

The United Heart: Whole-hearted Affection and Obedience

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What is the heart? (Ps. 139:23, 1 Peter 3:3-4)

What is the heart for? (Deut. 6:4, 1 John 2:15)

What is a divided heart? (Luke 16:13, James 1:5-8, 4:8)

What is a united heart? (Ps. 119:2, 10, 145)

What is the "secret" to faithfully pursuing whole-hearted devotion and obedience to Christ? WHAT should we do and HOW should we do it?

Psalm 86: WHAT King David did and HOW he did it.

1. Praying (devotion)

Who we are & what we do: how and what to pray.

Who God is & what he has done: how to have confidence that God can and does answer our prayers.

2. Walking (obedience)

Learning God's way: studying his word

Practicing God's truth: doing his word

3. Delighting (God's glory and our good)

Benefits from the Lord: what God will do for us in answer to our prayers

Worship of the Triune God

Witness to the world

1. How might this prayer and the Lord's Prayer influence the way you come to God in prayer?

2. What scripture passage(s) could you read and meditate on that would encourage you to "lift up your soul" to the Lord every morning as you start your day?

Psalm 86

A PRAYER OF DAVID.

- 1 Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.
- 2 Preserve my life, for I am godly;
save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God.
- 3 Be gracious to me, O Lord,
for to you do I cry all the day.
- 4 Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.
- 5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.
- 6 Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;
listen to my plea for grace.
- 7 In the day of my trouble I call upon you,
for you answer me.
- 8 There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.
- 9 All the nations you have made shall come
and worship before you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.
- 10 For you are great and do wondrous things;
you alone are God.
- 11 Teach me your way, O LORD,
that I may walk in your truth;
unite my heart to fear your name.
- 12 I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
and I will glorify your name forever.
- 13 For great is your steadfast love toward me;
you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

- 14 O God, insolent men have risen up against me;
 a band of ruthless men seeks my life,
 and they do not set you before them.
- 15 But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
 slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.
- 16 Turn to me and be gracious to me;
 give your strength to your servant,
 and save the son of your maidservant.
- 17 Show me a sign of your favor,
 that those who hate me may see and be put to shame
 because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

Who I am / What I do	What I ask God to do	Who God is / what He's done