

Time To Give God Our Hearts

February 27, 2005 (AM) - Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

Pr 23:26 *My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.*

I. THE CHARACTER OF THE HEART

What is the heart? It is that real part of us which is down deep inside, that part of us that we sometimes call the conscience. We are, of course, not talking about the beating heart that is inside the chest. When God says in Prov. 23:26 “give me thine heart,” he is telling us to give him the real self that dwells inside our bodies and minds.

But why would God want our hearts? Why would he want something that is so distantly removed from his holiness and righteousness? Notice what the Bible says in Jer 17:9 *The heart [is] deceitful above all [things], and desperately wicked: who can know it?*

When Adam and Eve were first placed in the Garden of Eden, they were upright and innocent in the presence of God. They had wonderful communion with God every day. They loved that peaceful and grandiose existence, knowing that God’s warm smile was on them as they lived in his human paradise. They no doubt walked along the banks of the rivers that came together in that beautiful land. They were no doubt refreshed by the dew that came up every morning to give the plants and animals drink. They enjoyed the perfect atmosphere. The air was not too hot and not too cold. The wind was never too strong or too weak. There were no bug bites on the leaves, no dangerous animals in the woods and no heartaches to bring depression of disappointment. Can you imagine living in this type of situation? Their hearts were in perfect peace with God, their consciences were innocent and peaceful toward their Creator. They had no worries, no sicknesses, no challenges. All they had to do is just depend upon God and eat the delicious fruit of the Garden. What a place that was!

One day while Eve was walking through the Garden, she saw a serpent who could speak. Actually this was Satan incarnate. He had appeared as a beautiful serpent which took Eve's eye. He must have been a really wonderful creation of God, and Eve no doubt was so thankful that she had met such a beautiful creature which God had made. She was unaware of any danger.

When Satan began to speak to her, Eve did not seem to be surprised. If a snake begins to speak to me, I want that side door for myself. I learned that the best thing to do about a snake is to get as far away from him as possible.

But Eve was intrigued by this serpent, and she listened to his words. They were deceiving words. The Devil is a liar from the beginning and a murderer from the beginning. He is the father of lies. He began to tell her that God's words to her were not correct and that God was trying to keep her from enjoying a super knowledge that she could have if she would just eat of the tree that God had forbidden Adam and Eve to eat. She believed the Devil, and she took of the fruit and ate. Then she gave to her husband, and he ate of the forbidden fruit, also.

When that happened, a dark shadow of doubt and despair came over the hearts of Adam and Eve, and they never again had that wonderful fellowship with God as they did before. Romans 1:21 says, *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened* Paul is not here speaking particularly of Adam and Eve, but it is the same principle. When Adam and Eve turned from their trust in God to do their own bidding, their foolish hearts were darkened, and the entire human race became guilty before God.

Again we read Jer 17:9 *The heart [is] deceitful above all [things], and desperately wicked: who can know it?* The heart is now deceitful above all things. It is desperately wicked. This

is the heart you were born with. This is the heart of every man, woman, boy and girl in this world who is born of a woman. You cannot trust your own heart. So, why would God want that heart?

Now notice Jer 17:10 *I the LORD search the heart, [I] try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, [and] according to the fruit of his doings.* The Lord searches the heart, so he knows how wicked it is. He knows that our hearts are black and dirty with sin and cannot trust the Lord and love the Lord God on its own. So, why does he want our hearts?

II. THE CRAVINGS OF THE HEART

With this depraved heart inside our being, this wicked heart is not right with God on its own. It has some very wicked cravings. In Matt. 15:8 the Lord said to the scribes and Pharisees *This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with [their] lips; but their heart is far from me.*

Many people think that the heart of man is searching God and must eventually find him before his heart will be eased. This cannot be true, because the Bible says that no one searches after God. That is because the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked. It is the nature of this depraved heart to be far from God.

Now let's read Matt 15:18-19 *But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:* Oh, that old dirty heart! Why would God want that heart, a heart that craves these wicked sins?

My heart is not worthy for the God of heaven to desire. Why would he want me to give him this heart of mine? I do not deserve such an invitation from God. His ideals are so far from

me that I cannot even begin to comprehend or understand his ways. So, why would he ask me to give him my heart, a heart with cravings for murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, and blasphemies?

