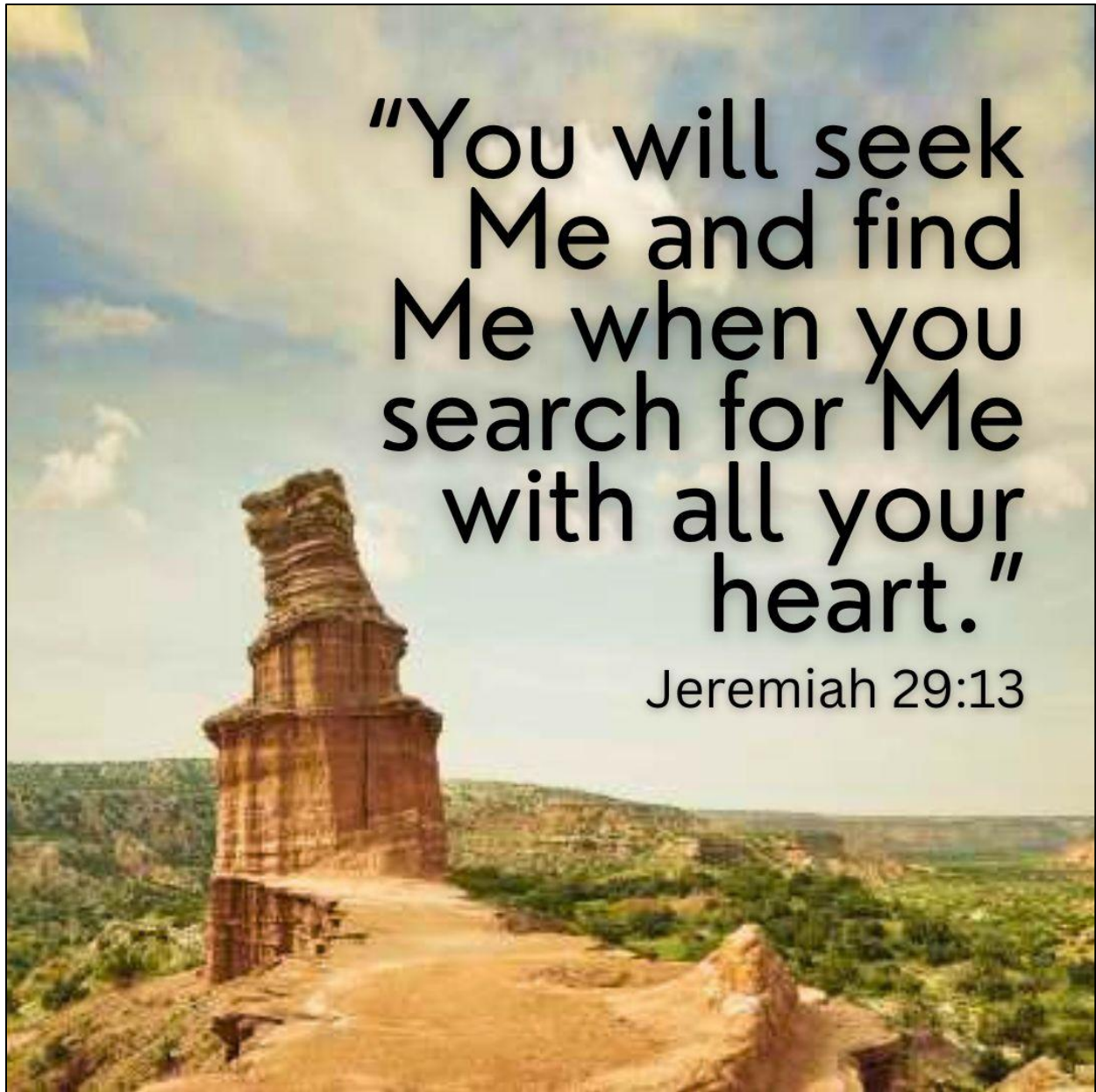


**Calvary Chapel Lubbock**  
**Women's Conference**  
September 26–27, 2025

**“Seeking the Heart of God”**



With speaker:  
Nancy Cunningham

Basic Training Bible Ministries

## **“Seeking the Heart of God”**

### **LESSON ONE**

*“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. **And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.** And I will be found by you declares the Lord ...”*

**Jeremiah 29:11–14a**

Jeremiah teaches us that God allowed His precious people to be taken over by the king of Babylon as judgement for turning away from Him to idol worship. God disciplines His people out of love. He knows the inner workings of our heart and soul—He knows that the best thing for us as fallen humans is whole-hearted devotion to Him. As our Creator God and Savior, He deserves our whole-hearted devotion.

