

**Title: A Heart for God (July 19th, 2017)**

**Text:** (Matt 22:37-38)

**We are Commanded to Love God!**

-A heart for God does not come naturally.

-Thinking of our self 1<sup>st</sup> comes naturally.

*Illus: Infants cry for all things*

(Ps 58:3) *The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.*

*How long did it take you to train your children to be selfish?*

*We just let them hang out with the Preacher's kids!*

**The battle:** Spirit Vs. Flesh. (Gal 5:16-17)

We are commanded to walk in the Spirit b/c the 2 are contrary

The Flesh does not desire a heart for God. (Rom 8:6-8)

Our Natural Man (Flesh) no has desire for God (1Cor 2:14)

That is why God came seeking us. (Lk 19:10)

We Christians can be self centered too, and reluctant to yield our heart to God.

**There is something wrong:**

When we say we Love God, but don't like His Book.

When we say we Love God, but don't like His Church.

When we say we Love God, but don't like some of His Kids.

**We Need to Fall in Love with God, b/c He loved us first:**

(1 Jn 4:19) *We love him, because he first loved us.*

**Gospel=Good News, is a Message of Love: John 3:16**

Have you opened your heart to God? (Rom 10:9-10)

**Are you Saved, remember how you felt?**

? Do you have the same heart still?

*Illus: the old couple sees the young couple, with the young women in the center of the front seat, Who Moved?*

**To Love God we need a heart that desires His presence:**

**A God shaped hole!** (Acts 13:2) (man after His own heart)

*Illus: God used to fill buildings.* (2 Chron 7:1-3)

**David's Desire was To be in His Presence.**

(Ps 84:1-2) **Amiable**~ Best Friend's Home.

(Ps 84:3-4) Safe, Secure, a bird's nest

David desired to build a house for God.

A Place where He could meet with God.

A Place where Spend Time with God.

A Place where he felt safe, secure, at home with God.

God doesn't fill buildings anymore He fills people

(1 Cor 6:19) *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

(Eph 5:18) *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;*

**David's desire for God was intense:** (Ps 84:2)

*If his chest were a cannon, he would shoot his heart out to God.*

**-When is the last time we said, "I'm going to know God!"**

(Phi 3:10) *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

We like the 1st & 2nd part! *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection...*

We are not Excited about 3rd & 4th parts: *and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

**-When is the last time we said, “*I am not going to stop praying until I feel His presence!*” Phil 3:7**

**What if it requires Suffering and Death to Self?**

It did for Paul, James, Peter, Andrew, Etc.

**-When is the last time we said, “*I’m not going to stop reading till He speaks to me.*”**

**-When is the last time we said, “*I am not going to stop witnessing until I lead someone to Christ.*”**

**- When is the last time we said, “*I want to know His presence, power, and filling.*”**  
(Ps 119:2) *Blessed are they... seek him with their whole heart*

*Illus: An Olympic athlete.*

*Think of the Intensity!*

*Think of the Focus!*

*Think of the Sacrifice!* 4 years, everything else forsaken  
One motivation, One Goal, the gold medal.

(1 Cor 9:25-27) *And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a **corruptible crown**; but we an incorruptible.*

*How much more Passion, Intensity, & Focus should our walk with God need?*

*Illus: Karate Kid: Your Focus, Needs MORE Focus!*

In the Song - *Come Thou Fount* –

*Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, Prone to leave the God I love;*

*Illus: Men conquer then take for granted*  
Dating, Career, House, car, Social Status.

*Illus: Drove by a Viper on Rt 80, Midlife machine.*

Marriages end b/c we don’t fix our heart on our relationship w/spouse.

Spouses stop putting the same Passion, Intensity, & Focus on their relationship as they did when they were Dating.

***The same happens to our Intimacy with God.***

We sense the need for Salvation,

Repent and trust Christ,

Learn a few bible principles,

experience a season of growth,

attain a certain level of spirituality,

Attain a certain level of Sanctification,

then grow cold.

Joy of salvation gone, thrill of the reading God’s word,  
excitement about church, spiritually cool off.

**David wanted his heart fixed on God:**

Ps 57:7 *My heart is fixed on thee.*

*Illus: He is to be our North star.*

*The one we look to for our direction.*

We need personal revival, Open our hearts to God again and ask Him to forgive our apathy, and coldness.

*Illus: When we open our heart and spirit to God, the Holy Spirit has the freedom to move. Gal 5:17*

### **Things that Choke out our Intimacy with God:**

(Mark 4:18-19) *And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, 19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.*

Illus: *Smothering affect.*

***-Let us go beyond feeling the need, let us fix our hearts on Experiencing His presence every day.***

Move beyond the Conviction that SAYS I need to be closer to God, and determine to DO the things that will bring us closer to God.

### **Come to God in Humility,**

Hear is my heart, Show me how to have a heart for you,  
Help me to love you.

