

ISSUES OF THE HEART

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“The heart is deceitful above all
Things and desperately wicked;
Who can know it?

Ω Jeremiah 17:9

The scriptures have much to say about the heart, especially in Proverbs. The scripture given above from Jeremiah is itself a pretty strong statement about the hearts of men. Jesus Himself also taught much about *issues* of the heart—the one that most people, even non-Christians, remember had to do with adultery. But Jesus was just affirming the Word because He is the Word.

My wife and I have found over many years of ministering to people that most Christians are blind to the issues in their

own hearts. Also, and this is quite sad and a commentary on the work of the ministry (or lack thereof) by most churches but it's been my experience—because the Lord has given me a very, very good gift of Discerning of Spirits (1 Cor. 12)—that most Christians—about 99%—don't have pure hearts! Their hearts are tainted in some regard by unforgiveness, bitterness, lack of love, gossiping, etc.

One of the Holy Spirit's jobs on the earth is to “convict the world of sin” and the last time I checked even though you may have become a Christian you are still in the world and so you should expect the Spirit to convict you of sin. Why? Because He is trying to conform you to the image of Christ Jesus so that the Body of Christ will resemble the Head who is already in Heaven waiting on His Body to “look” like Him so that He can come get us.

God has called us to Africa; we love the people of Africa and being involved with Africa for almost 30 years now we have ministered to millions of African people from all over the continent. And because the book the Lord had me write in 1991, *MYSTERIOUS SECRETS OF THE DARK KINGDOM*, is one of the most, if not the most, pirated and illegally printed books in Africa, we get many emails and phone calls each day from African people who have read the book and the Spirit has revealed problems in their lives that they never comprehended before.

And because they have grown up living among many witches, wizards and magicians who work for Satan, they tend to experience problems in life that we've seen and dealt with before like being 40 or 50 years old and not being able to marry, have children or keep a job. But as I tell people all the time, you need to be careful and be spiritually

discerning to be able to distinguish between attacks from the Dark Kingdom and works of the Holy Spirit who is trying to convict you of sin so that you can repent.

Quite often, as I wrote to a woman in Africa this morning, these unrepented sins are causing the problems that you have now. She wrote about having this recurring dream where she was back in the house where she grew up and a person resembling her mother was beating her daily. She would try to leave the house but could not. She has this same dream almost every single night and she was attributing it to an attack by Satan but in reality it is the Lord trying to show her that she (her spirit, soul and body) was still living in the house--the vessel--where she grew up and her mother abused her. Now in her dreams the beatings have stopped but she still cannot leave the house. This is clearly the language of the Holy Spirit. She needs to repent for the sins such as unforgiveness that are still in her heart as a result of this upbringing and the beatings--she needs to ask her mother to forgive her. She cannot "move" past the years of her youth and marry (even though she is 40 years old physically the dreams convey that she is still too young to marry, have a job, children, etc.). I know this will bless others who are experiencing the same type issues of the heart that the Holy Spirit is trying to convey to you.

Remember, as we tell Christians all the time, sin is an open door to the devil. As I preached to our church in Montana, if you leave the door to your house open in Montana there will come a day, and it will probably come within a week, that you will walk into your living room or kitchen and be confronted by a grizzly bear or a mountain lion who appreciated your open door of hospitality and came on in to find something to eat.

Satan is no different—if you do not repent of sin then he will use that sin to attack you and your family. So many Christians—because all they have heard preached is how much God loves us (and that’s true) and how God’s grace covers our sins or the erroneous teaching by some big name ministries that you don’t have to repent of sin because now you’re a Christian—do not realize how awful and sinister any sin is to a holy God. That’s why the Scriptures say we should be holy because God is holy. But sin has consequences and the sins you commit could cost you your life or the life of one of your children.

King David was a man “after God’s own heart.” Yet his sins of murder and adultery, even though he repented and asked forgiveness, cost him the life of his first son by Bathsheba. The same is still true today. The Bible says that “the wages of sin is death” and we tend to only associate that verse in Romans with salvation and the new birth but as I’m telling you boldly today your sin can cost you the life of a family member because Satan will preferentially attack your closest family because he knows that is where he can hurt you the most.

Now sometimes that “sin” becomes known. When we lived in Austin, a man decided and was tempted to step out on his wife while she was out of town. He said that this was the first and only time that this occurred and I believed he was telling the truth. But that sin exacted an awful penalty on that family. The woman he slept with was HIV+ and he contracted that disease and, of course, passed it on to his wife. I didn’t know it at the time but that virus attacks women much more viciously than men. His wife died rather quickly and, although God forgives like He did King David, this man has had to live with the fact that his sin caused his

wife's death. Satan loves to do this type thing because he uses guilt very effectively against the human race as I learned in Africa back in the '80s when the Holy Spirit showed me a father pouring the blood of his son into the blood banks in the heavens above the earth.

God wants us to be holy and to develop pure hearts. Oh how we need this message in the Church today, especially in what is called "Christian" television where there is so much witchcraft and manipulation of God's people by all these Balaam Boys as I call them! Sure they are rich because they spend all of their time talking about money and telling stupid Christians to "sow a seed" as if that is the magical solution to all of your problems. And the Bible, especially in 2 Peter, talks about this "by covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words" and "deceiving and being deceived."