These verses in Jeremiah give us a strong assurance that no matter how far we have wandered from Him in the past, no matter how many sinful turns we have taken in this life, if we return to Him in repentance and prayer, if we seek Him with our whole heart, we will find Him and be blessed.

*“**Seek the Lord** while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near.”*

**Isaiah 55:6**

The theme for this ladies’ retreat is **“Seeking the Heart of God.”**

**1 Samuel 13:14** tells us that David was such a man—a man who sought the Lord, a man after God’s own heart.

**Psalms 27**—This Psalm, written by David, gives us insight into what it looks like to be a man or woman after God’s own heart.

**Verses 1–3:** Step One to being a man or woman after God’s own heart:

Let the God you can’t see be more real to you than the world you can see.

**Verse 4:** Step Two to being a man or woman after God’s own heart:

Desire fellowship with the Lord above all the world’s temptations, treasures, and trinkets.

[See also Phil. 3:13, 14]

**Verses 5–6:** Step Three to being a man or woman after God’s own heart:

Let the joy of the Lord within you be more real than the troubles around you.

**Verses 7–10:** Step Four to being a man or woman after God’s own heart:

Fall in love with Jesus Christ! [See also Col. 3:1, 2; 1 Cor. 13:12]

**Verses 11–12:** Step Five to being a man or woman after God’s own heart:

Fall in love with God’s Word, to learn it and live it! [See also Heb. 4:12; Matt. 4:4]

**Verses 13–14:** Step Six to being a man or woman after God’s own heart:

Weave a strong rope of faith and hang on! Never quit!

We find God's heart in the Word of God as it reveals for us the Person of Jesus Christ. He was the representation of God and God's character in the flesh walking among men. To seek the heart of God is to seek the heart of Jesus as it was displayed in His earthly ministry 2,000 years ago. To know the heart of God is to know the heart of Jesus as it is recorded for us in the gospels, in His words and actions among the poor and needy of this world.

**2 Corinthians 4:6**, *"For God, who said, 'Light shall shine out of darkness,' is the one who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of God in the **face of Christ**."*

**Colossians 1:15a**, *"And He is the **image** of the invisible God."*

### **Matthew 11:21–30**

**Verses 21–24:** To those who reject Him, He is the eternal judge, the roaring lion. But to those who will freely come to the gentle and humble heart of Jesus—to those He is the tender lamb.

**Verses 25–26:** In verse 25, Jesus prays to the Father. In this prayer, He refers back to the Jews who were unable to see Jesus as Messiah because they were blinded by their own human wisdom. They were proud and self-righteous and saw no need for Him. But to those not blinded by their own wisdom, to those He is manifested as the gentle and humble Savior.

**Verse 27:** The Son reveals God the Father to those who come to Him. Jesus said in John 14:6, *"I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."* Philip said to Him, *"Lord, show us the Father."* Jesus answered, *"Have I been with you so long and you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me, has seen the Father"*

**Verses 28–30:** *"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, **for I am gentle and humble in heart**; and you shall find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My load is light."*

In this passage, there is an invitation, a declaration, a condition, and a promise:

- **The Invitation:** *"Come to Me, **all** who are weary and heavy-laden and I will give you rest."* The invitation is given to all. See also John 6:37.
- **The Condition:** *"Take My **yoke** upon you and learn from Me ..."*  
Taking His yoke is the condition of discipleship (see also Luke 9:23, 24).
- **The Declaration:** *"... for I am **gentle and humble in heart** ..."*  
Jesus declares to us the nature of His heart.
- **The Promise:** *"... and you shall find **rest** for your souls."*  
This is a rest the world cannot give. We don't earn it; we don't deserve it; it is a gift of His grace. In coming to Jesus, we find rest in the midst of a dangerous and deceptive world.

