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Isaiah 61:1

“The Spirit of God is upon me, because God has appointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the broken hearted and to announce that the lame shall walk, prisoners will beset free and the blind shall see.”

These words come from the prophet Isaiah who was telling the people of Israel about the coming of a Messiah. In the Greek language the word for Messiah is Christ. Thus we have come to know Jesus as Jesus The Christ not just Jesus Christ as if Christ was his last name. Isaiah spoke the words above so that we would be able to identify who the promised Messiah or Christ was. The books of prophecy tell us many ways by which we would be able to identify The Christ. In fact Pastor Mike Slaughter and Christian writer, Lee Strobel have found over 200 specific prophecies in scripture that identify who the Christ will be. Only one person in human history has fulfilled all of those requirements and that is Jesus of Nazareth, The Jesus of the Gospels. Not any other person has fulfilled even five of these prophecies.

One might ask why this is important. The answer to that is human beings were given the gift of reason by their creator. It is our ability to reason that sets us apart from all other animal life. Because we are creatures that naturally think and reason about things, God knew we would require “proof” for what and who we place our faith in. God did not create us to be people of “blind” faith but rather he created us to be people of “reasoned” faith. God knew that when someone said to us “you just have to accept it on faith” our natural reaction would be, “I don’t think so”. We only need to look at Jesus’ disciple Thomas who even though he had spent three years

with Jesus, doubted the resurrection of his Lord even though Jesus had told him that he had to die and rise again to complete his mission as the Messiah, The Christ. Thomas wanted to be absolutely sure and so he “reasoned” that if he saw Jesus and his wounds, then he could truly believe. Wouldn’t we love to see the same?

As we consider whether we are going to be truly committed people of faith, we also must be convinced. Jesus himself said, “Know the truth and the truth will set you free”. When we really know the truth of God then we can be set free to worship, follow and love God. That is in fact what truly faithful people do. They do this because it makes sense to worship, follow and love God in Christ Jesus when we believe he was and is who he said he was. Until you open your heart to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior all you are doing is loving a life based on faith in something or someone that is not revealed to be the promised Messiah of the one and only living God. Jesus did heal the lame, give sight to the blind, and set people free from the prison of sin and death. His life, death and resurrection confirm that he truly is The Son of God, The Christ.

If your faith is not in Jesus Christ the Lord, perhaps it is time to “rethink” your choices. Come and find the truth of reasoned faith and real commitment. You will also find real peace and joy.