

# HEART MOTIVES - PART 2

## A LOVER'S HEART!

Two months ago I began a series on **Heart Motives** explaining how God has a totally different standard by which He evaluates your life . . . than other people do. A standard that is not focused on what others may see - how we dress, how tall we are, how confident we seem, what we have accomplished, etc. . . . But rather on how your heart is responding to what is happening within your life - good or bad. And *inwardly, what is actually important to you!*

It is this *inner response, your heart motive* that ultimately determines how involved God becomes within yours or my life. Now what exactly is this standard of God? What is He looking for in your heart?

Matthew 5:8 tells us that "*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*" And a more literal translation of the Greek in this verse would be, "*Fortunate and to be envied are those who are clear and clean in their thoughts and feelings, for they shall gaze with wide-opened eyes at something remarkable! (Which in this case happens to be God!)*"

In other words, your **Heart Motives** - why you do what you do . . . **is the part of who you are that God responds to!**

Now why are the attitudes found within your heart so important to God? Because life is not a "quiz" on how much you know about God . . . **IT IS A RELATIONSHIP! A LOVE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD!**

Two months ago the first **Heart Motive** I wrote about was how we must have a "dependent heart"! . . . *A desperately dependent heart!* A heart that *beyond everything else believes no matter how much effort we make, nor how hard you or I try, nor how diligent we become in those efforts, . . . THEY WILL NEVER BE ENOUGH!* And that is because scripture tells us that our "righteous deeds" will always be nothing more than "filthy rags in God's eyes"! As a result, if you or I are ever going to be able to live this life the way Jesus has called us to . . . **it will have to be with the empowering that only happens because of His presence coming alive within us!**

Now this month I want to share a **heart motive** that literally turned my life around at forty years old! If I could only pick one **heart motive** that has changed my life more than any other, it would have to be when I began to have a **Lover's Heart!**

Now what do I mean by that? A **Lover's Heart** is one that desires to know God *intimately . . . above all else!*

. . . It is a person who is no longer content to just know a lot of information about God. But one who has come to realize that the very reason for life, and the only thing that can give lasting meaning and purpose to this life is if they come to know God intimately! Listen to Jesus' words in Luke 14:26 *"If you come to me, and do not hate your own father, and mother, and husband or wife, and children, and brothers and sisters, yes, . . . and even your own life, (in "comparison" to your love for Me) then you won't be able to follow me!"*

Now what was Jesus saying? Do you and I really have to hate others to follow Him? Not at all! So what did Jesus mean? . . . Only that your love and desire to know Him, must be so far beyond whatever you feel toward others - those you are closest to - that in comparison, it is like the difference between night and day, or . . . love and hate!

What is a **lover's heart**? . . . It is a heart that has sunk all of its hopes and dreams into the very presence of another person!

So for you or I to have a **lover's heart** toward God, we must be abandoned to a passion to know Jesus, to experience His presence, to love Him above all other wants, desires, wishes, and relationships, without hesitation, without compromise, without competition, without exception! He has to be your first love! . . . And this living with Jesus as the love of your heart must also become a lifestyle for you.

Now can I be honest? I believe with all of my heart that this is the key that unlocks and opens the door into God's presence! . . . Into His touchable and tangible presence! And if so, and if I am right, then it is also vital and important for you to understand . . . **this door must be reopened every day that you live!**

In other words, it is not just a one-time decision I make, and then I go and do whatever I want to with my life! No, if scripture is correct then this passion to know God, to be close to Him, *must stay the driving force inside of you and I everyday for the rest of our lives!*

Because, in the moment that this focus changes, then everything in yours or my life begins to go askew! Nothing fits anymore! Nothing makes sense! Life loses its meaning! And now just to be alive, even to breathe . . . *becomes a daily burden, an emotional roller coaster of disappointments, lost dreams and unfilled expectations!*

It is vital that you not lose this focus! For Jesus said, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? For who so ever will save his life shall lose it. But who so ever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." (Matt 16:25-26)

A lover's heart is one that declares "I can live without anything in this world . . . **but I cannot live without you, God!**"

## Now how does someone maintain this "first love" relationship with God?

Something that has always bothered me is how most people believe that the overpowering "romance" a couple first feels when they meet each other, . . . *is something that eventually will dissipate, disintegrate, or waste away after only a few months or years of marriage.* (Yes, I understand that most people believe this theory because it is what most married couples' experience. I understand that.) But still, does that fact make the loss of that "first love attraction" an unavoidable reality! **I have never believed so!**

And why do I *not believe* this theory held even by many theologians? Simply because, scripture says . . . "For as (a person) thinks in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7)

Listen very closely to what I am about to say! If I want "romance" to remain in the relationship with my wife Kathy . . . then according to this scripture I must *very simply* make it a priority to think "romantic" thoughts about her! *Isn't that what it promises?*

Quite often Kathy and I "date" each other. We set a time aside to go out with each other to do something special together - just the two of us. It may be a dinner, or to see a play, or to attend a concert. Or even something very simple as only going for coffee together. But if it is a "date", we have **one rule THAT CANNOT BE BROKEN!**

During our time together, we agree that we *will not* talk about our kids, our jobs, the ministry, our parents, the church we attend, nor our goals and dreams. All that is allowed *is for us to talk about each other.* What we love about the other person, what caused us to first fall in love . . . what we respect about each other, and what we still find overwhelmingly attractive about the other person. It is as if in that moment we allow ourselves to travel back in time, to relive and experience again all of the emotions we felt *the first moment we fell in love.*

The result has been that I honestly can say that even after all of these years . . . I still feel "head over heels" **romantically** in love with Kathy! In fact, there are times, **even now** when she walks into a room full of people that I began to feel all "giddy" inside! *Just the same way I felt when I first fell in love with her!*

And why does this happen? Because Kathy and I have made it a priority to never stop thinking **romantic thoughts** about each other! It is important to both of us! And because it has become a part of our thoughts, as a result, . . . it also is a part of our lives! Now listen to this! **THE SAME IS TRUE IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD!**

Think about this for just a moment. Don't most of us, when we pray usually approach God with a list of what we want Him to do for us, or give to us? . . . **Rather than just to spend time renewing our "first love" relationship with Him?**

Now God doesn't mind taking care of you . . . but more than that *He wants you to just be in love with Him.*

Scripture tells you to "cast all of your cares upon Him, because He cares for you!" Next time you go to talk to God begin by mentally handing Him all of your concerns, all of the things that are troubling you at that moment. And then tell God that the two of you will talk about all of those things **LATER!** But right now . . . you just want to pull aside from everything and spend time with Him - loving Him and allowing Him to love you. You just want to spend time **renewing your "first love" relationship with Him!**

Now don't forget! During this time refuse to talk to God about any problem you are now facing. Just talk about how much you love Him . . . and why you love Him. Allow yourself to remember what caused you to first fall in love with Him. And in that moment travel back in time, reexperience, relive what that "first love" felt like! *Dare to abandon your heart to God again! And dare to once again experience having a Lover's Heart!*