## **“Seeking the Heart of God”**

### **LESSON TWO**

*“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them **you might become partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.”*

**2 Peter 1: 3–5**

Peter promises us that we can partake of the nature of Jesus Christ. As we continue through the study we will look at the life of Jesus to see the nature of His heart as displayed in His words, His miracles, His actions and interactions with the people around Him. As we seek to know the nature of His heart, we will also seek to be partakers of that nature, for His glory.

**“C” is for Compassion—Jesus Christ has a heart of compassion.**

**Matthew 9:35–37**, *“Jesus was going through all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. Seeing the people He felt **compassion** for them, because they were distressed and dispirited, like sheep without a shepherd.”*

His greatest display of compassion is a burden for the eternal destiny of others. His compassion is for the lost, and without Him, we all are lost. He willingly endured the suffering of the cross to pay the debt of our sins and bring us into His eternal glory. Thank you, Jesus!

#### **Examples of compassion from the life of Christ:**

Mark 1:40–42, Out of compassion, He heals the leper.

Matthew 14:14, Out of compassion, He heals the sick.

Matthew 15:32, Out of compassion, He feeds the hungry.

Matthew 20:34, Out of compassion, He heals the blind.

Luke 7:11–15, Out of compassion, He raises the widow’s son.

#### **Passages on the compassion of God:**

Deuteronomy 4:31

Psalms 25:6

Psalms 40:11

Psalms 72:13

Psalms 78:38

Psalms 103:4

Psalms 116:5

Isaiah 55:7

Lamentations 3:22

James 5:11

## God, in His compassion, shows some feminine traits:

- God comforts His people like a mother comforts her child.  
**Isaiah 51:12**, *“I, even I, am He who comforts you.”*  
**Isaiah 66:13**, *“As one who his mother comforts, so I will comfort you.”*
- Like the woman who could never forget her nursing child, so God will not forget His children.  
**Isaiah 49:15**, *“Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My Hands.”*
- God is like a mothering eagle, hovering over her young.  
**Deuteronomy 32:11**, *“Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that hovers over its young, He spread His wings and caught them, He carried them on His pinions.”*
- God seeks the lost like a housekeeper, trying to find her lost coin.  
**Luke 15:8–10**, *“Or what woman, if she has 10 silver coins and loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I had lost!’” In the same way, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*
- Jesus longed for the people of Jerusalem, like a mother hen longs to gather her chicks under her wings.  
**Luke 13:34**, *“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it!”*

**Application:** In seeking the heart of God, we seek to be like Him. To be partakers of the divine nature of Christ, we too should put on a heart of compassion.

**Colossians 3:12**, *“So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, **put on a heart of compassion**, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.”*

## The Grace of God (compiled from many verses in the Bible):

*The Lord Jesus Christ is full of grace, the source of grace, and through faith in Him we receive grace. By His grace we can come boldly before His throne in prayer.*

*By God’s grace we are called, justified, and forgiven.*

*We are partakers of God’s grace as it works with us, in us, and through us. It humbles us, strengthens us, and calls us to eternal glory. Grace is described as a gift, sufficient, surpassing, abundant, rich, manifold, lavish and true.*

*We are to be good stewards of God’s grace; we are to understand it, not fall short of it, fix our hope on it and not go astray from it. We are to grow in grace, conduct ourselves with grace, season our conversations with grace and be strong in God’s grace.*

*And this glorious book that covers thousands of years of history, hundreds of prophecies, is full of spiritual truths and promises concerning God and His plan for our lives.*

The final verse of this glorious Book says,

***“The grace of The Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen!” Revelation 22:21***

## “Seeking the Heart of God” LESSON THREE

### “H” is for Hero—Jesus Christ has the heart of a Hero.

A hero is defined as a person admired for their bravery, great achievements, or noble qualities. They often face danger and adversity, demonstrating courage and strength.

