



Highlights

God of the Turnaround:

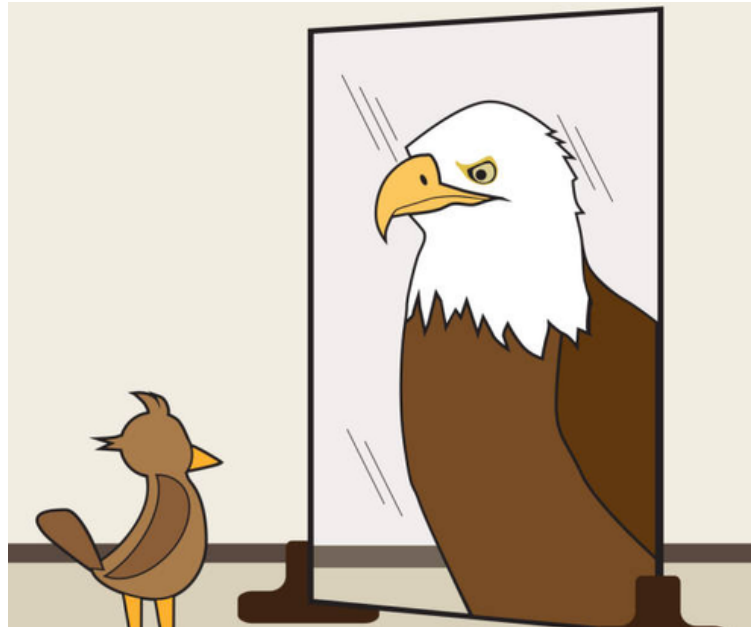
For as long as I can remember, I struggled with I severe speech problem. I remember whenever I was in a public setting I didn't talk unless I absolutely had to. pg 6

Heart Believes:

For it is with your heart that you believe. To me this is so deep and so profound. Many times, we think that it is all in our mind. pg 8

As Garbage:

"Perfection" runs in the same circle as "Religion." They may even be cousins. They're both murderers. pg 15



Are Demons Scared of YOU?

by Pastor Noe

So, a while ago, I was ministering to a lady who is quite sensitive in the spirit. We called up a demon that didn't have any legal rights and so he, the demon, knew what was coming next. I was a little bit tired of this one's shenanigans on this particular day and got up in his face (of course my client was very aware even though it was her physical space I was encroaching upon it wasn't against her but the demon).

In any case, afterwards she told me that she could feel the fear that this demon had when I got up in her grill (I'm trying to be hip and cool but I usually blow it when I do).

I find that, generally speaking, many people are scared of demons. Sometimes this is out of ignorance. Other times they feel that is not their calling. Also, they may not understand who they really are, the identity that they have from the Father and the authority that they have from Yeshua/Jesus being in them.

Even if you do know those aspects, there is still a learning curve as He trains our hands for battle (2Sam 22:35, Psa 18:34, Psa 144:1). The more you learn and experience in spiritual warfare, the more the fear of the unknown diminishes.

That's not to say we'll ever have it all figured out. But, when the pieces are in place, you become a little bit more emboldened to deal with demons once you start understanding that we are fighting spiritual beings more than flesh and blood (Eph 6:12), and start understanding they only have as much power as we give them - although we've given them a lot through the generations.

But still, truth be told, the demons should actually be more scared of us than we are of them. The demons know this, so they start attacking us even as little children trying desperately to keep us from ever figuring this out.

They use all different types of fear to keep us down - and here I mean fear in the broadest sense - rejection (fear of not being accepted), anger (sometimes this is the fear of not being in control), sickness (fear of not being healthy), etc. - to put fear into us. They try to get us to focus on those things instead of Yah's/God's Word and who we really are through Yeshua/Jesus.

I'm not saying it's easy, I'm just saying that's how they operate most times. But I want to take a look at what the Bible says about this - in particular in the book of Acts after The Ruach haKodesh/Holy Spirit was given to indwell within those who have accepted Yeshua/Jesus as their personal Savior.

Acts 5:1-5, 9-11

"But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?"

While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God." When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it... (v9) But Peter said to her, 'How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.' Immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. When the young men came in they found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things."

