

“Give Me Your Heart” #1

Eduardo Elizondo—July 18, 2026

This is based on what it says in Proverbs 23, and we’re going to go there to start. These are words that were inspired by God, and He actually inspired this to be written.

Proverbs 23:26: “My son, **give Me your heart,** and **let your eyes observe My ways.**”

It’s as if God is telling us, *because we are the children of God*, that we are to give Him our heart. We know, in many Christian circles, that phrase is being very used, and abused, and overused, and misunderstood. What does it mean to give our heart to God?

Many people say, ‘Have you given your heart to the Lord?’ **or** When were you saved? They use terms like this to refer to when they were called, when they started walking in God’s way, ***trying to follow what the Bible says!*** But, what does it really mean to ***give God our heart?*** Because it says it here, we just read it:

Verse 23: “My son, give Me your heart, and **let your eyes observe My ways**”—*which is very important*, it goes together with the first part of this verse. But God says that He wants for us **to give Him our heart!**

- How do we do that?
- What does the heart have to do with our relationship with God?
- How is it that we can give Him our heart?
- What does that look like?
- Why does that matter?
- What is the importance of giving God our heart as He wants us to?

He tells us to do it!

Then He says, “...Let your eyes observe **My ways**, for a harlot is a deep ditch, and a wanton woman is a narrow pit. **She also lies in wait as for prey and increases the transgressors among men**” (vs 26-28).

He’s talking about the harlot and the wanton woman. He’s talking about two different things. But whether it is for profit or for money, like the harlot does, or whether it is the wanton woman, this represents something we’re doing. These are ways of life, because that’s what God says.

“...give Me your heart, and **let your eyes observe My ways.**”

Because instead of God’s ways, ***we can go to the way of the harlot woman or the way of the wanton woman***, which is a different way:

- it’s a different way of life
- it’s a different way of doing things and thinking

God wants us to **give Him** our heart!

But what does that mean? We’re going to see this connection throughout, **that giving our heart to God as His children has everything to do with letting our eyes observe His ways!** It’s interesting, because He says:

“...**LET** your eyes observe My ways.” It doesn’t mean only you **DO** My ways, God says, **LET your eyes OBSERVE My ways.**”

God is saying, **IF** we **give Him** our heart, **He will show us His ways!** We just have to **LET our eyes observe them!** We have **to understand**, and we have **to be transformed!** That’s what God is going to do **IF we give Him our heart!**

Verse 19 is another instruction that God gives us. It’s phrased in the same way: “My son, **hear and be wise**, and **guide your heart in The Way.**”

He first says to guide our heart in ***the Way***, but then He says, “...**give me your heart, and let your eyes observe My ways.**”

This is very important, because He wants us to be wise, **to hear and be wise**, and guide your heart in **the Way!** Something about:

- hearing
- having wisdom
- guiding our heart in *the Way*

We’re going to see the connection of all of these things—our giving of our heart to the Lord—**but in Spirit and in Truth, grounded in the Word of God!**

Not in some just emotional feeling, or something that some preacher says. That’s ***not*** what ‘giving our heart to the Lord’ is. We’re going to see what it means, but before we do that, before we go and see how is it that we can give our heart to the Lord—and what does that really mean—we want to read a couple of other Scriptures about the heart, and the importance of the heart.

The first one that we’re going to do is here in Proverbs 4:23. It’s a Scripture that is very important, and we’ve read it many, many times. But:

- we can never overemphasize its importance,
- we can never overanalyze this Scripture

This is one of those that we can meditate all the time in, and think about:

- What does it mean?
- How do we do this?

Because this is instruction where God says:

Proverbs 4:23 “**Above all, guard the door of your mind [heart]** with diligence, for out of it *are* the issues of life.”

The **heart** and the **mind**, as Michael Heiss has explained several times, **is the same word** [in the Hebrew]. That means *everything that you are!*

ALL *things are connected*, and it's no accident that **they're the same word**, because the heart and the mind both have neurons. Our gut, our digestive system also has neurons. *That's the common thread between all three things:*

1. between our mind
2. our heart
3. our inward parts, which are our intestines

They all have neurons, the same types of cells that are in the brain. That's why, and I highly recommend the messages: *The Heart-Mind Connection* {truthofgod.org}. Fred talks about the heart-mind connection, and it's very important that we understand that:

- our thoughts
- our emotions
- our feelings

All is connected!

We feel—that's why we get butterflies in the stomach when we're nervous. Our emotions give us that feeling. It's our **feelings**, our **emotions**, and our **thoughts** are all connected! **The heart, the mind and the gut:** They all have neurons, and they connect to each other.

It's very interconnected, and that's really what we are. That's why God says here, guard your heart, or guard the door of your mind. How? “...**with diligence**... [this is important of the heart]: ...for out of it *are* the issues of life” (v 23).