The following is from a sermon given by the late Dr. S.M. Lockridge in Detroit in 1976. It certainly describes the heroic heart of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*“He’s the King of the ages. He’s the King of Heaven. He’s the King of glory. He’s the King of kings and He is the Lord of lords. Now that’s my King. **I wonder if you know Him.** Do you know Him?*

*He’s enduringly strong. He’s entirely sincere. He’s eternally steadfast. He’s immortally graceful. He’s imperially powerful. He’s impartially merciful. That’s my King.*

*He’s God’s Son. He’s the sinner’s Savior. He’s the centerpiece of civilization. He stands alone in Himself. He’s honest. He’s unique. He’s unparalleled. He’s unprecedented. He’s supreme. He’s pre-eminent. That’s my King. He’s the miracle of the age.*

*He supplies strength for the weak. He’s available for the tempted and the tried. He sympathizes and He saves. He’s the Almighty God who guides and keeps all his people. He heals the sick. He cleanses the lepers. He forgives sinners. He discharged debtors. He delivers the captives. He defends the feeble. He blesses the young. He serves the unfortunate. He regards the aged. He rewards the diligent and He beautifies the meek. That’s my King.*

***Do you know Him?** Well, my King is a King of knowledge. He’s the wellspring of wisdom. He’s the doorway of deliverance. He’s the pathway of peace. He’s the roadway of righteousness. He’s the highway of holiness. He’s the gateway of glory. He’s the master of the mighty. He’s the captain of the conquerors. **He’s the head of the heroes.** He’s the leader of the legislatures. He’s the overseer of the overcomers. He’s the governor of governors. He’s the prince of princes. He’s the King of kings and He’s the Lord of lords. That’s my King.*

*His office is manifold. His promise is sure. His light is matchless. His goodness is limitless. His mercy is everlasting. His love never changes. His Word is enough. His grace is sufficient. His reign is righteous. His yoke is easy and His burden is light. I wish I could describe Him to you ... but He’s indescribable. That’s my King. He’s incomprehensible, He’s invincible, and He is irresistible.*

*I’m coming to tell you this, that the heavens can’t contain Him, let alone some man explain Him. You can’t get Him out of your mind. You can’t get Him off of your hands. You can’t outlive Him and you can’t live without Him. The Pharisees couldn’t stand Him, but they found out they couldn’t stop Him. Pilate couldn’t find any fault in Him. The witnesses couldn’t get their testimonies to*

*agree about Him. Herod couldn't kill Him. Death couldn't handle Him and the grave couldn't hold Him. That's my King.*

*He always has been, and He always will be. I'm talking about the fact that He had no predecessor and He'll have no successor. There's nobody before Him and there'll be nobody after Him. You can't impeach Him and He's not going to resign. That's my King! That's my King!*

*His is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever and ever and ever. Amen!"*

(Dr. S.M. Lockridge, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzqTFNfeDnE>)

The ultimate display of the heroic heart of Jesus is found in the crucifixion. The Seven Sayings of Christ on the cross reveal to us what was in His heart even in the worst of pain and suffering:

- *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."* **Luke 23:34**
- *"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."* **Luke 23:43**
- *"He said to His mother, 'Woman, behold your son!' Then He said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother!'"* **John 19:26b–27a**
- *"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me."* **Matthew 27:46**
- *"I am thirsty."* **John 19:28**
- *"It is finished."* **John 19:30**
- *"Into Thy Hands I commit My spirit."* **Luke 23:43**

**Application:** In seeking the heart of God, we seek to be like Him. To be partakers of the divine nature of Christ we too should strive to have the heart of a hero. One heroic heart inspires another!

**Hebrews 11**—This famous chapter of the Bible is often called the Hall of Faith where the Heroes of Faith are listed for our encouragement and example. What was in the heart of these heroes of faith?

