

I LOVE LOVE - Fixing your Heart to LOVE

I LOVE to LOVE takes INTENTIONALITY.....

Being Intentional in Preparing the Heart will Protect You and Fix your Heart to LOVE

2 Chronicles 12:14

He did evil, for he had not set (Prepared) his heart to seek the Lord.

Relatively few people are determined to do evil. They don't wake up in the morning seeking ways to violate the Word of God or Jesus.

we don't set out to hurt the ones we love.

People fall into sin because they have not prepared their hearts to seek the Lord and learn how to love.

We Need to Learn from Rehoboam's Mistakes

2 Chronicles 12:14 verse tells us about Rehoboam, the king of Israel, who was the grandson of David.

He inherited the throne when he was 41 years old, at the death of his father Solomon.

In the beginning of his reign, his heart was sensitive to the Lord; he loved God and wanted to please him.

2 Chronicles 11:1-4

1 On his arrival in Jerusalem, Rehoboam assembled the house of Judah and Benjamin—one hundred and eighty thousand elite warriors—to wage war against Israel and restore the kingdom to Rehoboam.

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2 However, the word of the Lord came to Shemaiah, a man of God:

3 Say to Rehoboam, son of Solomon, king of Judah, and to all the Israelites in Judah and Benjamin:

4 “Thus says the Lord: You must not go out to war against your kinsmen. Return home, each of you, for it is I who have brought this about.” They obeyed the word of the Lord and turned back from going against Jeroboam.

This is a man of great faith, as he turns back from battle simply because of a prophet who spoke to him in the name of the Lord

However, his commitment to seek the Lord only lasted for three of the seventeen years of his reign

Sound familiar?

It certainly does to me.

During the time I have been in the ministry, I have known many people who genuinely loved the Lord at one time and were excited about the things of God,

But they grew cold and, in many cases, completely abandoned the Lord and the things that were once so dear to them.

I asked the Lord, Why does this happen?

It's because they didn't **prepare their hearts** to seek me....

The word **prepare** means to establish, fix, prepare, or apply.

It conveys the idea of **deliberate effort over a prolonged period of time.**

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The same Hebrew word that was translated *prepare* here was also translated as ***fixed***

Four times David spoke this in the old testament.

David also used this word twice Fixed in ***Psalms 57:7, My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.***

David wrote this psalm while he was hiding in a cave, and Saul, the king was trying to kill him.

David's men tried to get David to kill Saul and seize the throne which was rightfully his, but David wouldn't do it.

Why?

Saul trying to kill David?

Wouldn't it have been considered self-defense?

No one would have blamed him.

He could have gotten away with it and saved years of frustration and pain in his own life.

But David had already **prepared, and fixed, his heart** that he would not take the kingdom by killing Saul.

His own words is saying, "*My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise*" (Psalms. 57:7).

If David had not already fixed his heart on what he would and would not do, he would have succumbed to the pressure of that moment.

I believe he would have killed Saul.

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*According to the American Heritage Dictionary, the word **fixed is defined** as meaning: firmly in position; stationary; not subject to change or variation; firmly, often dogmatically held.*

One of the keys to preparing our hearts is to fix our hearts on what we will and will not do before we encounter the temptation.

David had already settled what he would do so that there were no options left when the temptation came.

Far too often, Christians have not made strong enough commitments and, therefore, fall into temptation.

No one can accomplish preparing their heart on their own.

Let me say that again,

NO ONE CAN PREPARE THEIR HEART ON THEIR OWN!

This is not a matter of sheer willpower.

God must be **involved** in **preparing** our **hearts**.

Psalm 10:17 says, "Lord, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart."

Only when we trust in the Lord and depend on Him can we find the strength to keep our hearts fixed and prepared to resist temptation.

Humility is also an essential ingredient in the preparation of our hearts.

Proverbs 16:18 says, "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."

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Anytime anyone falls from their steadfast position in the Lord, you can bet that they stopped humbly depending on the Lord.

Humility has to be forsaken, or at least neglected, before we fall.

A humble heart is a soft, sensitive heart.

Our imaginations and our memories also play an important role in preparing our hearts.

David said in 1 Chronicles 29:18, *“O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee.”*

David is talking about the concept of memory here and the influence of imagination on what we remember.

Worship Team

If we look at this moment in context,

David had just given billions of dollars in offerings toward the building of the temple in Jerusalem (1 Chr. 29:4).

Then the elders of Israel did the same (1 Chr. 29:6-7).

It must have been an awesome experience, and David prayed that the Lord would use the memory of this event to prepare the people's hearts.

The proper application of memory is a vital aspect of preparing our own hearts.

The Lord warned the children of Israel not to forget the mighty works He had performed for them so they would not turn away from Him.

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There are many scriptures talking about this but for time sake we will only talk about one. (Deut. 4:9, 23; 6:12; 8:11-14, 19).

Deut. 4:23 Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the Lord your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the Lord thy God hath forbidden thee.

David is linking memory to the ability to stay true to the Lord.

Remember we are talking about “Fixing your HEART to LOVE!

Faithlessness is a LOVE language from GOD

No one who is dominated with thoughts of the goodness and faithfulness of the Lord will turn their back on the Lord.

Someone who turns from the Lord has allowed Satan to divert their attention from God while blocking the memories of God's goodness and faithfulness to us.

If you keep your positive memories alive, you will maintain a close, intimate connection with the Lord, and your heart will be prepared to withstand any temptation.

As we **LOVE** to **LOVE** we **MUST** fix our hearts to love by being prepared so we don't fail!

David did this and so did Jesus, we must we must we must be prepared to **LOVE**....