

Heart of God: Part 5

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As we will continue to dive into scripture to see God's heart revealed but must be reminded of the three areas of how God's heart is seen within scripture.

The Heart of God must be view in reference to these 3 areas:

1. God's Will - This will cover his motives, thoughts, intentions, desire, objective, and purpose.
2. God's Emotions - This will cover what is pleasing and dissatisfying. What upsets and angers God. And what persuades his response.
3. God's Character - This will cover who He is and who He is not. His superiority, His sovereignty, His Majesty, and His Holiness.

If we view this series and any other series or message, we will see the heart of God through the lens of Jesus, which is the expression of God, the word and the word became flesh.

Now turn with me to [2 Corinthians 5:6-10](#)

2 Corinthians 5:6–10 NKJV

⁶ So *we are* always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. ⁷ For we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. ⁹ Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Right off gate we can see that Paul's statement is in reference to believers, the one's that obey, not to be confused with people that associate themselves as "Christians". Everyone is a Christian until it becomes Biblical. This section of scripture is known as the Judgement seat of Christ. This judgement is for the believer and not the non-believer. Cause for a believer to be absent from the body is to be in the Presence of God. A sinner would not be in the Presence of God. As believers it should be our heart beat to be pleasing to the Lord. Paul declared that it should be our aim to not just be pleasing but to be well pleasing. This should speak volumes to our spirits that this is the Heart of God. This is the intention of His heart.

If we could reel our hearts into verse 9:

2 Corinthians 5:9 NKJV

⁹ Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.

The word Aim means goal. To make it our goal. I remember being in high school, the counselors and teachers would ask the questions of what is your one year goal, or 5 and ten year goal. And as a young man...well really a boy about to graduate high school, I had no idea what those answers were. My only goal was to graduate high school and start what I thought to be life. But because I had no aim or goal, I spiraled after graduation. I found myself in the predicament of looking like a failure. So I joined the military and that also became a flop. I was living life and only going with the flow with everything that was presented to me. Paul said it this way...

1 Corinthians 9:24–27 NLT

²⁴ Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! ²⁵ All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. ²⁶ So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. ²⁷ I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

Paul urged the church of Corinth and us to run in such a way that we win. Should we be satisfied in finishing a race...absolutely, but what is better than finishing? Finishing to win a prize. And what is the prize that Paul was aiming for? An eternal prize! The prize that we are aiming for calls for so much more than sitting on the couch Monday through Saturday. It is a daily discipline of pursuing God in the way that pleases him. So this will segue us into the second part of our opening scripture.

2 Corinthians 5:9 NKJV

⁹ Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.

Our aim or goal is to not only be pleasing but to be well pleasing. In most translations there is only the one word, "Pleasing". But in the Greek translation it means to be well pleasing. Average should not be targeted goal in bringing delight to our Heavenly Father! Well pleasing defines our earnestness and passion for pleasing God. Our primary motive for pleasing God is driven by our love for Him.

John 14:15 NLT

¹⁵ "If you love me, obey my commandments.

2 Corinthians 5:9–10 NKJV

⁹ Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

Paul continues this thought.... “Therefore”... meaning it’s “there for” a purpose. What he just said gives meaning to what I’m about to say.

We must all appear. Who is the we? The same ones that he was addressing at the beginning, the church. Each believer must appear at the judgement seat of Christ. If we could first look at the word appear. It means to show openly. We all know that nothing is hidden before Jesus. That means our actual image is what will be judged. Not the image that we are projecting for others to see. Not the image that people perceive us to be. But the actual image of who we really are. The real us! Our thoughts, motive, intentions, and what is really in our heart is what will appear before Jesus and that part of us is what He will judge. Don’t let the word judge mislead you. To judge means to make a decision. A decision from an investigation. Truth is revealed during an investigation. An investigation reveals what has been hidden.

So this leads us to some the next part that displays the heart of God.

Matthew 3:13–17 NKJV

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ And John *tried to* prevent Him, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered and said to him, “Permit *it to be so* now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed Him. ¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

How many of us has heard that baptism is for the washing away of sin? Then why was Jesus baptized? He had no sin. Baptism is a public confession of your faith and calling to fulfill righteousness. And this very act of baptism for Jesus set the tone that so many people miss. The voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well please”. What caused the Father to be please. Jesus had not done one act of ministry but yet the Father was well pleased! This tells me that our accomplishments is not what pleases the Father. Don’t get it twisted though! Our works is what pleases Him and not what we have accomplished. It’s our obedience and this is the Heart of God. Our obedience is what will find us well pleasing to Jesus. We spend countless hours and day building a ministry or becoming successful but have we done it to the neglect of pleasing ourselves or pleasing God? I have been caught up in the stance that my ministry isn’t exploding, or that my ministry isn’t as great as another down the road, but God had to reel my heart back to His own. God will see that we succeed but not at the neglect of disobedience. God cannot bless disobedience. God has call me and you to obey just like Jesus was called to obey. Jesus was successful as long a He walked in His primary calling. And that primary calling was obedience.

