

YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART

[Doubtless Bay Baptist Church – 25-26/10/03 – EKB]

1. **My son/daughter, give Me your heart, Pro 23:26.**
 - a. **What do we mean by the “heart”?**
 Our **thoughts** and **thinking** are in our heart, *Lk 2:19, 24:38, Mk 2:6, Mat 9:4*. This is our **mind**.
 We **make choices** in our heart, *2Cor 9:7, Ac 11:23, Ps 27:8, Ex 25:2, Ex 35:5,29*. This is our **will**.
 Our **emotions** are in our heart, *Jn 16:22, Eph 5:19, 2Cor 2:4, Rom 9:2*. Our treasures and desires are in our heart, *Mat 6:21, Ps 37:4*. **Mind, will and emotions make up the soul** of man.
 The **conscience** is in the heart, *Ac 2:37, 1Jn 3:20, Rom 2:15, Heb 10:22, 1Sam 24:5*.
Fellowship and love of God is in the heart, *Mk 12:30, Rom 5:5, 1Tim 1:5*.
Intuition and spiritual revelation is in the heart, *Mk 8:17, Mk 2:8*.
Conscience, fellowship and intuition make up the spirit of man.
So the heart of man comprises of the soul and the spirit. The heart is the **inward person**, *1Pet 3:4*.
 - b. **Our heart is the source of all our thoughts, words and actions, Pro 4:23, Mat 15:18,19, Mat 12:34.**
 - c. **God’s evaluation of us is by what He sees in our hearts, 1Sam 16:7, 2Chr 16:9, 1Sam 13:14.**
 - d. **The first step of having a right relationship with God, is to give our heart totally to the Lord, Pro 23:26.**
Example: I accepted Jesus as my Saviour at 11 years. During the teenage years I developed some relationships with ungodly people. I became involved in doing some wrong things. When I was 19 years, I attended a large Christian meeting at the University of Auckland, NZ, where the Gospel was preached. During the preaching, Jesus came and stood in front of me, pointed is finger at me and said, “If you continue going on this way, your relationship with Me will come to an end.” After three days of deep concern, I lay on the floor and surrendered my whole heart and life to God, to be wholly His. From this time on, my Christian life went steadily uphill. I gave Him my hands, my mouth, my feet, my mind, my eyes, me ears, my future, my relationships, my activities and my treasures.
2. **Create in me a clean heart, O God, Ps 51:10.**
 - a. **Why we need a clean heart before God?**
 - i. **So that we will see the Lord.**
 Jesus said, “Blessed are the **pure in heart for they shall see God**,” *Mat 5:8*.
 “Without holiness no-one **shall see the Lord**,” *Heb 12:14*.
 “God has chosen you to know His will, **to see His face**, to hear His voice, and be His witness to all people of what you have seen and heard,” *Ac 22:14,15*.
 - ii. **So that we can come into God’s presence and be accepted by Him.**
 “Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord, and who shall stand in His holy place? **He who has clean hands and a pure heart**, who has not lifted up.....,” *Ps 24:3-6*.
 “My sons, (the priests), be not now negligent or deceived, for the Lord has chosen you to stand in His presence,.....,” *2Chr 29:11*.
 “You shall seek me and find Me, when you shall **search for Me with all your heart**.” *Jer 29:13*.
 - iii. **So that God will hear our prayers.**
 “If I hold onto iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.” *Ps 66:18*.
 - iv. **So that we can receive the blessing of the Lord.**
 “The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those, **whose heart is right before Him**.” *2Chr 16:9*.
 The eyes of the Lord are the seven anointings of the Holy Spirit, *Rev 5:6, Zech 3:9, 4:10*. The seven anointings are listed in *Is 11:2* – Authority, wisdom, understanding, counsel, might and power and strength, knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
 - b. **What is a clean heart?**
 This is a heart fully surrendered to God and full of love to God, *Pro 23:26, Mk 12:30*. It is a heart which loves one’s neighbour as one’s self, *Mk 12:31*. It is a heart that is:
 - i. Set free from untruth and **filled with truth**, *Jn 17:17, Jn 8:31,32, 1Jn 5:6, Jn 14:6*.
 - ii. Set free from pride to humility, *1Pet 5:5,6, Lk 18:9-14, Eph 5:21*.
 Humility is taking the place of a **servant to God to obey Him**, *Lk 6:46*.

Humility is taking the place of a **servant to others** out of a **secure identity, by the leading of the Holy Spirit**. [for “secure identity” see Pastor Notes nos 91,95,127.]