**Verse 6:** They believed God is a God who rewards faith.

**Verses 8–16:** They lived as aliens in this world.

**Verses 17–23:** They believed the Word of God and the promises of God.

**Verses 24–27:** They chose the reward of faith over anything this life has to offer.

**Verses 32–40:** Their faith came with great suffering but brought about even greater reward.

**Hebrews 12:1–3** follows with instructions how we might follow in the footsteps of those heroes of the faith.

- The command: "... *run with endurance the race set before you.*"
- Look to the examples of those who have run by faith before you.
- Lay aside every encumbrance.
- Lay aside your entangling sin.
- Fix your eyes on Jesus and consider what He did for you.
- Do not grow weary and lose heart.

**Jesus has the heart of a hero. Is He the Hero of your heart?**



## **“Seeking the Heart of God”**

### **LESSON FOUR**

**“R” is for Reconciliation—Jesus Christ has a heart of reconciliation.**

Reconciliation in the Bible refers to the restoration of a broken relationship between God and humanity, as well as between individuals. It emphasizes the removal of enmity and the establishment of peace through the atoning work of Jesus Christ, allowing for harmony and fellowship where there once was separation due to sin.

**Sin separates; Jesus reconciles.**

**Colossians 1:19–22**, *“For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross, through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in Heaven. And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless, and beyond reproach ...”*

**2 Corinthians 5:19a–21**, *“... God was **in Christ reconciling the world to Himself**, not counting their trespasses against them ... He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”*

**Application:** In seeking the heart of God, we seek to be like Him. To be partakers of the divine nature of Christ, we too should put on a heart of reconciliation.

**2 Corinthians 5:14–21**—The gracious gift of reconciliation comes with great responsibility. We should willingly accept and be active in the ministry of reconciliation:

**Verse 14:** compelled by the love of Christ

**Verse 15:** living for Him who died for us.

**Verse 16:** seeing others through the eyes of Christ.

**Verse 17:** living out of the power and passion of the new man.

**Verse 18:** accepting the ministry of reconciliation.

**Verse 19:** living as an ambassador of Christ in a fallen world.

This principle of reconciliation applies to more areas of life than just saving people through the Gospel. Along with the ministry of reconciliation, we should be peacemakers. Willing to both give and receive forgiveness. Willing to show grace and mercy to others. Willing to live above the standards of human love to be compelled by the unconditional love of Jesus Christ (see Matt. 5:9; Rom. 12:18, 14:19; Heb. 12:14; James 3:17; Phil. 4:2–3).

*“Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.”*

—Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

**“I” is for Intercession—Jesus Christ has a heart of intercession.**

Intercessory prayer is praying for the needs of others. Intercession is when we reach beyond ourselves and go boldly before God’s throne for the needs of others. Intercessory prayer is sometimes called “standing in the gap” for other people.

**Hebrews 7:25**, *“Therefore He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make **intercession** for them.”*

**Romans 8:34**, *“Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also **intercedes** for us.”*

**Romans 8:26**, *“And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should but the Spirit Himself **intercedes** for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”*

**Luke 22:31–32**, *“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.”*

**Isaiah 53:12**, *“He bore the sins of many and made **intercession** for the transgressors.”*

**Luke 23:34**, *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”*

**John 17** is called the high priestly prayer of Jesus Christ. In this prayer, Jesus prayed for His disciples and for all who would come after His disciples—He prayed for you and me!

**Verse 20**: *“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message.”*

**Application**: In seeking the heart of God, we seek to be like Him. To be partakers of the divine nature of Christ, we too should have a heart of intercession.

We can learn from the examples of intercessory prayers recorded for us in the Bible:

- **Job**: Job interceded for his friends, **Job 42:10**.
- **Stephen**: Stephen interceded for those stoning him to death, **Acts 7:59–60**.
- **Samuel**: Samuel interceded for his rebellious nation, **1 Samuel 7**.
- **Daniel**: Daniel also interceded for his nation with a prayer of repentance. In this prayer, he confessed not only his own sins but the sins of the nation, **Daniel 3**.

