DAY 1

A HEART *After God*

THE MOTIVE IS RELATIONSHIP.

When we hear that David was a man after God's own heart, it can be easy to imagine that meant he always got it right.

He absolutely did not.

David sinned. He avoided truth. There were times when he failed spectacularly. But even in his failure, David came honestly before God. And that is what revealed his heart.

Maybe having a heart after God isn't about perfection. Maybe it's about what we are willing to do with the truth when God reveals it.

THE SCRIPTURES

PSALM 51:6

Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb;
you taught me wisdom in that secret place.

PSALM 139:23-24

Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

JEREMIAH 17:9-10

The heart is deceitful above all things
and beyond cure. Who can understand it?
"I the Lord search the heart and examine the mind,
to reward each person according to their conduct,
according to what their deeds deserve."

HERREWS 4:12-13

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Honey Badger Healing

Seriously though...
Stay Pirate.

DAY 1 - A HEART AFTER GOD

The motive is relationship.

When we hear that David was a man after God's own heart, it can be easy to imagine that meant David always got it right.

He absolutely did not.

David sinned. He avoided truth. There were times when he failed spectacularly. Psalm 51 came from one of those seasons. David had spent time refusing to fully acknowledge what he had done before he finally came honestly before God.

And yet, David was still described as a man after God's own heart.

Maybe having a heart after God isn't about perfection.

Maybe it's about what we are willing to do with the truth when God reveals it.

Psalm 139:23-24 contains an incredibly vulnerable prayer:

Search me. Know my heart. Test me. Know my anxious thoughts. See what is in me. Lead me.

That requires trust.

We are essentially giving God permission to enter the places in ourselves that we may not completely understand - or may not particularly want to look at.

Jeremiah reminds us why we need Him there. Our hearts can deceive us. We are not always objective observers of ourselves. We can justify things, misunderstand our motives, protect wounds, excuse behaviors, or simply fail to recognize what is happening beneath the surface.

But God can see what we cannot.

And Hebrews 4 tells us that His Word is alive and active, capable of penetrating deeply enough to judge the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

Nothing is hidden from Him.

That could sound terrifying if our relationship with God were based only on judgment.

But it isn't.

The motive is relationship.

A TETHER. A CONDUIT.

We talk frequently about giving our hearts to God. But relationship moves in both directions. As we give Him access to our hearts, He reveals His heart to us.

There is a **tether** between them.

And through that tether comes a **conduit** - a place where truth, wisdom, correction, love, direction, and understanding can move between God and us.

That changes the prayer.

> **Search me because I trust You.**
>
> **Show me because I want truth.**
>
> **Teach me because I don't know everything.**
>
> **Correct me because I want to grow.**
>
> **Lead me because I want to follow You.**

As we begin this time of prayer and fasting, we don't need to arrive already cleaned up.

We don't need perfect motives.

We don't need to understand everything happening inside us.

We simply need enough trust to become honest before God.

David's failures did not disqualify him from having a heart after God.

His heart after God was revealed in what he eventually did with the truth.

So perhaps our first invitation during this fast is simply this:

COME HONESTLY.

Let God search.
Let Him reveal.
Let Him teach.
Let Him correct.

And when He shows you something, resist the instinct to hide it, defend it, condemn yourself for it, or run from it.

Stay tethered.

Because the God who searches your heart is also the God you are asking to lead it.

PRAYER

Father,

As we begin this time of prayer and fasting, we give You permission to search us.

Know our hearts. Know our fears, our motives, our wounds, our desires, and even the things within us that we cannot yet recognize ourselves.

Show us truth - not so that we can live in condemnation, but so that we can grow closer to You.

Teach us wisdom in the secret places.

When we are wrong, correct us. When we are confused, give us understanding. When something needs healing, reveal it gently. When we need direction, lead us.

Help us remain tethered to Your heart even when what You show us is uncomfortable.

We don't come to You pretending to have everything figured out.

We come honestly.

Search us because we trust You.
Show us because we want truth.
Teach us because we don't know everything.
Correct us because we want to grow.
Lead us because we want to follow You.

May our hearts become increasingly aligned with Yours throughout this time together.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.