So, in large, part the book of Acts is really how we as disciples should be operating as we learn to actually live the bible and take dominion over the earth (Gen 1:26). I believe Yah/God said that because He knew there were demons that needed to be dealt with that were cast down to the earth. But much like how the Jews didn't cast all of the

"...truth be told, the demons should actually be more scared of us than we are of them."

pagans out of the promised land - because we ourselves have gotten comfortable with sin, the enemy has grown to be a formidable force.

That's another reason why people are scared of demons. Because the sin all across the land has empowered the demons because of the evil that has been allowed. The demons feed off this negative energy.

So, even if you aren't called to be a deliverance minister, by sharing what you can of the Yeshua/Jesus and His Word with a non-believer, doing good 'works,' however you are called to do that, you are helping to slowly grow the Kingdom of Yah/God. So it is in Heaven, so it be on Earth doesn't happen automatically.

Isaiah 59:15-16

"And the truth is lacking, and whoever turns away from evil makes himself a prey. And יהוה saw, and it displeased Him that there was no right-ruling. And He saw that there was no man, and was astonished that there was no intercessor. So His own arm saved for Him, and His righteousness upheld him."

2 Chronicles 16:9

"For the eyes of יהוה diligently search throughout all the earth, to show Himself to be strong on behalf of those whose heart is perfect to Him. You have acted foolishly in this, so from now on you shall have battles."

We all have a part to play. You've been created for a time such as this (Est 4:14). There are too many 'disciples' that are on the sidelines as the enemy is trying to take over this world. They are quite content with their contemporary complacent religion. As long as they have enough money in their bank

account, they are good with life.

We were created for so much more. I'll just end with this. We know we are in a good place when we are living out verses like this:

Proverbs 28:1

"The wrong shall flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion."

So really those that are doing evil should be seeing and even be fearful or in awe of the True Living Yah/God that we allow to be expressed through us. But when evil is allowed to thrive unchallenged... well, that's a much more tragic story.

I pray this helps you.

-Noe

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An Attitude of Gratitude

by Minister Bill Vaughn

With the coming of Fall each year, we get to see God's beauty in many ways. Farmers get to experience a harvest from their hard work with the crops they have planted and tended for several months, and many local trees give up their fruits as they respond to the change of seasons and release acorns, pecans, or other nuts as their leaves change colors and fall to the ground. The Thanksgiving holiday can also be a festive occasion to spend time with friends and family and express our gratitude for God's blessings in our lives.

Jesus spoke of harvests in a parable to His disciples. He spoke of those who labor over a crop as it is planted and tended, and then He spoke of others who were used to reap the harvest. Locally, these crops include wheat, corn, soybeans, and cotton, but He was speaking of the human harvest of souls that



The Bible also compares God's people to trees in the book of Psalms.

Psalms 1 states:

“Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its

He was calling to His Kingdom. Some were sent to tell the people about Jesus and eternal life (plant the seed), and others were the ones who led them to salvation. All of them were rewarded for their efforts. This still rings true today as followers of Jesus share the good news of who He is and lead non-believers to Him.

John 4:35-38

“Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest?' I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together. Thus the saying 'One sows and another reaps' is true. I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labor.”

fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.”

As God's people are obedient to Him and study His word, we will be blessed and whatever we do will prosper. Unlike the trees whose leaves fall off and die in the fall, we will not wither! This is something we can truly be thankful for!

Dear Mama

Q: *Why should we pray? Why is it such an important part of being a Christian? Do I need to pray as often as everyone says?*

A: Let's start with understanding what prayer is!

Prayer is:

- Communication with God
- A tool in a Christian's weaponry
- One of the BIGGEST threats to Satan's plans (with the other being the

Word/sword of God).

Now that this has been established, we can answer the questions that have been posed.

Prayer is the key to God's heart. Communication is the key to any relationship, and God's heart is to have a relationship with every one of his children. Being that you are a Christian, you are a child of God adopted into his family. And how does one create relationships? Only by communication, talking with another and spending time getting to know the character of the other person. Well, that's exactly what prayer does for us.

We spend time reading God's Word, sitting, and talking with him. When you are in a new relationship and you really like the person, you spend as much time with them as possible so that you can get to know them. You want to know everything about them. You are going out on dates, sitting on the phone talking insanely... everything becomes all about that person. This is how an actual relationship is created and this is what God wants from us.

In prayer, we get to know God's heart and plans for our life, and he gets to know our heart for him. But as with all communication, it is a two-way street; we are not the only one speaking and should always be in position to hear from our Father.