**1 Timothy 2:1–2**, *“First of all then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.”*

*“God regards intercession as the highest expression of His people’s readiness to receive and to yield themselves wholly to the working of His almighty power.”*

—Andrew Murray

## “Seeking the Heart of God” LESSON FIVE

**“S” is for Servant—Jesus Christ had a servant’s heart.**

**Mark 10:45**, *“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but **to serve**, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*

**Luke 22:27**, *“... I am among you as the **One who serves**.”*

**Philippians 2:7**, *“... but emptied Himself, taking the form of a **bondservant**, and being made in the likeness of man.”*

Jesus Christ had the heart of a servant from His first miracle to His final, dying breath. His concern was never for Himself, but for the fallen humanity He came to redeem.

He welcomed the little children, fed the hungry, healed the blind, the lame and the sick. He walked with the common people and was a friend to sinners. In His last days, He washed the feet of the disciples before being arrested, scourged, beaten, mocked, stripped, and finally crucified.

**Application:** In seeking the heart of God, we seek to be like Him. To be partakers of the divine nature of Christ, we too should have the heart of a servant.

**Ephesians 2:10**, *“For we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”*

**1 Samuel 12:24**, *“Only fear the LORD and serve him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things he has done for you.”*

**Colossians 3:23–24**, *“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.”*

**1 Corinthians 15:58**, *“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.”*

### **John 12:23–26**

**Verse 23:** In facing the hour of the cross, Jesus looked beyond the valley of suffering to the mountaintop of future glory that His sacrificial service would bring.

**Verse 24:** Just as a seed must die in order to become a fruitful plant, Jesus knew He must die to bring a fruitful harvest of souls into eternity.

**Verse 25:** He now applies this same principle to His disciples. We find the true fruitful purpose of our life when we are willing to die to self and live to Christ (see Matt. 10:39; Mark 8:36; Luke 14:26).

**Verse 26:** Jesus then gives a beautiful promise to those who are willing to follow His heart of service—the Father will honor that man or woman.

These verses teach us that out of death comes life, out of fellowship comes fellowship, out of service comes honor.

**Do you long to hear the words, “Well done, good and faithful servant?”**

**“T” is for Teacher—Jesus Christ had a teachable heart.**

In His deity, Christ was fully God. But in His humanity, He still had to learn and grow, both physically and spiritually.

**Luke 2:40**, *“And the child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom and the grace of God was upon Him.”*

**Luke 2:52**, *“And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”*

**Hebrews 5:8**, *“Although He was a Son, He learned obedience through the things that He suffered.”*

- **A teachable heart is both humble and hungry, always longing and seeking to learn more.**

**Proverbs 1:5**, *“Let the wise listen and add to their learning and let the discerning get guidance.”*

**Proverbs 9:9**, *“Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.”*

**Psalms 119:66**, *“Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I am engaged in your commands.”*

**2 Peter 3:18**, *“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”*

- **A teachable heart is willing to be corrected, willing to listen, to learn and to change.**

**Ecclesiastes 7:5**, *“It is better to heed the rebuke of a wise person than to listen to the song of fools.”*

**Proverbs 15:32**, *“Those who disregard discipline despise themselves, but the one who heeds correction gains understanding.”*

**Proverbs 27:5**, *“Better is open rebuke than hidden love.”*

**2 Timothy 3:16–17**, *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

- **In time, a teachable heart becomes a teaching heart.**

**Hebrews 5:12**, *“For by this time **you ought to be teachers**, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.”*

**Romans 15:14**, *“I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and **competent to teach** one another.”*

**Titus 2:3–5**, *“Older women, likewise, are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, **teaching what is good**, that they may encourage the younger women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored.”*

**Application:** In seeking the heart of God, we seek to be like Him. To be partakers of the divine nature of Christ we too should have the heart of a teacher.

#### **Teaching methods:**

- **Memorials:** Memorials are designed to keep the memory of God’s deeds alive in the hearts and minds of His people from one generation to the next (Joshua 4).
- **Verbal communication:** Deuteronomy 6:4–7; Psalm 78:1–7
- **“Example”:** John 13:15; Philippians 3:17; 1 Thessalonians 1:7; 1 Corinthians 4:6; 1 Corinthians 11

**Teach and touch the future!**

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