

Heart after God

How is your HEART

- Everyone put your hand on your heart this morning – we are going to do a HEART examination and find out - how your heart is doing?
- Do you know that everyone dies ultimately due to HEART failure – the Bible says in Proverbs 4:23, **“Above all else, Guard your HEART, for everything you do flows from it/it is the wellspring of life.”**

WHY?

1. **Because your heart is extremely valuable_** – we don’t guard worthless things, I take my garbage out on a Tuesday evening, it is picked up on a Wednesday afternoon, it sits on the pavement all night – completely unguarded – WHY? Because it is worthless it has no value. **Not so with our heart, it is the essence of who you are. It is your authentic self – the core of your being, it is where all your dreams, your desires and your passions live – it is the part of you that connects with God and other people.** The word says **“Above all else!!!!”** it doesn’t say if you feel like it, or if I get around to it, or it would be nice – **NO** the word says make it your top priority!!!! **Proverbs 23:26** “My son, give me your HEART and let your eyes delight in my ways.”

I want to tell you this morning you are valuable??? God has made no one like you – you are unique!!!!

2. **Because your heart is the source of everything that you do** – it is the “Wellspring of Life” in other words it is the source of everything else in your life, **your HEART overflows into thoughts, words and actions.** If your heart is unhealthy it has an impact on everything else. Psalm 51:10 “Create in me a PURE heart, O God and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”

Supernatural life flows from a PURE HEART!!!!

3. **Because your heart is under constant attack** – when the word says to **“GUARD your heart”** it implies that you are living in a combat zone – there are many casualties in this spiritual war, many of us are oblivious to the reality of this war, we have an enemy who is gunning for our destruction every minute of the day – he not only opposes GOD, but he opposes everything that is aligned with HIM – including us!!!

Guarding our HEARTS helps us to win the war of good vs evil

It is said that we need to, “Rule with a heart of a servant & serve with the heart of a King!!!!” – A lifestyle of Servant hood flows from a HEART after God – Jesus our example came to serve not to be served – serving others is showing God’s love to them!!!

NB!!! “If your heart is unhealthy, it threatens everything else – family, friends, careers, your relationship with GOD – EVERYTHING.”

NB – Our HEART literally determines the course of our life.

Question this morning

- What highway is your heart on?
- What is your heart following after?

What Highway is your heart on?

Death & destruction follows the wide road or are you on the narrow road that leads to life?

Jesus teaching about the Way/Highway to Heaven says in Matthew 7:13-14 “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

The bottom line is - The only reason that you are not on the highway to hell is because you have invited JESUS CHRIST into your heart & HE has forgiven you and cleansed you of all your sins!!!!

What is your heart following after?

Many Christians are not living life to the fullest, they are full of self and compromise – they are experiencing heart problems – the only way is for your heart to follow after GOD 100%

Matthew 6:21 “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

- Jesus warns us that having the wrong treasures leads to our hearts being in the wrong places
- What we treasure the most controls our hearts – whether we admit it or not?
- If possessions/stuff or money become too important to us, we must re-establish control or if we can’t get rid of the items
- We need to live contently because we have chosen eternal values over temporary earthly treasures.
- OUR HEARTS FOLLOW OUR TREASURE – IS GOD YOUR ONLY TRUE TREASURE!!!!

Let’s look at David

- David was a man after God’s own HEART
- God’s anointed King

- He had a kind HEART
- Was Forgiving
- David constantly repented
- Was courageous
- Was at peace with God

– He was many things, a shepherd boy, a giant killer, hunter, warrior, general, king, poet, actor, champion, outlaw, ladies man, musician, prophet, worship leader, adulterer, murderer, brother, husband, son, parent, leader, hero, builder, administrator, ancestor of Jesus Christ and a man after God’s own heart.

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”. (NIV)

God testified about David – he listens to me & does what I say.

Now having a heart after God does not mean that you are perfect – look at David’s life?

But what it does mean is that you are following & thirsting after God every single day!!!!

We have to wake up every day and do a HEART check?

Turn to the person next to you and say – how is your HEART doing?

What do you do when you go on a long distant road trip – you get your car checked/tyres.....

H E A R T – we are going to do a check up today, we are going to do a self examination – if we break up the word HEART and use each letter for our service manual.

Humble heart (Humility)

What is being humble?

Definition

Humility = Dependence on God (David was humble – I can do nothing without God)
opposite

Pride = Dependence on self (Saul God took him out)

1 Samuel 16:7 “...Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart,”
the bible also tells us that if you humble yourself before the Lord, He will lift you up – James 4:10

Pride comes before the fall.

- No room in the Kingdom of God for arrogant, pride full Christians – people that think God needs them or the church needs them to survive – God needs no one, we are just fortunate that He chooses to work with and through us!!!!
- Jesus was the most humble person to walk the face of the earth – the Bible says in Philippians that He humbled himself unto death on the cross.

Engaged

Engaged people are the most focused people in the entire world – they are focused on the special day God's return!!!!

Definition

Engaged = to be present

Disengaged = to be absent (technology/face book etc)

- I believe our biggest regrets in life one day will not be what we did or what we did wrong, **BUT** what we didn't do for Christ?
- We need to be engaged and focused on the Kingdom – mission trips – the lost – saying I love you more – living for Christ – enjoying the moment
- Jesus was the most engaged person to walk the face of the earth

Authentic

Definition

Authentic = Being who God made you to be

Artificial = Trying to be who you are not, trying to be someone else

- No one wants an artificial heart but a real authentic heart – be real/get real burger
- Men's camp – mentorship groups
- We need to be real/authentic /pure – no masks (mentorship)
- Matthew 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in HEART for they will see God."
- We have to be the hands and feet of Jesus – authentic and relevant to this generation that is crying out for God.
- You are unique, no one is like you – God made you to fulfill your destiny and call that He placed in you in your mother's womb

An authentic heart pursues all that is good & repents of all that is evil.

Resilient

Galatians 6:9 “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

- You know who grows weary of doing good – people that are not tough, they are weak and constantly compromise their Christian principles
- We pray a prayer and if it is not answered immediately we give up – we walk away disillusioned and with no faith & hope - **WHY** we lack resilience
- In the western culture we have it easy – we seldom have to fight for our faith, we are not persecuted, at what cost are we following God? – are we resilient?

Resilient = Tough – never give up attitude

Delicate = Weak – Compromising attitude

Proverbs 3:5 “Trust in the Lord with all your Heart and lean not on your own understanding.”

- We have too many delicate Christians, that get offended over everything
- Are fearful about everything
- David was resilient – he was so tough that they sang a song about him, “Saul kills his thousands but David kills his ten thousands.” He was tough and resilient.
- People have paid the ultimate price for their faith – crucified, stoned, stung in two, chains & imprisonment
- Hebrews 12: 1-2 “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” – This is the heart of Resilience & Perseverance.

Thankful

We need to always have a thankful heart

Definition:

Thankful = Always Praising God

Ungrateful = Always Complaining

- Are we people that are always positive, thankful and praising or are we complaining, negative and ungrateful.
- Psalm 107:1 “Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, His love endures forever.”
- David had a heart that continually praised God.

RECAP

Our heart check up – covered the following

H – Humble

E – Engaged

A – Authentic

R – Resilient

T – Thankful

Declaration – We declare that our heart is after God, He is the centre of everything & above all else we value His presence. We have a Humble, Engaged, Authentic, Resilient and Thankful heart, our heart is aligned with God’s heart. We have a highly favoured position in Christ Jesus as a person that has accepted Him as our Lord & Saviour – Amen.