

## Doctrinal Summary of The Heart: Developing Beliefs Through Faith Transfer

In Acts 28:24 Luke identifies that some individuals believed Paul's testimony of Jesus, but others were not persuaded by Paul's testimony to believe in Christ.

"Some were being persuaded by the things spoken, but others would not believe."

The words "were being persuaded" are translated from the Koine Greek word ἐπειθοντο ("ep-ei-thon-to") which literally means, "they really were being acted upon in a continuous action in the past to be caused to place their dependency upon something by being shown the reality of its merits or perceived benefits." Some of those who heard "the things spoken" by Paul in his testimony (cf. Acts 28:23) saw the merit or benefit to his testimony of Christ. As a result, they were caused to place their dependence upon what Paul was saying about Christ. His testimony persuaded them of the truth about who Jesus Christ is resulting in their belief in Christ as Savior. Yet, others who heard the same testimony were not persuaded by it to place their dependency upon it as truth; thus, they would not believe.

The word "believe" is translated from the Koine Greek word ἠπίστουν ("ae-pis-toun") which literally means, "they really performed the continuous action in the past to put no dependency upon something to do something specific on their behalf." It identifies that someone chooses not to rely on something else to accomplish a specific task. Despite hearing the same testimony, some were not convinced of the reality of what Paul was testifying. Therefore, they did not choose to place their dependence or reliance upon what he was saying to be the truth.

As Paul gave out his testimony concerning Jesus to the Jews, he gave them instruction from the Law and the prophets. The only way that knowledge becomes belief, and moves from the mind to the heart, is by a process called faith-transfer. Faith-transfer is the process by which knowledge is transferred from man's mind to man's heart where it becomes a belief. According to Romans 10:17, faith-transfer occurs when man hears and responds positively to what he has heard.

"So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."

The word "hearing" is translated from the Koine Greek word ἀκοῆς ("ah-ko-aes") which literally means, "hearing coupled with a positive response to what has been heard, based on response." A positive response is one which receives what is heard in agreement and accepts it for himself. For dependency upon knowledge to take place, the individual must receive what is being suggested to him and accept it for himself as what is to be relied upon.

For the unbeliever this begins with the gospel. As he hears the gospel message, he must respond positively to what is proclaimed about Christ and his need for a savior. Only when faith-transfer of the gospel message occurs will the unbeliever be saved.

For the believer this continues with study of the Word of God. The believer must receive the word, accept it as truth, and then rely upon it. If he finds that his knowledge of God's Word is not being revealed in his behavior, then the reality is that he has not transferred his knowledge of God's Word to his heart by means of faith-transfer. If he finds unrighteous behavior in his life, then he must isolate the belief responsible and correct it with truth (cf. James 1:21).