- iii. Set free from unforgiveness **to forgiveness of others**, *Mk 11:25,26, Mat 6:14,15, Mat 18:21-35*. This includes **releasing others from judgment**, *Mat 7:1,2, Rom 2:1-3, Jam 4:11,12*.
Handing the problem over to God, *Ps 55:22, 1Pet 5:7, Mat 11:28-30*.
Praying for the person who has hurt you with all your heart. *Lk 6:27,28,35-37*, as in *Col 1:9-11* or *Ac 26:18*.
- iv. Set free from inferiority **to a secure identity in God**, which is knowing **who we are in God, what God has given us, and how to use what we have been given**. [For “Secure Identity” see Pastor Notes nos 91,95,127.] *Rom 12:3* describes “secure identity”.
- v. Set free from fear **to the rest of faith in God**, *Mat 11:28-30, Heb 4:1-11, Heb 4:3*.
- vi. Set free from the sins of the flesh to Christ-like behaviour. [Sins like anger, hate, jealousy, lust, immorality, bitterness, stealing, lying.] *Rom 6:1-6,10-14*, tells us that the old nature of sin was crucified with Christ 2000 years ago at the Cross. As we believe *Rom 6:6,11*, confess it aloud with thanks and rejoicing, the power of sinful bondage is broken and Christ-like behaviour is established.
Example: For years I was a slave to anger. Someone explained to me the truths of *Rom 6:6,11*. As I believed and confessed this truth with all my heart I was set free from anger. *Jn 8:31-36*.
- vii. Set free from self centredness to **Christ centredness**, *Col 3:1-3, Mat 6:33, Col 1:27, 2:10, Eph 3:19*.
- viii. Set free from apathy towards God to **zeal for God**, *Jer 29:13, Ps 119:10, Ps 63:1*.

c. **How can we have a pure heart?**

- i. Step one is **giving our heart completely to the Lord**. *Pro 23:26*.
- ii. **By faith in God’s promises** to give us a pure heart, our heart is cleansed, *Ac 15:9, Ezk 36:25-27, Jer 24:7, Rom 6:1-14, Deut 30:6*.
- iii. **As we confess and repent of our sins**, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and **to cleanse us from all unrighteousness**, *1Jn 1:9*.
- iv. **God’s Word cleanses our heart**, as we sow it into our lives, *Pro 4:20-23, Jn 8:31,32, Ps 119:9-11*.
- v. **The power of the fulness of the Holy Spirit** in us overcomes sin’s power, *Rom 8:2,13, Gal 5:16*.
- vi. **God hears our cry for release, and answers it**, *Is 30:19, Ps 50:15, Ps 139:23,24*.
- vii. **As we seek hard after God** the power of sin is broken, *Jer 29:13, Ps 24:4-6, Amos 5:4*.

3. **God is Preparing His Highway in Our Hearts.**

[Combined Churches – Anglican Church Mangonui and Doubtless Bay Baptist]

a. **What is the highway of the Lord? – Lk 3:4-6.**

- i. It is a place where the **valleys or precipices** (Young’s Concordance), are filled up. That is, where fear, insecurity, anxiety, doubt, inferiority are removed and replaced with **secure, firm, confident, strong trust in God** and His Word, *1Cor 15:57,58*.
- ii. It is a place where the **mountains and hills** of pride, self reliance, independence and self sufficiency are replaced with the **humility and servanthood of Christ**, *Mat 20:28, Lk 22:27, Phil 2:5-8, Jn 13:4-17*.
- iii. It is a place where the crooked lies of untruth are replaced with the **truth of God’s Word and faith in Christ**, *Jn 8:31,32, Jn 17:17*.
- iv. It is a place where the roughness of the sins of the flesh are replaced with **Christ-like behaviour**, *Tit 2:11-15*. The sins of the flesh are for example, anger, hate, lust, immorality, stealing, lying, swearing and so on, *1Cor 6:9-11*. (See 2., b, vi, above.)

b. **What is the highway for? Lk 3:6, Is 40:5.**

When the highway is prepared **all people will see the salvation of God and the glory of God**.

c. **Where is the highway of the Lord?**

The highway of the Lord runs through the hearts of God’s people, and it leads to the city of God.

Ps 84:5 says, “Blessed is the person whose strength is in the Lord; in whose heart are the highways to Zion,” (the city of God, *Ps 48:1,2*). AMPV, NASB, RSV.

Lk 3:4-6 is fulfilled in the hearts of the people of God, and in their relationships with other people.

d. **What will happen when the highway is prepared? Lk 3:6, Is 40:5.**

As all people see the salvation and glory of God, many will turn to the Lord, and the harvest will be great.

Outside the sanctuary of the Lord, which is the assembled Church of Jesus Christ, the main responsibility of the believer is to be an active witness to the lost and unsaved. When the highway of the Lord is prepared in our hearts and relationships, the Holy Spirit will flow mightily through us, the saints, so that we will be powerful witnesses to Christ. This will result in a great harvest of souls. *Is 40:8,9,11, Lk 19:10*.