"Prayer is the
key to
God's heart."

This communication is a time of intimacy and ministry to Him and the place where your faith and trust are put into action.

He loves you and loves to hear your voice. He is just waiting for you to come to him.

-Pastor Q

Prayer to Reject Deception About Our Position in Christ

from Aslan's Place

"I reject the lie my ancestors believed, which said that God could not be trusted and we must trust only in our own endeavors and efforts because He did not come through for us.

I repent for my generational line and myself back to before the beginning of time for perpetuating that lie through all successive generations because it was taught and modeled by each generation:

- *Claiming they believed but not practicing their supposed faith; thus teaching their children to do the same, and to operate in unbelief*
- *Not believing that we are more than conquerors*
- *Focusing our eyes on the things of the earth and its concerns, rather than on the Lord and His abundant provision in all areas of life, including financial, emotional and spiritual abundance, and physical health*

I declare that I will turn my gaze from the things below, set it on things above, and take my seat in heavenly places.

Father, please focus my gaze upon Jesus,

Haikus for the Season

by Shauna Williams

*My heart is bursting
I can sense newness
brewing
Lord, fill me again*

*Heart songs lifted up
Reaching his ears, pure,
sincere
He answers, he hears*

*Shifting atmosphere
Powerful Glory falling
It's time, change is here*

*Warriors stepping forth
For such a time as this one
Answering the call*

*Unity in Him
One heart, one breath, one
Spirit
Moving fluidly*

*Nations awaking
All of heaven is shouting
Let his Kingdom come!*

*Jesus lifted up
People coming far and
wide
Revival is now!*



Who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. I choose to live my life from above, letting go of the log in the eye of Adam and the generational line, which is the knowledge of good and evil. I choose eternal sight instead of earthly sight. I declare that Christ will live in me and His light will shine out of my eyes.

Lord, please remove me from all places of entrapment and deception in the width, length, depth and height, and from all ungodly heavenly places, realms and kingdoms. I declare I will dwell only in the righteous heavenly places."

<https://aslansplace.com/language/en/prayer-to-reject-deception-about-our-position-in-christ/>

The God of the Turnaround

by Cornelius Ashworth

If you know anyone who feels like their situation is impossible, tell them that Jesus specializes in the impossible. When He is involved, the word "impossible" no longer exists. For years, I've heard people say God can do anything and now I know for myself that He really can do anything.

For as long as I can remember, I struggled with I severe speech problem. I remember whenever I was in a public setting I didn't talk unless I absolutely had to. I went for the shortest phrases and even that was a battle. The looks I got all the time did a number on my confidence. Either the other person would look at me like I had two heads, smirk, or just start laughing. I didn't notice then, but through it all God would come pick me

"...when Jesus is involved,
the word "impossible"
no longer exists."

back up again and give me strength to keep striving. Thanks to God, I always had good grades in school and overall I remember being a happy child. I was raised in church and my parents prayed for me a lot so I believe that shielded me from a lot of stuff.

As I got older, I was mainly known for athletics and since I was so quiet most people never knew I had a speech problem in high school. I despised presentations and I would always want to skip out on them and do an alternative assignment or just present to the teacher privately. I would still get nervous presenting privately and had a hard time saying what I had to say. Once I was done, I would walk out embarrassed but relieved at the same time because it was over. By the grace of God, I got through it and moved forward in life. Unfortunately, as I got into my 20's, I remained a very lukewarm Christian and never took my walk with God seriously. Over time, my speech got worse and worse to the point where I would stutter on just about every word. It was like God was taking His hand completely off me and my life was a mess.

I had no direction and it drove me to my knees to surrender to Jesus. God forgave me and I committed my life to Him. My speech was still bad, but I had a sense of hope that God would help me with it if I tried to live right and kept asking Him for healing.

One day last year, I went to the mall to look for something and ran into Pastor Mark. He told me about how God had just healed a lady a few moments before I walked up. As we went down the escalator, he asked me if I needed prayer for anything and I said, "Yes, my speech." He took me over to the side and prayed for me and had me recite the Lord's prayer. It took me awhile to get it out, but he was patient. At the time, I didn't know him at all but I could feel that he genuinely cared and wanted God to move. He prayed for me a second time and had me try again. This time it was much better than before. He had me recite a couple scriptures and the words came out well.

