

The Heart of Things

August 19, 2018 | Wonderful Mercy Church

What Do You Want?

- 1 Kings 3:3-14
- Most who know this story, if asked what Solomon requested from God, would say, “Wisdom.”
- The biblical text does not record that Solomon asked for wisdom

What Did Solomon Ask For?

- Solomon asked for a **šōmēa'** (משׁע) **lēb** (לב)
- He asked for **a hearing heart**

The Heart

- “The heart, according to Scripture, not only includes the motives, feelings, affections, and desires, but also the will, the aims, the principles, the thoughts, and the intellect of man. In fact, it embraces the whole inner man.”
[Girdlestone's Synonyms of the Old Testament]
- “...‘heart’ became the richest biblical term for the totality of man’s inner nature.” [Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament]

The Tuning Fork



“Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but using a standard greater than themselves.”

[*Tozer on Christian Leadership* by A.W. Tozer, compiled by Ron Eggert. ©2001 by Zur Ltd.]

The Tuning Fork

- If you place a vibrating tuning fork next to a still tuning fork, the unmoving tuning fork starts to vibrate — at a similar rate to the vibrating one — just because they are placed close to each other
- That's what this king with a hearing heart will be: perfectly tuned to Heaven — and the nation will be tuned, too, through him

John 5:25-27a

THE VOICE TRANSLATION

“I tell you the truth: a new day is imminent—in fact, it has arrived—when the voice of the Son of God will penetrate death’s domain, and everyone who hears will live. You see, the Father radiates with life; and He also animates the Son of God with the same life-giving beauty and power...”

God, What Do You Want to Happen Here?

- The tuning fork as a picture of a hearing heart is potentially helpful and illuminating
- We want to vibrate, move in concert with the precise sound waves of the triune God, perfectly tuned to him and his desires

2018 Prophetic Word: Listen

- **Proverbs 22:17** PASSION TRANSLATION
“Listen carefully and open your heart.
Drink in the wise revelation that I impart.”
- Our life with God is a listening life, as Jesus makes clear
- “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”
This phrase appears eight times in the gospels

2018 Prophetic Word: Listen

- Listen. Why? Because listening is what Jesus did and it's what he is doing now
- **Hebrews 5:8** PASSION TRANSLATION
“But even though he was a wonderful Son, he learned to listen and obey through all his sufferings.”

Listening in the Year of Life Together

- “I’m excited about what God is doing now, in this moment, in us and his church, and what he’s going to do. There’s a reason he brought ‘Listen’ and ‘Life Together’ to us in the same year.”

[WMC member via email | August 6, 2018]

Listen...



...with the ear of your heart

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