III. THE CURE OF THE HEART

With this kind of disease of the heart, wouldn't it be nice if there were a cure? There is, you know, a balm in Gilead. There is a healing stream. There is a fountain filled with blood. There is river that flows from heaven above. There is a ransom. There is a cure!

Notice as we read Ac 16:14 *And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard [us]: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.* When Lydia, who had a desperate and deceiving heart, heard the word of God, she was not receptive. She was like all of us. Her heart was far from God. But notice the miracle of this verse. It says “whose heart the Lord opened.” While she was hearing the word of God, the Lord used the power of the Gospel to open her heart, and that heart was opened to the attention of the things which were spoken by Paul.

The cure for this old wicked heart is for the Gospel to be preached and for God to, by his wonderful grace, open the heart. The heart of Lydia was opened so that she could see the truth of the word of God as it was preached and could surrender her life to Jesus Christ and follow the doctrines of the apostles and love them and cherish them in her heart.

That's what happens when God touches our hearts. We are made to be new creatures in Christ, old things pass away, behold all things become new. The heart is turned from a cold, hard heart to a new heart of flesh which can be molded and made like the Lord wants it.

Every disease needs a cure, and the heart is no exception to this. Every heart is diseased and broken, and it needs the power of Almighty God to make it new. We need a heart transplant, you might say. If you today can hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, his death, burial and resurrection, and know that it is the truth, then your heart will be turned into a new heart, and you can believe and trust Jesus Christ as personal Savior. He will be your friend, your surety, your Great Physician. You will have a new heart, and your cravings will no longer be toward the sins of the world but will be toward the Lord Jesus Christ, your Master and Lord. You will love him more than anything in the whole world. You will have a strong desire to please him, to love him and to serve him.

This is the cure for your heart. When it is cured and all sin has been taken from it, when old things are passed away and all things are become new, then God looks at your heart as a perfect heart, because he gives you through faith the very righteousness of Jesus Christ, and God sees no sin in your heart, no deceit in your heart, not wickedness in your heart. He sees only the righteousness of his Son,

Now do you suppose God wants our heart? Now do you suppose the Lord would actually say to someone like that, "Give me thine heart." Is this the kind of heart the Lord wants? I think so. After we are born again and become children of God, we should give our hearts to him and surrender our lives to him. He will use us in his service. 2 Tim. 2:20-21 tell us that, if we will cleanse ourselves from the vessels of dishonor that we will be vessels of honor and meet, or fit, for the Master's use and prepared unto every good work.

Do you think maybe that is the kind of heart the Lord wants? I think he wants a clean heart. Jas 4:8 says, *Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse [your] hands, [ye] sinners; and purify [your] hearts, [ye] double minded.* You see, ... *they that are after the*

flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.
(Rom. 8:5). If we have a new heart, we are after the Spirit of God. We do mind the things of the Spirit of God. We are concerned about spiritual things, not earthly things.

Do you need your heart cured today? Is your heart still in the flesh? Are you still lost in your sins? If so, then God is not interested in having your heart. He cannot look upon sin. That sin must be dealt with and paid for. The only way to pay for your sins is in the blood of Jesus Christ, shed upon the cross of Calvary where he hung and died and suffered my hell in my place. If your heart has not been cured, then you must listen to the Gospel, repent of your sins and believe on Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, that he died and paid for all your sins, was buried and rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

Then you can give that new heart to God by coming before this church and confessing your sins to these people, submitting yourself to scriptural baptism and becoming a member of a good local church so you can serve the Lord, giving your entire life to him. He wants that kind of heart and no other kind. How about your heart today?

IV. THE CRY OF THE HEART

Once this heart has been changed and made new, it will cry out with a refreshing refrain of relief from that old nasty heart that once was dwelling in you. It will cry out in **love** to God. Let us read:

Mark 12:30-33 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this [is] the first commandment. 31 And the second [is] like, [namely] this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. 32 And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: 33 And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love [his] neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings

and sacrifices.

Then there is a cry of **relief** from the troubles of the world and the doubts that come to us so often. Jesus said in John 14:1 *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.* If Jesus is our Savior, if our complete faith and trust is in him, if we have repented and turned from our old sins to the Savior and trusted him, if we have been changed by the act of God's grace, then we have nothing to fear or to be troubled about.

