

# BEING WHOLEHEARTED

5/17/20

May the Lord help us today as we look into his eternal Word.  
Thank you so much for being with us.

Today we want to look at the subject being wholehearted for God.  
Jesus tells us that the first and greatest commandment of all is this:  
To love God all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength.

“And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.” Mark 12:30, KJV.

And then Jeremiah 29:13: “And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”

Jesus also said, “the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.” Matthew 11:12, KJV.

God responds to people who are wholehearted, desperate.

In Hebrews 11:6b, God is the rewarder of those who diligently seek him.

“Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before [obscure] men.” Proverbs 22:29

Diligence opens up very effectual doors for us.

In a sense, God deals with us in the same way we deal with him.

For example, If we take him lightly, he takes us lightly.

James 4:8 tells us, if we draw nigh to him, he will draw nigh unto us.

“With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright;” “With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the [distorted] thou wilt shew thyself [distorted].” Psalms 18:25-26

Do we see this - He resists the proud but gives grace to the humble

If you were single, would you want to marry someone who is half hearted?  
Of course not. You would want someone wholehearted for you.  
God desires whole heartedness for him. He wants to be wanted! Psa 73:25  
“Whom have I in heaven but you. None I desire on earth but you!”

Jesus taught on the need for continual persistence - Matthew 7:7.  
Ask, seek, knock.: Ask and it shall be given to you. Seek and you will find.  
Knock and it shall be opened unto you.

In heaven, our prayers are recorded. There is actually a building in heaven  
that keeps records of our prayers. People have actually seen this.  
In Revelation 5:8, we see the four living creatures and 24 elders having  
Golden bowls full of incense, being poured out. The prayers of the Saints.

In Prov. 2:1-5 - we have these words - seek, search, lift up your voice.  
Then... You will understand, and find the knowledge of God 2:5

All throughout Deuteronomy, we are constantly told:  
To keep diligently the law of the Lord - One example is in Deut. 6:7:

“And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of  
them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way,  
and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”

Friends, if we take God seriously, He will take us seriously.

New visitations from God are often preceded by diligent seeking of God.  
In desperation, Moses cried out; Lord, I beseech you, show me your glory!  
Ex.33:18. He was desperate for a new encounter with God.

Jacob was desperate for God to change his deceitful nature.  
He wrestled with God desperately all night. Genesis 32:26  
He cried out, I will not let you go until you bless me. Change me.  
That morning, God changed his name from Jacob (deceiver) to Israel.  
Israel means - prince with God

Do you see how God honors wholeheartedness!

Several years ago, I preached a sermon entitled the gift of desperation.  
Sometimes God creates desperate situations.  
So that we will seek him with all our heart, and have new encounters.  
These difficulties are actually God's tremendous gift to us.

Many years ago when I was still in Bible school,  
I desperately wanted a changed heart, a new nature.  
Things in my old nature were so tormenting to me.  
I was up past midnight, pleading with God, for many months. —  
“Oh God, change my heart, change my nature.”  
Then one Saturday Night, early Sunday morning, I became desperate.  
Literally, I went into a wrestling mode, screaming, God Change me.  
But Something happened later that day.

Revival had recently broken out in the Bible school. In the morning service,  
I was called up for prayer, and to be ministered to prophetically.  
The prophets were gathered around me, praying and prophesying.  
One of things that was pronounced over me was this:

You have sought and not found, but this day you will never be the same.  
Then the mighty Spirit of God came upon me. Turned into another man.  
When I opened my eyes, I was looking through a different set of eyes.  
A new anointing covered me. The power of the old nature was broken.  
This was my Romans 6:6 experience.  
Knowing that our old man (our old nature) was crucified with him.  
That the body of sin might be destroyed [or rendered powerless].

This was one of the greatest experiences in my whole life.  
But it was preceded by great desperation, and seeking God.  
A number of other great experiences in my life .....  
Were preceded by much desperate prayer and seeking God.

Remember Hebrews 11:6b - a rewarder of those who diligently seek him.  
God honors diligence and wholeheartedness.  
You will find me when you search for me with all your heart. Jer. 29:13

If we esteem God highly, God will esteem us highly.

But if we take God lightly, he will take us lightly.

