# Heart of God: Part 4

# Pastor James Bell

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.

As I have been instructed to make part 4 of the "Heart of God" about the topic of "fellowship". And if we go all the way back to the beginning in <u>Genesis 1:27</u>

# Genesis 1:27 NLT

<sup>27</sup> So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them..

The intent of God's heart was that man would be made in His likeness. As we discovered in part 1 of this series that we were to be fruitful and multiple, our place is to reproduce the heart of God from within us, to others. Stay with me, cause we are gonna be a little academic, which means you got to put your thinking cap on.

# Genesis 3:1–7 NLT

<sup>1</sup> The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" <sup>2</sup> "Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. <sup>3</sup> "It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, 'You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.' " <sup>4</sup> "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. <sup>5</sup> "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil." <sup>6</sup> The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the

fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. <sup>7</sup> At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

Here we witness the first sin of mankind, cause the first sin was the sin of pride, which happened with Lucifer. So mans first sin was not eating of what was forbidden. The first sin was and is the root sin of all sin then and now. The sin of "Disobedience". And Eve was not forced to do partake of what was forbidden but Satan being cunning caused Eve to question God. Satan made God look like He was withholding something more from her. Satan caused Eve's heart to see God as a taker instead of a giver. What was the words that Satan rambled in verse 5? <u>Genesis 3:5</u>

#### Genesis 3:5 NLT

<sup>5</sup> "God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil."

Satan will always wrap a lie with some truth. Remember when Jesus was in the wilderness and was being tempted by the devil? What was the second temptation? <u>Matthew 4:5-7</u>

#### Matthew 4:5–7 NLT

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, <sup>6</sup> and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.' " <sup>7</sup> Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God."

Satan quoted scripture (<u>Psalms 91:11-12</u>) but was using the scripture from the position to test God.

Let's get back to Eve. If we stop for a moment and think about this simple fact...who was the one that was given the commandment from God not to eat...Adam was given the commandment before Eve was created. So that means that Adam communicated what He received from God. And this brings us back to verses 6 and 7. <u>Genesis 3:6-7</u>

# Genesis 3:6–7 NLT

<sup>6</sup> The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. <sup>7</sup> At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.

Their eyes were not opened until Adam ate...cause he was the one that received revelation knowledge while Eve was only acquainted with what she has been communicated. This is why the importance of having a prayer and fasting life is so important. I want you to ask yourself this question in your heart right now...when was the last time you prayed...l'm not talking about your daily prayer of thanking God and asking for favor throughout the day but that one on one time with him? When was the last time that this prayer was accompanied with fasting? Don't get made at the

messenger just because you don't like the message. (Tell the story about the disciples could not cast out the demon)

So now that we have spent half of the sermon to get to the point of this message about the Heart of God.

# Genesis 3:8–10 ESV

<sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

If we could begin to break down such an overlooked passage of scripture we will see that as we translate these few verse that they will give us an entirely different perspective. Let's start with the first part of verse 8. They heard the sound of the Lord walking in the garden in the cool of the day. The Hebrew word for heard isn't a curve ball. It simply means to hear, obey, or listen. The second part we need to point out is walking. In the Hebrew it means the basic idea of movement. It is also translated as fellowship. The third part is cool. Many may confuse this as the coolest part of the day, which is night but the Hebrew translation of this word is wind or Spirit. So if we were to restate this passage in todays vernacular it would look something like this:

"And they heard sound of God having fellowship with the Holy Spirit in the Garden" <u>Genesis 3:8</u>a

This is of the image and likeness that is the Heart of God. God created us for fellowship and the commandment to be fruitful and multiple is the purpose and intentionality so that God may have fellowship with us. So now we can see that God's heart is right before our eyes. God created us for fellowship. A fellowship that is us imitating our creator. A "Mutual Movement" of advancing His ways. So this leads me to my own definition of fellowship.

# Fellowship: To operate in mutual movement.

So now when we see the terminology of fellowship in a new light throughout the rest of this message.

# Genesis 5:22-24 NLT

<sup>22</sup> After the birth of Methuselah, Enoch lived in close <u>fellowship</u> with God for another 300 years, and he had other sons and daughters. <sup>23</sup> <u>Enoch lived 365 years, <sup>24</sup> walking in</u> <u>close fellowship with God</u>. Then one day he disappeared, because God took him.

Enoch surrendered his entire life to operating or walking in mutual movement with God. And we have a problem with surrendering a few moments in pray and pushing the plate away! But I bet if we have blood work one day this week and the doctor told us we needed to fast we wouldn't even hesitate to fulfill their commandment. What if we would surrender our entire person to walk in mutual movement with God, we too could experience what Enoch lived. Yes he was physically taken by God and was not more but if we look at this from the lens of God's heart, we would be taken away from the flesh and dwell in His presence all the days of our life. Paul stated to the Church of Galatia: <u>Galatians 5:16-17</u>

#### Galatians 5:16–17 NLT

<sup>16</sup> So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. <sup>17</sup> The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions.

Our sinful nature that we were born in is always at war with the Spirit of God within us! But we are urged to not gratify our flesh by feeding it the things that Jesus paid such a high price for. We are to bring affliction to our flesh by obeying the Spirit of God. This is mutual movement with God...this is Fellowship with the King!

But it doesn't stop here. Genesis 6:9

#### Genesis 6:9 NLT

<sup>9</sup> This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God.

You know what is so disturbing about this fact stated within scripture. The fact the Noah was the only blameless person living. I did the math so you won't have to...but Noah's father Lamech was 682 years old when Noah was addressed by God. But yet God didn't call Lamech as righteous. This is riveting but it doesn't stop there...Noah's grandfather Methuselah was 869 years old when God gave Noah the command to build the ark. Yet God did not call him righteous. Noah was the only righteous man...the only man that had fellowship with God. The only man that operated in mutual movement with the Heart of God. And because he had fellowship with God, humanity was placed under his watch.

#### In closing: Genesis 6:11-17

#### Genesis 6:11–18 NLT

<sup>11</sup> Now God saw that the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence. <sup>12</sup> God observed all this corruption in the world, for everyone on earth was corrupt. <sup>13</sup> So God said to Noah, "I have decided to destroy all living creatures, for they have filled the earth with violence. Yes, I will wipe them all out along with the earth! <sup>14</sup> "Build a large boat from cypress wood and waterproof it with tar, inside and out. Then construct decks and stalls throughout its interior. <sup>15</sup> Make the boat 450 feet long, 75 feet wide, and 45 feet high. <sup>16</sup> Leave an 18-inch opening below the roof all the way around the boat. Put the door on the side, and build three decks inside the boat—lower, middle, and upper. <sup>17</sup> "Look! I am about to cover the earth with a flood that will destroy every living thing that

breathes. Everything on earth will die. <sup>18</sup> But I will confirm my covenant with you. So enter the boat—you and your wife and your sons and their wives.

Corrupt is translated as perverted, to be twisted in thinking. To pervert means to altar from its original course. Fellowship had been forsaken and violence (unrighteousness) had filled the earth and everyone in it. This is what happens when we forsaken fellowship with God. Our entire world is turned upside down. But notice the promise to Noah because of fellowship and obedience in verse 18. This tells me that;

#### Fellowship keeps us in Covenant with God!

And this is the Heart of God!

Let me pray with you today!