- out of our mind
- out of our heart
- what we think
- what we feel

That is what God wants for us to give Him:

- our thoughts
- our emotions
- our feelings

That we would bring it before Him! That's one of the things that it means to **give Him our heart!**

We have to **guard our heart with diligence!** Not listen to things that we shouldn't be listening to, or watch things that we shouldn't be watching. **Guarding our mind, guarding our heart from perversion, and from a lot of evil that is in this world!**

Jesus also said that He prayed to the Father, not that He would take us out of the world, **but He would keep us from the evil one!**

- **guard** the door of your mind
- **guard** your heart

Because out of the heart are the issues of life! That's the importance of our heart. Not only the connection, but also out of that are the issues of life.

Solomon wrote the Proverbs, and he also wrote Ecclesiastes. He had a lot of knowledge about the heart. He had a lot of knowledge about the human body, how it works. Also about the mind and how man thinks.

He was thinking a lot about these things. It was almost like what in modern day we know as *philosophy*. Solomon got wisdom from God, **God gave it to him!** He was kind of philosophizing about many things, and trying this and trying that. The problem is that **he was not close to God anymore!**

Then we're going to see throughout his problem was exactly that, **that he went astray from the ways of God, because he didn't do what God had said to do!** That's why God says, “...let your eyes observe My ways,” **because God said that the king shall not:**

- multiply wives for himself
- accumulate gold and silver for himself

because his heart is going to go in a different direction, and it happened! That's what happened with Solomon!

We're going to read some things about the heart, the heart of man; *Solomon* writes:

Ecclesiastes 8:5: “**Whoever keeps the Commandment shall feel no evil thing...**”

It's interesting, because in the broad sense, you could take it to the end degree, and that's true. **IF** all the Laws of God were always kept by everyone all the time, nobody would ever feel any evil thing. **But we know that that's not true! We know that the Laws and Commandments of God are broken every day, basically by everybody!** That's part of the reason why we have trials, we have afflictions, we reap what we sow.

But in its purest form, it's absolutely true. “**Whoever keeps the Commandment shall feel no**

evil thing..." (v 5). That doesn't mean that we will not go through trials or unpleasant things, but **evil** things.

"...and a wise man's heart discerns both time and judgment..." (v 5). Why? *Because a wise man's heart is guided by God. Wisdom is being led by God:*

- in our thoughts
- in our actions
- in our words

That's wisdom! That's what it says:

"...a wise man's heart discerns both time **and judgment**" (v 5).

Because we have to make these judgments, and there's many variables. It's the time, the place, the way, the person, etc. But the wise man's heart discerns the time and judgment. ***With God's guidance through His Spirit, we can do that!*** We can get to that point where ***we're more and more discerning both the time and the judgment!***

When we rely on ourselves, when we trust in our heart, ***we get it wrong!*** That's when

- we get into arguments
- we make mistakes
- we hurt other people

all of these things happen because we're not discerning time and judgment.

Sometimes we discern time, ***but not judgment***; or judgment, ***but not time!*** There's so many variables in human relationships and the things that we do. But it says that the ***wise man's heart***, so, ***the discernment is in the heart!*** Let's keep that in mind!

"...and a wise man's heart discerns both time and judgment" (v 5).

Then we see where Solomon is at in:

Verse 6: "Because **to every purpose there is time and judgment...**" *That's true:*

- ***IF*** we are wise
- ***IF*** we're guided by God
- ***THEN*** we will discern both

We will make good choices guided by God through the Holy Spirit! But Solomon says,

"...therefore, the **misery of man** is great" (v 6).

Why does he say that the misery of man is great? *Because:*

- ***IF*** we are not wise
- ***IF*** we're not being guided by God
- ***IF*** we go astray from God

Then it says that's exactly what will happen:

Verse 7: "For he does not know what shall be; for who can tell him when it shall be?"

The answer is ***God!*** God can tell us when it shall be, not only about prophecy, that's true. He told Daniel what things were going to happen and the time of the end. He didn't give him every single detail. *But:*

- Who can tell him?
- Who can tell him what it will be? ***God!***

That's the key; ***the key to everything in our lives is God!*** That's the reality. ***The key:***

- to wisdom
- to understanding
- to discerning time and judgment

is our relationship with God! That's why this discernment is *in the heart!*

A wise man's heart discerns both time and judgment because of what God says! That's why Solomon was kind of lost in here saying:

"...therefore, the misery of man is great. For he does not know what shall be; ***for who can tell him when it shall be?***" (vs 6-7). ***God! That's the answer!***

You see that throughout the book of Ecclesiastes. You see that Solomon answers all these questions, and he kind of gets depressed ***because it's true apart from God***, it's kind of like philosophy. This is what philosophy tries to do. ***It tries to gain knowledge and understanding apart from God!***

This is kind of what the exercise that Solomon was doing here. Saying things that are true, but without really getting to God, ***Who is the One Who has all the treasures of knowledge***, like it says in James. Then he tells us something else about the human heart in:

Verse 11: "Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore, the heart of the sons of men is **fully set in them to do evil.**"

He's talking about the reason that ***IF*** the sentence or the judgment of the Laws of God applied absolutely immediately, ***IF*** every consequence was immediate, ***THEN*** maybe there would be less evil. But because it doesn't, and it doesn't because:

- God is merciful
- God is patient
- God determines

WHEN the consequences will come according to each one of His Commandments! It says, but because that doesn't happen:

“...the heart of the sons of men is **fully set in them to do evil**” (v 11).

