

# A People Connected with God's Heart

## I. The Desire of God

**John 17:20** “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. 24 “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. 25 O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. 26 And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

## II. The Call of God

1. What does it look like when God calls someone?

**Matthew 4:19** “Come, follow Me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” 20 At once they left their nets and followed Him.

2. His calling to us is “be transformed.” His promise is “Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is.”

**Romans 12:1** Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.

3. All that Jesus did, He did from the place of knowing God's heart. He actually described Himself as being incapable of doing anything apart from that connection.

**John 5:19** Jesus gave them this answer: “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself; He can do only what He sees the Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.”

4. Doing “what He sees the Father doing” speaks in part of prophetic revelation – knowing God's specific will for the hour – but largely it speaks of Jesus knowing the Father's heart. Jesus was so in tune with God's compassion and desire that when He saw a crowd in need He could see what the Father would do were He there. Look what it says about what Jesus was thinking just before He began to move in the miraculous:

**Mark 6:34** When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

**Matthew 14:14** When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

**Matthew 15:32** Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way.”

5. That same compassion that moved Jesus to do the works that He did is what moved Him to commission us, and is essential for us to function rightly.  
**Matthew 9:35** Jesus went through all the towns and villages, **teaching** in their synagogues, **preaching** the good news of the kingdom and **healing** every disease and sickness. 36 When he saw the crowds, **he had compassion on them**, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." 10:1 He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness... 5 These twelve Jesus sent out... 7 As you go, **preach** this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' 8 **Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons.** Freely you have received, freely give.

### III. The Need for Transformed Vessels

1. God is looking for hearts that are connected with His. When He has a vessel that will channel His power in agreement with His heart, then He decides what to pour into it. God cannot pour anointing into an untransformed vessel – it would destroy us.  
**2 Chronicles 16:9** For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.  
**Matthew 9:17** Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.
2. What does it mean to be transformed? Among other things I think it particularly means this – giving up our desires and seeking to share His.  
**John 5:30** By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and My judgment is just, for **I seek not to please Myself but Him who sent Me.**  
**Romans 8:5** Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but **those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.**
3. This lifetime is less about attaining what we desire, and more about improving what we desire. For all of eternity, God has promised He will satisfy our hearts' desires. The question is, what will that look like?
4. Uniting with God's desires is not about discovering God's agenda or political platform. It's about connecting with God's heart. What we want is to know Him, not so much His stance on the issues.
5. The transformation of our desires is linked with God glorifying His church, and it happens through a Spirit of intercession.  
**Romans 8:26** Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. 28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. 29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

6. There is a reason why God insists on His church being a praying church before she's a glorified church. It's the prayer that transforms our minds and prepares us to receive the glory, and it's the prayer that primarily accomplishes God's purpose in using us for His glory – us connecting with His heart.
7. There is no greater power on earth or in heaven than the holy love that lies in the heart of God. Despite all His glory and all His omnipotence, the most powerful thing God ever did was to die.
8. The apostles turned the world upside-down (**Acts 17:6**) because they were connected with that heart.  
**Philippians 3:7** But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. 8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.
9. The victorious Church will overcome because she has tapped into that heart.  
**Revelation 12:10** Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.

#### IV. Beholding True Beauty

1. We rob God of a significant portion of His glory when we're not searching out the depths of His heart. God Himself when asked to display His glory, proclaims His Name – the nature of His character.  
**Exodus 33:18** And he [Moses] said, “Please, show me Your glory.”  
**34:5** Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children’s children to the third and the fourth generation.”
2. Jesus, the brightness of the Father's glory, had nothing in His appearance that would attract us to Him. How is it that God's glory can be contained in human flesh?  
**Hebrews 1:1** God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son... 3... the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person...
3. Knowing the heart of God is our glory – there is no higher glory that God could assign us.  
**Jeremiah 9:23** Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; 24 But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the LORD.

## V. Friendship with God

1. God has made far more available to us than just a to-do list. He is our Lord and we are His servants and whatever He says to do, we do it. But He calls us more than servants – He calls us friends. A servant obeys blindly, knowing only what he's been told to do, not knowing or caring why. As friends we still do whatever He asks, but we do it with understanding, we do it knowing why He wants it done, and we do it because we share that desire. We do it connected with the heart of God.  
**John 15:15** I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.
2. At the heart of a life of prayer is a desire to be a friend of God. It's more than something we decide to do, it's someone we decide to be. It's about determining in our hearts that what's in God's heart is important – in fact it's more important than anything else.
3. As we carry a desire to be a friend of God in our hearts, the same disciplines take on new meaning. Time in the Word becomes about discovering and encountering the heart of the One who wrote the Word and who is revealed in the Word. Time in prayer becomes about joining our hearts to the heart of God.
4. Knowing God's heart is a calling that transcends our particular assignment. It doesn't matter if we're called to the marketplace or to the home or to ministry, to the church or to the lost, to the nations or to our own community. God calls us friends and He calls us priests before He calls us anything else.