

The Undivided Heart

Psalm 86:11-13

Because our heart is so often divided, we need the Lord to unite it so that we might worship Him with nothing held back. Our hearts are fragmented because we are pulled in so many directions at once.

What are the marks of a divided heart?

1. Perpetual Ambivalence

It has been said that a narcissist is a person who is unable to commit to anything outside of himself.

1 Chronicles 12:32, speaks about the men of Issachar who *"understood the times and knew what Israel should do."* Then in the very next verse we find this note about the warriors from the tribe of Zebulun. They are described as, *"Experienced soldiers prepared for battle with every type of weapon, to help David with undivided loyalty- 50,000"* (v. 33).

They were men of "undivided loyalty." Not partly for Saul and partly for David. But having made their choice, it was one heart all the time, nothing held back.

2. Divided Priorities

In Matthew 13 Jesus told a parable about a man who went out to sow seed. *"Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants"* (Matthew 13:7). And this is the explanation of the seed which fell among the thorns: *"The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful"* (Matthew 13:22) How quickly the "thorns of life" arise to divide our heart and divert our attention. These problems, trials and difficulties can choke out God's work and leave us spiritually anemic.

3. Unclear Identity

This follows logically. When the heart is divided, you won't know who you really are.

Peter didn't know his own heart. Less than five hours after proclaiming his loyalty, the bold apostle turned to butter. All it took was a servant girl to bring him down. No wonder he was confused. His divided heart had tripped him up.

Do you know who you are? Until you do, you'll never really know where you fit in. Once you know who you are, you can fit in anywhere. When you know who you are, you can serve Christ anywhere.