He gave me his card and we departed. I never found what I came in the mall looking for, but I walked out with something that money can't buy. Ever since that day, my faith increased and my speech has gradually gotten even better. The first half of this year I felt like I was under heavy construction. At the time I knew God was preparing me for something but I didn't know what. Little did I know, the whole time I was getting ready to step into something that had been my worst fear: speaking in front of people. Within the last 4 months, I've given 3 sermons with the help of the Holy Spirit. I never saw myself attempting to do anything like this at all; not even once.

What a turnaround! Only God can do something like that. As I said before, when Jesus is involved, the word "impossible" no longer exists.

What a Mighty God we serve. He's still able to save, heal, and deliver!



Heart Believes

by Amber Rice

How many of you have struggled with unbelief?

How many of us try to mentally talk down our disbelief by listing out why it is true and we should believe, but yet we still have this lingering feeling of unbelief?

How many of you have felt unbelief rise while you were trying to pray for healing for someone and rebuke the devourer only to feel worse after the rebuke?

I can raise my hand and say yes to every single one of these questions and I am a follower of Christ. I love God. He is my Lord and Savior.

These questions and scenarios indicate that we have a belief about unbelief. Where do you think unbelief comes from?

The Lord met me a couple of weeks ago. He met me in a most creative and beautiful way.

He revealed His precious word to me and shined His light on it which opened my blinded eyes to His amazing truth.

Here is it... this one scripture opened the floodgates of Heaven for me:

Romans 10:10

"For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."

What stands out to you about this scripture? What does it say to you?

You may say, I know that scripture. It's about salvation. It is, but is also about so much more.

Let's read it again.

Romans 10:10

"For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."

For it is with your heart that you believe.

To me this is so deep and so profound. Many times, we think that it is all in our mind. We battle and battle because the battle is fought in the mind. That may be true to a certain extent, but the heart is the territory we are fighting for.

As little children, we believe everything right? Why do you think Jesus said that we must come unto Him as little children?

Matthew 19:14

“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’”

Matthew 18:3

“Then he said, ‘I tell you the truth, unless you turn from your sins and become like little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven.’”

Children are so innocent. They believe so much! Let me ask you this, what makes a child not believe?

Many would say life experiences. Believing in someone or something and then being lied to, let down, or hurt by them. Some may say sin. How did sin come in but by believing someone other than God only to be let down by them (Eve and the serpent)?

This word is for the unbelievers... both those who follow and do not follow Christ. Yep... there are plenty of unbelieving followers of Christ and He is ready to free those that want to truly be free from this unbelief and move into a freedom like they have never known.

Let's go back to the word.

Romans 10:10

“For it is with your heart that you believe...”

Now, some people would like to dig into this and get all theoretical and say this means spirit not heart, but I am not here to play that game. I am here to tell you what the word of God says. It says it is with your heart that you believe. I challenge you to not go by what you have been taught, but go back to what the word actually says. I challenge you to not reason and to take Him at His word.

The word even says:

Hebrews 4:12

“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.”

This indicates that there is a cut that needs to happen to divide soul and spirit to get to the heart. If the heart was the soul or the spirit, or on that note even the mind, why would you have to cut through to get to them. Would they not just be there when you get to the soul or to the spirit?

*“ ... the heart is
the territory
we are fighting for.”*

Now we are getting somewhere.

How often do we just glance over the word "heart" in the Bible? Jesus spoke so often about the heart. Your heart, the deep dark place that only you and God really know... and TRULY ONLY GOD REALLY KNOWS.

The word says this:

Psalms 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."

Prophetic Art

by Gregory Hall



Here are two different scriptural references about thoughts being generated from the heart. The Holy Spirit reminded me of a teaching Perry Stone did related to the heart being able to think.

He spoke on it in 2020 at Kings Cathedral on Maui when he was in town. It was a powerful message.

The Holy Spirit that night showed me that He was healing my heart.

God is so amazing because He is bringing it all full circle.

Not only do we see that God can and does know our heart, but He also knows our anxious thoughts!

The Lord brought me to Samuel in response to a question I had about His heart. God is so amazing. He began to reveal so much to me through the story of Hannah and Samuel.

The Birth of Samuel:

1 Samuel 1:1-5

"There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite[a] from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none. Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the Lord Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the Lord. Whenever the day came

for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the Lord had closed her womb.”

