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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

7-29-1970

From/To: Mrs. J. Lee Roberts (Chalk's reply filed first)

J. Lee Roberts

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July 29, 1970

C
O
P
Y
Mrs. J. Lee Roberts
3504 Race Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76111

Dear sister Roberts:

Thank you for your note and kind remarks about my recent visit with the young people in the Fort Worth area. The key to understanding John 7:37-39 is the very "believe." Jesus says that those who believe in Him will have "rivers of living water flowing within them." The question then is settled by understanding what it means to believe. Since faith comes by hearing the word of God, Romans 10:17, and then since faith in the New Testament is always obedient faith, John 3:36, Acts 16:33-34, there can be no question that we do have something to do. All we do is decide to believe in Jesus, and to repent of the rule of sin in our lives, to accept the rule of Jesus and to allow God to change us in our baptismal union with Christ. Once Jesus is accepted we must continue to believe, making the daily decision that Christ will rule our lives, Colossians 2:6-7. The key both before becoming a Christian and after becoming a Christian is believing, if I understand what John 7:37-39 is saying.

Thank you for writing. I hope this helps clear up the confusion.

Sincerely yours,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:lc

July 22, 1970

Dear Brother Chalk,

My son, my husband + I all attended your meeting last evening at Berry St. here in Ft. Worth. All of us were very much impressed but it seems when we got home that we had not taken what you said in the way that our son did.

I felt that you were saying that the Word is not simply a dead book to be read & obeyed but that in reading the Bible, the Spirit of the Word then is alive and helps us to live a life like that of Christ.

My son seems to feel that there is nothing we ourselves can do but that the "fountains of living water" simply move

within us) + we are to make no effort what so ever. This to me seems to contradict James when he says he will show his faith by his works.

If feel you need to know what the word says + then God can help you to it.

Perhaps you have an article of some kind that would put some light on this for me. (One you have written or that you agree with).

Thank you,
Mrs. J. Lu Roberts
3504 Rose
Ft. Worth, Texas
76111