

I FELT IT IN MY HEART

More and more professional pulpiteers who describe themselves as 'dynamic', 'energetic', 'motivating', and 'charismatic' are telling their listeners what they 'feel in their heart' as opposed to what they glean from God's holy Book. Bible quoting has given way to touching stories and emotional pleas and too often the "people love to have it so" (Jeremiah 5:31). What the 'new breed' of preacher overlooks is that Christianity is a religion designed to appeal to the intellect and then the emotion.

The 'feeling' that one develops in his or her heart is supposed to be attained by intellectual means and mental industry. The 'feelings in the heart' are to result from thoughts of the mind. Instead, many preach thoughts that are results of 'feelings in the heart' (emotions).

The Bible says, "And Jehovah saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was on evil continually" (Genesis 6:5). Indeed, the Bible indicates that the 'heart' has thoughts, not emotions.

If we trust upon 'what we feel in our hearts' we are apt to teach and to believe error, "The fool has said in his heart there is no God" (Psalm 14:1). Though the fool's heart, or emotions, tells him there is no God, an intellectual survey would inform him otherwise (Romans 1:20). This offers ample proof that the old 'feeling down deep in the heart' could be a lie!

The Bible urges us to believe what we reason, study, test, and intelligently conclude to be factual based on Bible teaching (I Thessalonians 5:21; 2 Tim. 2:15; I John 4:1; Acts 17:11). Men whose behavior pleased God were emotionally convicted because of a rational, intelligent examination of facts and truth (Acts 2:37).

It is OK to have emotional feelings in Christianity; in fact, emotions are stirred every time inspired men preach the Word of God (Acts 4:2; 7:54; 8:39; 16:14; etc). But be careful not to allow your emotions to persuade you unless they are the result of Bible teaching.

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