

PHILOSOPHY OF SERVICE: CORE SPIRITUALITY

Core spirituality refers to devotional time and meditation of the Word.

The 3 heart matters that are of utmost importance when it comes to core spirituality:

1. A HEART FOR GOD.

1 SAMUEL 13:14

“The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.”

JOHN 14

¹⁵ **“If you love me, keep my commands.** ²¹Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.” ²³Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. ²⁴Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching.

2. A HEART FOR GOD’S PEOPLE.

Asaph describes David’s leadership:

PSALM 78:72

“With an upright heart, he shepherded them.”

For the original people reading and singing Asaph’s psalm, the word “shepherded” was pregnant with meaning. If a shepherd in David’s day were to do his shepherding tasks with full integrity and an upright heart, he would feed the sheep, lead the sheep, and protect the sheep—even at the risk of his own life.

The life of the shepherd was a life of sacrifice that was all about the sheep.

3. A HEART FOR GOD’S MISSION.

2 CORINTHIANS 5

¹⁴ Christ’s love controls us now. ²⁰We are Christ’s ambassadors. God is using us to speak to you: we beg you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, receive the love he offers you—be reconciled to God.

When it comes to service to God, **David understood that it is our heart that matters the most.**

PSALM 26:2

Test me, Lord, and try me,
examine my heart and my mind;

³for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love
and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness.



PSALM 139

Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.

²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

“Testing of the heart was so core to David’s understanding of God that when he prayed, he referred to God as “you who test the hearts” (Psalm 7:9), and actually prayed for God to test him: “Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart” (Psalm 26:2). Perhaps we should pause a minute or two and pray that brave prayer right now. Test my heart, O Lord!”

-Steve Murell

PROVERBS 17:3

“The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and **the Lord tests hearts.**”

A crucible is literally a ceramic or metal container used to melt metals at extremely high temperatures.

Metaphorically, a crucible is a severe test or situation of extreme pressure that changes a person.

When silver is put in a crucible and the heat is turned up, the impurities and contaminants are exposed. Same with our hearts.

When God puts us through the fire and pressure, he is not punishing us. Rather, he is testing our hearts and exposing the impurities and contaminants.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. When it comes to heart matters of core spirituality, which of the 3 is God inviting you to pursue / deepen and why?
2. During this current season of your journey, how has God been testing and purifying your heart?