

worst days he had known as a child of God in prison and battling cancer, were better than the best days he had known before coming to Christ.

**“Whoever sows a lot of seeds reaps a bountiful harvest. Whoever sows a few seeds reaps a small harvest. Each of us must purpose in our hearts what we will give. Do not do this reluctantly feeling like you have to do it, because God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor. 9:6-7)**

The heart in scripture is not the seat of our *emotions* but of our *wills*- the kind of Christian life we choose to live. God asks us to purpose in our hearts to give generously because this makes giving an act of the will rather than the emotions. The future of Christianity depends upon its disciplined people who do their share, whether it is easy or hard, whether they feel like it or not. God's great ones are those who tread the path of duty, basing their lives upon the revealed will of God and serving Him because they love Him.

True love is determined by actions more than emotions. A worn-out father, just home from work, does not really FEEL like playing ball with his boys but he musters the energy and does it anyhow. That is love. “If you love me,” said Jesus, “keep my commandments.” (Jn. 14)

### **The Most Important Question a Christian has to Answer**

**“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said, ‘Simon (Peter) do you love me?’”**

Another “Simon” - Simon Peter was a miserable failure in living the Christian life. He boasted that the other Apostles might deny knowing Jesus, but not him. We know the “rest

of the story”. He denied him over and over and threw in a few curse words to prove it.

When Jesus asked this question, He was actually saying, “I’m not through with you Simon. I have a job for you. I still love you and complete forgiveness and another chance is only a prayer away.” When Peter said he did love him, Jesus told him to be a shepherd to the people who would become Christians because the church was willing to invite all kinds of people to walk beside them as fellow Christians. Jesus was also saying, “Simon, I have faith in you.” He places the success or failure of the church’s future into the unstable hands of Simon Peter and men and women like him. I can see the angels cover their faces in astonishment and react, “No! Lord! You can’t trust the likes of him. He means well but he is so unreliable and weak.”

My friends, I look at you with your faults and frailties and failure and then I look in the mirror at myself, with my faults, frailties and failures. Who am I to lead you? I sometimes think God has lost his mind entrusting His noble work to the likes of people like you and me. But there is something about His faith in me that inspires me to do a little better and hit a little harder and stand a little longer. What about you? God is depending upon you! God is counting on you! Isn’t that an unbelievable, inspiring thought! No failure is final until we quit trying.

Christ has no hands but our hands  
To do His work today  
He has no help but our help  
to lead folks to His way  
He has no tongues but our tongues  
to tell folks why He died  
He has no arms but our arms  
To bring folks to His side

**For God so loved the world that He gave...” - John 3:16**