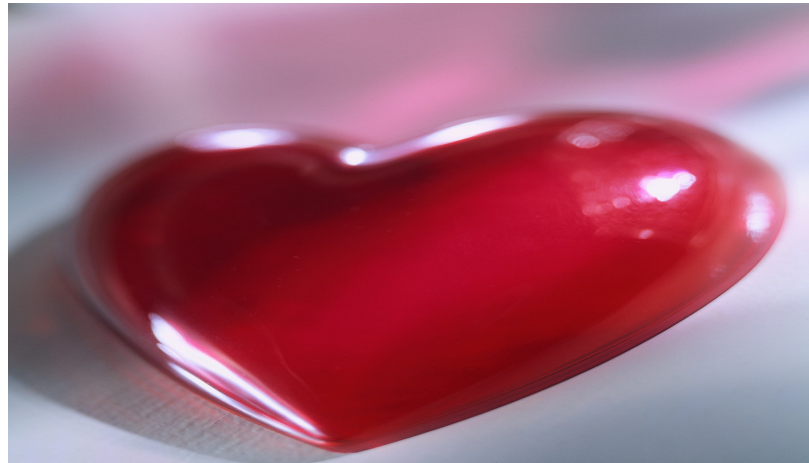
Every Day of Your Life

# What/Where is the Word That Welcomes GOD

FAITH...  
The Word In Your Heart

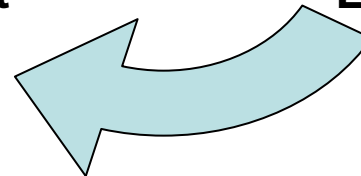
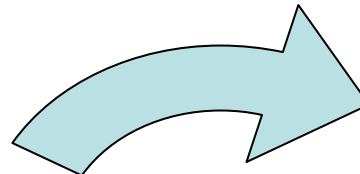
And

In Your Mouth



**Believe  
In  
Your  
Heart**

**Speak  
In  
Your  
Life**



# Say The Words of Welcome

“I Welcome You Christ, My Savior”

Say my Name. . . Say my Name. . . Say my Name

Faith

The background is a solid blue color. In the lower half, there are several sets of concentric, light blue circles that resemble ripples in water. One set of ripples is centered around the word 'Faith'.

# Three Key Questions:

- 1 What is the Word of God in you?  
➤ I Believe - FAITH
- 2 What has God done for you?  
➤ Believe in it.
- 3 What has God given you to do?  
➤ Speak/Live-out your you-niqueness



Faith

Every single human being has a  
dream purpose from God. The  
words to accomplish that dream  
are within you.

Hear them . . .

Speak them. . .

Live them!

Faith

# The TEST:

Which of the following 4 multiple choice answers, complete your words I AM. . .

- a. \_\_\_ a coincidental collision
- b. \_\_\_ an accidental evolution of molecules
- c. \_\_\_ a souless existence, floating through the universe
- d. \_\_\_ fearfully and wonderfully made, skillfully created with a divine design

**BELIEVE –WELCOME – BE YOU YOU-NIQUE!**