**James 4:8** *Draw nigh to God.*

*Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.*

### **Assess where our heart is now.**

Look at our Daily, Weekly, & Monthly calendar and see where your priorities were and correct them.

### ***Did God come 1<sup>st</sup>?***

***Did he get the best part of our Day, Week, Life?***

Look at your bank statement activity and assess where your heart was last month and change it.

*Did God get the 1<sup>st</sup> fruits or the leftovers.*

***Ask your spouse and children where they see your heart is and change it.***

*Did they get theirs after God or did they get the Leftovers after our Career & Hobbies?*

***Do You Need to Hit the Refresh Button?***

**Ask God to Assess you!**

(Ps 139:23-24) ***Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: 24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.***

**Ask God for Help!**

(Ps 51:10-12) *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. 12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

**Confess our need for revival.** (1 Jn 1:9)

**Recognize our need to be close to Him, and Seek Him!**

(Prov 8:17) *I love them that love me; and those that SEEK ME early shall find me.*

Illus: *You control your alarm clock!*

Illus: *Ask God to help you!*

**Renew our passion to know him.** (Phil 3:10) *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*

## **This is not a check list Christianity!**

(1 Cor 9:25-27) *And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a **corruptible crown**; but we an incorruptible.*

26 *I therefore (I Know What's At Stake)*

*so run, (I Do IT!) It's not a talent to utilize, but a desire to do*

*not as uncertainly;*

*(I have a target, memory of my salvation Experience)*

*so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: (The Battle in Now)*

*We can't keep waiting for a better time to come.*

*The Time Is Now!*

27 *But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection:*

*(I am Proactive in the Fight with my flesh!)*

*lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.*

*(Lest my life be of No Positive Effect, or Useless)*

## **For Many of us, we stop expecting God to speak:**

*There needs to be **Expectancy** in ...*

*Reading: Ask Him to Speak, Expect something to jump out.*

*Prayer: 2 Way Communication: Expect Him to guide you.*

*Church (Hearing Him through the message or SS):*

*Giving: Ask God to give to THROUGH.*

*Witnessing:*

*Ask Him to give you someone to share your faith with.*

## **Open our heart to Him.**

*Sing songs of praise to prepare our heart each day. Eph 5:19*

*Ask Him to fill you with His Spirit.*

*Memorize the scriptures He brings to mind in daily Devotions*

*Ask Him to move in your life.*

*Pray for areas of need.*

*Ask God what to praise Him for.*

*Ask God who He wants you to encourage today.*

*Ask God what to ask forgiveness for.*

*Ask God who to forgive.*

*Ask Him for faith to believe Him for more.*

## **Why do others get the blessings? Are we asking for them?**

**(James 4:2)** *Ye Have not, because ye ask not!*

*Ask Him for courage you don't have. (Jack @ Walgreens)*

*Ask Him for Love you don't have. (Spouse, Neighbor, Co-worker, Mother-in-law)*

*Ask Him for Forgiveness for others that you don't have.*

*Illus: Ask for the veil of forgetfulness.*

*Illus: Ask for the ability to praise Him for them.*

*Ask Him to help you recognize His presence & His working on your behalf, so you can Praise Him every time for it.*

## **Our gratitude must equal God's Goodness.**

*This is how we reclaim our passion to love Him supremely.*

## **David's Heart that followed God through the valleys:**

**God's provision in the trials:** (Ps 84:5-6) *Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them. 6 Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools.*

**Our Strength runs out b/c we don't stay in His presence.**  
(Ps 84:7) *They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.*

**Don't set conditions on God:**

**Trials will come regardless!** (Jn 16:33)

We need to determine to have a heart for God no matter what may occur in our lives. (Ps 84:9-12)

If my relationships go well, if my kids do right, if my career improves.

David said he would rather be a lowly servant than to have everything this world could offer w/o God's presence.

Famous people have all this world can offer, yet they have the highest divorce, drug abuse, and suicide rate in the world.

**Does it break your heart to see the pictures of missing kids?**

When God looks down from heaven, it must break His heart to see missing persons in His flock.

People who have taken their heart back.

AWOL Christians

As Christians we have access to the Creator & Lover of our Soul

This is a dangerous game, wandering from God.  
We convince ourselves that being sold out for God really isn't that important.

We convince ourselves that We can make it on our own.

We still have our job, our health, our family, but for How Long?

LIFE ALTERING EVENTS HAPPENS! Every 5-7 years.

Things maybe pretty OK for us, but God's heart is broken.

We asked Him into our hearts, but now we are asking Him to move over

Don't focus on the Trials, but on the God that allowed them.  
(Ps 84:11) *For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. 12 O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.*

***Is your heart fixed on God?  
Does it stray from time to time?***

***Are you Willing to let the Holy Spirit Assess your heart and draw near to God .***

***Are you willing to hit the Refresh button in your Devotional time with God?***