I want to stop here and note that the Lord had closed her womb. This may be hard for some to swallow. She could not have children because of the Lord. Let’s keep going:

1 Samuel 1:6-8

“Because the Lord had closed Hannah’s womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat. Her husband Elkanah would say to her, ‘Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don’t you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don’t I mean more to you than ten sons?’”

Hannah at this point is hurt. Her heart is hurt. She has experienced trauma.

1 Samuel 1:9-13

“Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the Lord’s house. In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. And she made a vow, saying, ‘Lord Almighty, if you will only look on your servant’s misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his

“...Hannah was praying in her heart. It wasn’t her mind, or her soul...”

life, and no razor will ever be used on his head.’ As she kept on praying to the Lord, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard.”

Please note that Hannah was praying in her heart. It wasn’t her mind, or her soul... she was praying from the deep place. She wasn’t just thinking and praying, she was pouring. This gets God’s attention. Psalms 34:15 even says that the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are open to their cry. He hears you... He wants our hearts.

Okay going back to the scripture:

1 Samuel 1:13-18

(v13 continued) “Eli thought she was drunk and said to her, ‘How long are you going to stay drunk? Put away your wine.’ ‘Not so, my lord,’ Hannah replied, ‘I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the Lord. Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief.’ Eli answered, ‘Go in peace, and may the God

of Israel grant you what you have asked of him.' She said, 'May your servant find favor in your eyes.' Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast."

Hannah believed in her heart. She believed so much that it changed her actions. This is deep. Her actions changed because of her belief. She began to eat where before she would not.

1 Samuel 1:19-20

"Early the next morning they arose and worshiped before the Lord and then went back to their home at Ramah. Elkanah made love to his wife Hannah, and the Lord remembered her. So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel saying, 'Because I asked the Lord for him.'"

Here it is. We don't understand the trauma that we have been through. We don't understand all of the why's, but God has a plan.

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted. Hannah reached out with her broken heart and God answered.

This story is so awesome because it doesn't end here. The Lord chooses Samuel to take over for Eli. It was prophesied that Samuel would do what is in God's heart and mind according to 1 Samuel 2:35:

"I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my



heart and mind. I will firmly establish his priestly house, and they will minister before my anointed one always."

Not only this, but Samuel was the one to anoint David as king. David was noted as one who was after God's own heart according to 1 Samuel 13:14:

"But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."

And Acts 13:22:

"After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'"

God responded to Hannah's heart with His own Heart! He allowed Hannah, and the response to her heart's prayer, to bring forth the king of a nation and ultimately the King of Kings, our Lord

and Savior (His Ultimate Heart)- because as we know Jesus is in direct lineage to David.

Don't be mistaken, it is all connected... He could have chosen anyone, but He chose people who had relinquished their hearts to Him.

He is wanting our hearts. He is wanting not only a pure heart, but he is wanting to heal our hearts just as He healed Hannah's heart.

We want to be in a different place, but we keep going around in circles... I submit to you this is because we are not doing the first thing that He commanded.

He said in Deuteronomy, and Jesus reiterated it when He walked the earth:

Deuteronomy 6:5

“And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”

Matthew 22:37

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

I truly believe that God was outlining a plan for our healing with this verse. I believe that the reason why we are not where we want to be with our walks is because we need to address the heart.

We focus on casting demons out of our souls and we try to retrain our brains; we wonder why our strength is fading, but if we do not address the heart we are missing the order of things. God led this command with the heart.

How can we believe if we have broken hearts? The good thing is God is near to the brokenhearted. This is His word and as we saw from Hannah, if we just open our hearts to Him, He will do a mighty work!

There is so much related to the heart that I could go on and on- like how the Lord's Prayer is a prayer of the heart.

Good Medicine

God: *blesses me with an extra chicken nugget*

Me:



Ladies if he:

- asks you how your day is going everyday
- supplies you with all of your needs
- wants God to be a central part of your relationship
- prays for you when you walk away

He is not your man. He is a Chik Fil A worker. Please stop holding up the line.

Pastor: *shares convicting word of knowledge that is definitely for me*

Me:



The main thing for today though is this:

Face the hurt. Face the let downs. Face the things that broke your heart. The things that left you in a place where it is hard to believe from the heart.

If you have been blaming God, bring it before Him. Talk with Him about it. He is near. He loves you and wants to reveal the truth. He is wanting to reveal His plan for you. He is wanting to restore belief to your heart.