God wants us to give to the work of the Gospel and there are three types of giving in the New Testament: tithes, offerings and alms. A tithe is 10% of your gross income and according to Gallup only 3% of Christians tithe today which means they are being unfaithful to God and as the Lord showed me in a vision when I was preaching in Akure, Nigeria, in December, 1989, if you are not tithing then you open the door for Satan to attack your finances.

Offerings are materialistic things—money, a car, a house, etc.—that you decide to give to the work of the ministry. And alms are just like an offering except that alms are given strictly to the poor and also alms carry a special blessing! You don't and you won't hear this truth from the Balaam Boys because they want your money so they can buy more T.V. time to continue to ask for more money. But the Bible says that when you give to the poor you are "lending to the

Lord.” Wow! Now think about that! You know that the Lord will be a debtor to no man but what He does—and this is verified in the Gospels by Jesus’ own words—He *invests* the money you give to the poor in both physical and spiritual things! You receive a reward in Heaven that will be yours later and He also blesses you now on the earth—you get a double return on your money. Now I don’t know about you but I’d rather have the Lord invest my money than any Wall Street financial advisor or Warren Buffett.

This is an area where most of the Church is deceived as the scripture I quoted before points out. The Balaam Boys are used by Satan to get gullible Christians to give to them or the Balaam network they are whoring for because they get a percentage of the money given and this has two effects on you if you give to their pleas: 1) you will have no reward because you are giving to something that is not of God, and 2) you will be keeping money out of the hands of legitimate ministries who are doing the work of the Kingdom that you would receive a reward for giving to.

Now the key to giving is what the Lord showed me back in the late ‘70s—set the money aside in a special account or in a cookie jar and then on a regular basis pray, seek the Lord about where He wants you to give it. This is especially true for the tithe because it’s His money so you should ask Him where He wants you to invest it. Now the truth has been perverted as the Lord told me in 1989 when He said that “the church has not been taught the Biblical concepts of giving.” But the tithe does not belong to the local church as has been taught by most churches for decades. Again, they have a vested interest in telling you this. And even though we’ve started many churches in the USA and abroad for many years I’ve never taught that the tithe belongs to the

local church because the Bible doesn't say that. But as I've preached and written before, I do believe you should support your local church or it cannot continue to exist and God may in fact tell you to give all of the tithe to your local church but the point is—the tithe belongs to the Lord so you should ask Him what He wants you to do with it and that means you need to seek His face.

Now I devoted quite a bit to this “issue” of the heart regarding money because if only 3% of Christians tithe then that indicates they are being disobedient to the Lord in the area of finances and this also shows that they don't trust the Lord to do what He says He will do in the area of financial provision. A lot of Christians don't tithe because they say that “the tithe is Old Testament” but Jesus Himself explodes this as being not true in the Gospels and as I wrote earlier this “sin” will allow Satan to attack your finances.

Now let's talk about some other issues of the heart such as unforgiveness (which the Bible says in 1 John will send you to hell), prejudice, gossip, slandering, bitterness, backbiting, etc.

I trust that you want to have a very pure heart; maybe you don't. I hope that you do. So rather than belabor all of the possible sins of the heart that there are the Lord wants me to focus on what you can do to purify your heart and take care of the problems and issues of your heart so that you can live the blessed life that Jesus promised. The example I gave earlier regarding the repeated dreams--for over 20 years-- of a woman in Africa demonstrate that the Spirit wants to help us move on but we must recognize what He is doing and saying to us so that we are quick to repent of any sins of the heart.

In 1 Corinthians 11:31 Paul writes that “For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.” This ties in also with what he wrote Timothy about how a Christian determines the *type* vessel they are and what they want to become. How do we judge ourselves? We do it just like King David did and wrote about in Psalm 139:1, “Search me, O God, and know my heart.” Does God know our hearts? Yes, of course, but we must learn to sit quietly before the Lord like David did and *ask* Him to search our hearts and reveal it to us so that we can repent and have a clean heart.

In addition to spending quiet time in the presence of the Lord and asking the Holy Spirit to search and reveal your heart, spend a lot of time meditating on scriptures like Psalm 24, 51, *et al*, that deal with this issue.

In addition, I would spend time meditating in Luke 12. When Jesus was just an infant being dedicated to God in the Temple (Luke 2) a man named Simeon prophesied over Him a personal prophecy that is still being fulfilled today because Jesus is eternal.

**“Behold, this child is destined for the fall and
Rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which
Will be spoken against (yes, a sword will
Pierce through your own soul also),
That the thoughts of many hearts may
Be revealed.” Ω Luke 2:34-35**

Jesus said in Luke 12:35ff. that we should be “ready” for His return and that we should “be like men who wait for their master, when he will return ... that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately.”

And who are those that are not able to “open immediately?” They are ashamed; they are not prepared for their Lord’s return. They have issues of the heart that they have had years or decades to deal with but they have not done so— they have not allowed the Holy Spirit to search their hearts as David prayed so that sin and bad habits can be dealt with and repented of.

**Remember, Jesus said, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” If you’ve never seen God then it’s a pretty good indicator that your heart is not pure. I pray that you will do something about that today.
Maranatha!**



2 CORINTHIANS 4:7