

HEART MOTIVES - PART 3

A SERVANT'S HEART!

In writing this series of letters my primary focus has been to try to help each of you as readers to better see how God has a totally different standard by which He evaluates yours and my life. A standard, that you remember, is unlike humans principles in that it 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 our heart is responding to what is happening within our lives - good or bad. *And inwardly, what is actually important to you or I!*

Another reason I began this series was out of my own desire for you to be able to see how this *inner response*, your **heart motive ultimately determines** how **involved God actually becomes within your life**. Now why is this important? Because remember your **Heart Motives - why you do what you do . . . is the part of who you are that God responds to!**

The first letter in this series was an effort to explain how you and I must always have a "*desperately dependent heart!*" A heart that really, really knows that *no matter how much effort we make, nor how hard we try, nor how diligent we become in our efforts, on their own, . . . THEY WILL NEVER BE ENOUGH!* (Remember scripture says our "righteous deeds" will always be nothing more than "filthy rags in God's eyes"!)

And if we actually understand that truth, then we also know that 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!**

The second **heart motive** I shared about was how you and I must have what I call a "Lover's Heart". For you or I to have a lover's heart toward God we must be living our life 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 our first love!**

This month, the third heart motive I want to talk about, is how you and I must have a "Servant's Heart" toward God. Philippians 2:5-7 in the Amplified Version of the Bible tells us to "*Let this same attitude and purpose and humble mind be in you, which was in Christ Jesus. Let Him be your example in humility! . . . Who, although being essentially one with God and in the form of God, possessing the fullness of the attributes that make God God, did not think this equality with God was a thing to be eagerly grasped or retained.*

... But stripped Himself of all privileges and rightful dignity, so as to assume the position of a servant . . . a slave."

Now the *King James Version* of the Bible in its translation of this passage only refers to Jesus as becoming . . . a "servant". But you need to know the literal translation of the Greek word here (*doulos*) is "**slave**". ***And that's important!*** Because in the time when this passage was written there were groups of people who were slaves or servants. But whose lives were lived very different!

Servants were individuals who owed someone money, but had no way to pay the debt off. And as a result, would then become a "servant" of the person owed, *until the debt could be entirely paid off*. But these individuals, although indebted, still had legal rights within both the Jewish community and the Roman Empire.

Most were paid a small wage for their services. In fact, many even lived within the home of the person they were indebted to, and as such always had a place to live and food to eat. And if they were a *very good servant*, and ***desired***, many were then guaranteed "employment" for life!

But a "slave", on the other hand, oh no, he was totally different. . . . *He had no rights!* Most had been brought against their will into slavery as a result of having been a citizen in one of the countries that Rome had conquered. And once within the Roman Empire, they were then sold in public to the highest bidder. And as such, they had no rights. Because . . . ***they had been bought by someone***. And whether their lives turned out good or bad totally depended upon whether or not their "masters" were cruel, or kind and caring.

Now this is important! I Corinthians 6:19-20 tells you and I that we "are not (our) own, for (we have) been bought for a price"! And again remember, a servant was someone who was working to pay off a debt, *but a slave was someone who was now owned by their master, because they had been bought for a price!*

I Corinthians is telling us that if we want to follow Christ, and our lives become conformed to how He lived . . . *then we cannot just become servants. We must be willing to become God's slave!* . . . **JUST AS JESUS DID!** (Philippians 2:5-7)

Now what does it mean to become "God's slave"? Very simply it means, just as Jesus surrendered all of who He was to His Heavenly Father, so you and I must also surrender our will, our dreams, our goals, the control of our life - EVERYTHING - into God's trust and care!

In other words I can no longer decide *independently* what I want to do with my life. And as such, I am no longer free to "call the shots", to go where I want to go when I want to go, to do what I want to do when I want to do it!

Now why is it so difficult for you and I to surrender to this degree - *to having the heart of a slave?* I believe the reason is somehow connected with the fact that even after "coming to Christ", we still desperately want to remain independent! Isn't that true?

After all our heart screams, "It's just too frightening to be out of control! And besides, if I'm not somewhat in control, then I won't have any backup plan! . . . And then what will I do if God doesn't come through? Somehow I must be able to direct and control the writing of the final script of my life!"

But the real truth is . . . except God writes the script for your life, in the end all will be lost! Nothing will have turned out for the better!

Now how do you or I, like Jesus, take upon ourselves the form of a slave? First we must admit the truth! Admit to God that inside, we often still feel a need to somehow direct our own life, to "call the shots". We are afraid! But though we are still extremely frightened of being "out of control", we must also admit that we now recognize our independent attitude is wrong.

And then finally, the only way we can surrender all that we know of our self - our children's lives, our marriage, our careers, our goals and dreams, etc. - *is by agreeing to stay in prayer till we feel God through the Holy Spirit provide the ability to surrender all that we know of ourselves!*

And how will you know when you have surrendered everything? Think about this. A person with an independent heart is someone who the outcome of their life has become "totally" dependent upon their actions and decisions, and as a result, also now on how disciplined they have become in living the "rules" they judge their life by. Consequently, they are a person who is also constantly struggling with tension, worry, and fear. Constantly stressed out about the outcome of something that *possibly could* happen, or depressed over something that has *already happened*.

To those observing this person, on the outside, they may not even look like someone with a defiant heart. In fact, the person themselves may not even recognize their own struggle with God to remain in control of their own life. But think about this.

If you or I are truly surrendered to God with all of who we are - our past, our present problems, and our future - ***THEN WHY SHOULD OUR HEART EVER BE TROUBLED AT ALL?***

If you have realized while reading this letter that you possibly might be living with an independent heart from God, and are asking yourself, "How can I change my heart?"

. . . Then, right now, just stop and tell God how sorry you are that you have been living independent from His care. And then, tell Him that you really want to have a "slave's heart". But, you understand that if you are ever going to be able to release the things that trouble you into His hands, (really release them!) that you will need His help! **Because, you realize you are even dependent upon Him for the power to surrender each of these things to Him!**

Now, ask Him to provide you with the power to surrender! And then . . . **stay in prayer, in His presence, until one by one you find the power to release the control (the fear, the worry, the tension) created by your independent heart into His care! And STAY THERE, . . . until the work is completed!**

How will you know when to stop praying? That's easy! You will no longer feel worried, or tense, or depressed when you are thinking about those things that have caused you such great fear.

Now let's be honest with each other. You probably are at some point are going to pick up the desire to control the outcome of some of these things again! Don't you think so? That's okay, when you do, don't condemn yourself . . . just stop and talk to God and place those people, or situations back into God's hands!

. . . And I promise you, after a short time you will find that you now rarely ever pick up the control or outcome of any of the things that use to torment your every thought!

How wonderful that God would love us so much, that if we were willing to give Him the total control of our lives . . . then He would give us His peace that "passes all understanding", His Joy that is "full", and His love that is unconditional and unending! What a life we live!

God bless each of you with His very best today - **His presence!** And from this day forward may you never, never, never again settle for less than God's best! Kathy and I love each of you!