God deals with us in the same way we deal with him.

Remember — Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.

If we humble ourselves, He will exalt us.

He resists the proud, but he gives grace to the humble.

When people push him away, eventually He will push them away.

Numbers chapter 14 is a very important chapter. In this chapter, we see - Everyone got what they confessed about God. In Numbers 14:3, Israel snarled against God - Why has God brought us out here To die by the sword, and our wives and children be a [spoil] to the enemy. What a terrible accusation and charge against God! Also Deut.1:27 They said God hated them, only meant evil for them.

In Numbers 14:8, Caleb and Joshua confessed something very opposite. "if the Lord delights in us he will bring us into the good land."  
V9 do not rebel, or fear the people, their defense is departed from them.

In Numbers 14:28 God said something very important. God's response: "As you have spoken in my hearing so I do to you"  
God gave everyone what they confessed and said about him!

Israel said, God hates us (Deut.1:27), brought us out here to destroy us. God replies, alright, you will die in this wilderness, as you have said of me. Caleb and Joshua said, God is well able to bring us into the land. God replies, yes, you will go into the land. Everyone got what they confessed. So let's say the right things to God, and about God.

God, you are so good. You would only do what is best for me.

I know You are going to fulfill all your promises to me.

Lord, please help me to keep all hardness and unbelief out of my heart.

You are so extremely kind and good. Help me to be wholehearted Lord.

God Will reply - as you have spoken in my hearing so I do for you.

Remember Proverbs 4:23. It warns: Guard your heart with all diligence.  
Lord keep my heart so soft, and filled with Faith, and wholeheartedness.

## The gift of desperation

Queen Esther is another example of whole hearted desperation, and  
That brought tremendous results.

Remember her words, “if I perish I perish” Esther 4:16

Haman wanted all the Jews murdered because one man didn't bow to him.  
Mordecai asked Queen Esther, to appeal to the king to spare the Jews.  
No one was allowed into the Kings presence, without an invitation.  
Esther has not been in the Kings presence for 30 days.  
In desperation, she was to enter the kings presence without invitation.  
This could mean death for her.

In Esther 4:16, Queen Esther asked all the Jews in that area, to fast three  
days and nights for her. “So will I go in unto the king, which is not  
according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.”

Read the whole book of Esther. It revolves around this incident.  
One woman, willing to lay down life, saved the whole nation of Jews.  
Esther persuaded the king to change his mind and spare the Jews.  
What a wonderful woman, God has given her an eternal name of honor

## Joseph - another example of wholeheartedness

Joseph - a young man of great integrity. His father Jacob recognized this.  
This was not favoritism, Jacob recognized his great character.  
And wanted to give him the right of the firstborn. Head of the family.  
His older brothers hated him, and wanted to murder him.

Joseph had a dream, he had promises from God.  
Some day he would become a world deliverer.  
Then His brethren sold him as a slave into Egypt

But this was the very place where his dream was going to be fulfilled. God uses terrible things, difficulties, injustices, cruelties, to bless us. In Deuteronomy 23:5b, and Nehemiah 12:2b, it states:  
Our God turned the curse into a blessing, because the Lord loved you. God is able to turn everything around, and make it work in our favor.

So here is Joseph, loving God with all his heart, now a slave in Egypt. Later he was put in prison, for fleeing from adultery, from Master's wife. So she accused him of attacking her. He was almost put to death. Instead he was put in prison. Everything was going wrong for Joseph. God had a tremendous plan. He was preparing him to be a world deliverer. A world famine was coming, Joseph would be a man with the answers.

Years Later his brothers came to Egypt in search for food. He ended up saving the brothers who tried to kill him. This is what he said to them later:

“But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.” Genesis 50:20,

Ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good.  
God can turn many things that are against us, make them work in our favor  
God can turn the curse into a blessing, when we please him.

In Romans 8:28 “And we know that all things [are working] together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

There are many other examples in the Bible of wholehearted believers  
Who paid a great price, and have an eternal name of honor. Remember -

Daniels three friends: refused to bow to Nebuchadnezzar's image.  
Ended up in the fiery furnace, totally unharmed.

When we are wholehearted for God, he can make everything work together for our good. Let's be wholehearted for God! Amen - God bless you!