In order to do this, we must turn to Him as **Deuteronomy 30** says. We must turn our hearts to Him. We must forgive from our hearts according to **Matthew 18:35**.

There is a depth of surrender that the Lord is looking for from His people. It is a letting go of self. It is going back to the words of Jesus and not just being a hearer, but a doer of the word. God is calling us to turn our hearts completely towards Him, not just a piece but the whole. Are you ready, child of God, to open yourself to the Holy Spirit? To respond to His every word and not reason away or rebuke? The shifting requires a sifting. It requires a mending and not a melding. It's time to address the things that hinder, all the pain that we like to stuff away and say we are over. It's time to face the emotions that rise at inopportune times and truly ask, "Where did that come from?" It's time to determine

"It is His
heart to
heal your heart."

the root and not just rebuke. Yes, spirits attach themselves to our pain, but in order to address the spirit or stronghold, we have to address the open door. The open door is the painful root that injured your heart.

God is so moved by you, so enthralled with you. He is so tired of seeing His children hurting. He wants to heal you, but do you want to take the medicine?

The word of God says this about our Father:

Psalms 147:3

*"He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds."*

It is His heart to heal your heart.

He said that whatever we bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever we loose on earth will be loosed in Heaven.

Your heart is key to Heaven! Your heart is key to loosing Heaven on Earth.

What do we pray every day? Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven!

There is a direct correlation to your heart and to Heaven.

Our first step is to turn to Him!

I encourage you today to pray and see what you have been holding onto in your heart that has kept you from either believing or loving God with your whole heart.

As Garbage

by Shauna Williams

Philippians 3:7-8

"But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ."

I always thought that in the above verse, the writer (Paul) was talking about letting go of the things of the world (money, possessions, etc). But if you read the entire chapter, you'll see he's actually discussing letting go of his own ways of being made right with God (ie his flesh: his achievements and good deeds). See how verse 8 flows into verse 9?:

Philippians 3:8-9

"What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ —the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith."

As he declares himself (in the following verses), he had PLENTY of reason to boast about his commitment to the Law, and own self-righteousness. Based on written requirements, Paul was "that guy." He was undoubtedly honored in the sight of his fellow Pharisees and even a leader.

Philippians 3:4-6

"though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless."

But Paul knew that once he accepted Christ, all that had to go out of the window. Every status and accolade and thing he had built for **himself**, everything based on what he did, had to go. He knew his right standing with God would not stand on such things. That it was now **faith**-based (Phil 3:9).

Paul, in essence, says, "I let go of me and I found Him." He says, "ITS NOT ABOUT ME!" He says, "every external means I could have held onto as esteem, I let go of that I may have the Greater Thing: Christ!"

He compares the former recognition as garbage compared to knowing and accepting Christ. And there is much to know!

Anything that lifts the weight of perfection, doing, and being "good enough" off little me and puts it back on Christ (its rightful place) causes me to rejoice and breathe.

"Perfection" runs in the same circle as "Religion." They may even be cousins. They're both murderers. They kill relationship with the Holy Spirit, peace, and joy. They invite in pride, a critical spirit, and striving. Truth is, and will always remain:

Christ is the **ONLY** Way, the **TRUTH**, and the **LIFE**. No one comes to the Father **EXCEPT** through Him! We are now approved, boldly loved, and free to grow in grace in partnership with the Holy Spirit. Hallelujah!



- December 10th: SigRev Comedy/Poetry/Talent Night, 7-10pm
- December 11th: Greg & Pastor Chiquita "Momma Q" Jackson (20 min sermons), 10am
- December 16th: Youth Pajama Jam, 7-11pm
- December 17th: Love Heals event, 3-6pm
- December 18th: Rovilla & April Woods (20 Min Sermons) + Pastor Donnie Q&A, 10am
- December 22nd: Prophetic Night (then every 3rd Thursday), Zoom, 7pm
- December 25th: SigRev Christmas Party - Celebrating our Yeshua!, 10am
- December 27th: Pastor Mark preaches at LFM, 7-10pm
- January 13th/27th: DEEP - Deliverance and Inner Healing Ministry, 630-930pm
- Bible Study: Every Monday, Zoom, 7-8pm
- Women's Prayer: Every Thursday (except 3rd Thursdays), Zoom, 7:30pm



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