Colossians 1:9–10 NLT

⁹ ... We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰ Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

The fruit will accompany the obedience but the we must realize what comes first.

Turn with me to a passage of scripture that we spoke about earlier in this series.

Exodus 3:7–10 NLT

⁷ Then the Lord told him, “I have certainly seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their cries of distress because of their harsh slave drivers. Yes, I am aware of their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them out of Egypt into their own fertile and spacious land. It is a land flowing with milk and honey—the land where the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites now live. ⁹ Look! The cry of the people of Israel has reached me, and I have seen how harshly the Egyptians abuse them. ¹⁰ Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt.”

What was the call of Moses? Was the call for Moses to take the Israelites to the land of promise? No, that was what God was going to do. Moses was called to lead them out of Egypt and back to Mount Sinia. But because of his obedience we read in [Exodus 33:12-17](#)

Exodus 32:30–34 NLT

³⁰ The next day Moses said to the people, “You have committed a terrible sin, but I will go back up to the Lord on the mountain. Perhaps I will be able to obtain forgiveness for your sin.” ³¹ So Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Oh, what a terrible sin these people have committed. They have made gods of gold for themselves. ³² But now, if you will only forgive their sin—but if not, erase my name from the record you have written!” ³³ But the Lord replied to Moses, “No, I will erase the name of everyone who has sinned against me. ³⁴ Now go, lead the people to the place I told you about. Look! My angel will lead the way before you. And when I come to call the people to account, I will certainly hold them responsible for their sins.”

The fruit of Moses’s obedience because of his heart for God

Moses’s obedience in what God had originally called him to do produced a further call to obedience. This correlates that the life we live is what is pleasing to God. Our obedience will produce success and success will not come at the expense of disobedience.

Numbers 20:6–12 NLT

⁶ Moses and Aaron turned away from the people and went to the entrance of the Tabernacle, where they fell face down on the ground. Then the glorious presence of the Lord appeared to them, ⁷ and the Lord said to Moses, ⁸ “You and Aaron must take the staff and assemble the entire community. As the people watch, speak to the rock over there, and it will pour out its water. You will provide enough water from the rock to satisfy the whole community and their livestock.” ⁹ So Moses did as he was told. He took the staff from the place where it was kept before the Lord. ¹⁰ Then he and Aaron summoned the people to come and gather at the rock. “Listen, you rebels!” he shouted. “Must we bring you water from this rock?” ¹¹ Then Moses raised his hand and struck the rock twice with the staff, and water gushed out. So the entire community and their livestock

drank their fill. ¹² But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not trust me enough to demonstrate my holiness to the people of Israel, you will not lead them into the land I am giving them!”

And there we have it in scripture! Our disobedience will disqualify us from being successful in what God calls us to do! Does this mean that Moses was going to hell? Moses had dedicated the last 40 years of his life to the call of God. And he allowed his emotion to be counterintuitive to God's plans but the fruit of Moses was not bad. This was a judgement of the good or bad that he had done. This judgement was an investigation of his actions and works.

1 Corinthians 3:12–15 NLT

¹² Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. ¹³ But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. ¹⁴ If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵ But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builder will be saved, but like someone barely escaping through a wall of flames.

The gold, silver, and jewels that Moses used to build the Kingdom of God with is clearly seen throughout scripture and the wood, hay, and straw is seen as well. The precious metals and stones are capable of surviving the fire but the consumables become consumed. Notice that it is the fire that will reveal. This is the same word that we used earlier. To make visible or show openly.

This same truth can be seen in the life and calling of Elijah. His call was to destroy the worship Baal and all that was associated with it. And God blessed everything the Elijah had done until he disobeyed and then what did God speak to him?

1 Kings 19:15–16 NLT

¹⁵ Then the Lord told him, “Go back the same way you came, and travel to the wilderness of Damascus. When you arrive there, anoint Hazael to be king of Aram. ¹⁶ Then anoint Jehu grandson of Nimshi to be king of Israel, and anoint Elisha ... to replace you as my prophet.

This is how serious God takes obedience! Disobedience defies God's character. And God's character is the foundation of who He is! How are we failing to please God in what He has called each of us to do. What area of our life have we allowed compromise? Can we now see the importance of pleasing God with obedience? So we make it our goal to be well pleasing as this is the heart of God.

Let me pray with you today!