"Give me thine heart," the Lord said. That means for us to surrender our whole being to him for love and service. That's the kind of heart the Lord wants, a surrendered, a loving heart that is thankful for all the Lord has done for us. We should always have that heart of thanksgiving to him for saving our souls. The Lord has been so good to us.

Now in John 14:27 we read, *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.* We have nothing to fear now that the Lord has given us new life. We do not need to fear the Devil, the world, or anything that is in the world. The Lord is our Savior, our Shield, our Buckler, our ever-present help. Why should we fear? The Lord says on many occasions, "Fear not."

Then there is the cry of **rejoicing**. Notice John 16:22 *And ye now therefore have sorrow: but I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you.* Paul said to the Philippians in Php 4:4 *Rejoice in the Lord alway: [and] again I say, Rejoice.* What can we do but rejoice in the Lord? Why should we be downhearted or discouraged? The Lord is everything to the believer. Our hearts should cry out daily with rejoicing in our Lord. We can rejoice in believing; we can rejoice in singing; we can rejoice in service; we can rejoice in prayer; we can rejoice in studying God's word. Rejoice! Rejoice! for the new heart the Lord has given us.

Jesus tells these disciples to rejoice that they will see him again. They were very discouraged that he said he was going away and that they could not come. He tells them here to rejoice, because they will see him again.

It is the same with us. Our hearts can rejoice that, since we have seen the Lord through faith, we will see him again in a literal way. We will see him with our own physical eyes. He will come again in glory to take us away from this old wicked world and to a Paradise that is eternal. There our hearts will be settled with the knowledge of an eternal home with Jesus Christ.

Are you going to see Jesus one day? Will you recognize him as your Savior? Will you be glad when the skies roll back as a scroll and the Lord Jesus returns? Will you be happy to know that Jesus will reign upon this earth for 1,000 years? Will you rejoice that we will no longer have these old depraved bodies but will be made like unto his glorious body? Oh, I will be glad when that comes. I am looking forward to that wonderful day, the Day of the Lord, when Jesus is known far and wide as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Have you given your heart to him. He says that you should. Have you surrendered that saved heart to service in the vineyard of the King? Have you given over your whole self, heart, soul, mind and body to him? If not, today will you give your heart to him? As a Christian, you should give your heart to him. It is his creation, and he wants it for his own use.

Young people who are saved should give their hearts to Jesus today. They should turn away from the lure and temptations of the world and give their hearts to Jesus. Young people, you will enjoy your life so much better and live to see a wonderful end if you will give your heart to Jesus today, that saved heart, that regenerated heart, that new heart that Jesus has made like a heart of flesh. Give it to him. Don't give it to your parents or your girlfriend or

your best friend. Give it to God. He will make you a vessel of honor, and you will be so glad that you gave your heart to him as a young person. Too many of the older people today are so sorry that they did not give their hearts to the Lord many years ago. They are sorry for the wasted years that have been spent not serving the Lord. You do not have to experience that. Give your heart to him seriously today, and your life will be wonderful in his service.

Young man, if God is calling you to preach, do not turn away to the world. Surrender to that call. Prepare yourself for that work, and do that work for the rest of your life. If God is calling someone here to go to the mission field as a missionary, give that heart to God. You will never be sorry you did. God will bless you, and you will be a vessel of honor to him.

Now, if you have never been saved by the grace of God, then you do not have a heart worthy to give to God. It is still in sin, deceitful, depraved and desperately wicked. You need today to turn from that sin, see Jesus as the Savior, as your substitute on the cross, dying for your sins and paying your sin-debt by his own shed blood. You need to trust his death, burial and resurrection for your salvation. That is when the new heart comes. When you trust the Lord, then you have a new heart, one that God wants to use to his glory. Then, when you have trusted him, give your heart to him.

Can you hear the Lord say to you today, "Give me thine heart"? Can you hear this plea to God's people? Can you understand the importance of this invitation? Then today, give your heart to the Lord. Are you ready today to give your heart to God, turning it over to him completely for his use and praise? Come on, let's be serious; let's give our hearts to God. It is his wish, and it will be our profit.