We have to take this into account, *that our heart—by nature—is set in us to do evil!*

He says “...**fully set** in them to do evil.” Because the only One Who can give us something good **is God!** The only One Who can transform us **is God!** But He says:

Proverbs 23:26: “My son, give Me your heart, and **let your eyes observe My ways.**” *We have proof of this:*

Ecclesiastes 8:11: “...the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.”

Gen. 6: where God decides to flood the earth, and He gives us the reason why. Because God is just, and His judgments are always true and righteous. He gives an explanation for what he’s about to do.

Genesis 6:5: “And the LORD saw that **the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.**”

That’s what Solomon said, **‘the heart of man is fully set in them to do evil!’**

- that’s what happens
- that’s our nature
- that’s what we have
- that is the problem
- that is the problem that we have in this life
 - ✓ the main problem is *our nature*
 - ✓ the main problem is ourselves

Yes, of course, there is society, but society is just a bunch of us that are bad, and we know that **this world is under the power of Satan the devil at this time.** But he says that—at this point, right before the Flood —“**every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually**” (v 5).

There was not a break in wanting to do evil; that is a problem because that is really the problem of human nature. That’s why God says: “My son, give Me your heart, and let your eyes observe My ways.” **IF** you give Me [God] your heart:

- I will change that nature.
- I will show you My ways
- I will guide you in a different way
- I will give you wisdom

That’s what God wants us to do! Give Him our heart so that He can transform it!

- we can’t convert ourselves
- we can’t change our nature by ourselves

It has to be changed by God!

Ecclesiastes 8:11: “...the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.... [he continues his reflection and he says something else]: ...Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his *days* are prolonged, yet, surely **I know that it shall be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him**” (vs 11-12).

It’s very important that we think about this, because in Solomon’s thinking, in his wisdom, he’s saying, ‘I know they can do evil a hundred times and his days are prolonged.’ Why? *Because he was talking about how the sentence doesn’t come immediately! That happens! Sometimes that happens!*

Like the evil ones, they do evil and they prosper in the way; they seem to prosper in their ways while the good ones suffer. They’re suffering affliction and trial and persecution. But he says that’s not what matters. Even though that happens, that’s separate.

It says, “...I know that it shall be well with those **who fear God**, who fear before Him.” In fact, that’s how he concludes the book; that’s how he finishes the book, that this is the whole man; it’s basically **fear God and keep His Commandments!**

Here Solomon says the same thing: “...I know that it shall be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him” (v 12).

We’re going to talk briefly about the fear of the LORD, which is a topic that is so important and so deep. There are so many Scriptures about it that we can learn from in the Bible. We’re going to see that this is where it all begins. *That He will be well with the man that fears God!* We are told the following, and this is very important:

Proverbs 1:7: “**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge**, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

When Solomon is doing this analysis of the human mind, and it’s like he’s fully sending them to do evil! **But it will be well with those who fear the Lord, because the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge!**

We’ve talked about this before, but it’s important to say it again and to remember that there is knowledge, and there’s understanding, and there’s wisdom. There are layers, but underneath it all is **the fear of the LORD!** The beginning!

We cannot have even knowledge **unless** there’s a fear of the LORD. But the fear of the LORD **is the beginning of knowledge!** Then upon knowledge... Knowledge is like all the

Commandments and the Laws of God. The Church of God has *a lot* of knowledge. *Not all* the knowledge. There's no such thing as coming to ***all the knowledge of the Bible and all the deep things of God!*** There's no such thing! ***But we can know a lot of things, and we can continue to increase.*** That never ends! But based on that foundation of knowledge:

- facts
- truth
- righteousness
- the Commandments of God
- the words of God
- the work of God

to have knowledge of all of that! ***God can add understanding!***

- How is it that things go together?
- How do you put all that knowledge together?
- How does that work?
- What is conversion?
- What is sanctification?
- What is the process of conversion of the mind?
- What is the changing of the heart?
- What is all of these things about?
- What is the character of the saints?

That's the understanding. Then on top of that, there's ***wisdom!***. That wisdom ***is being led by God!*** God is going to lead us ***IE*** we have knowledge and understanding. ***THEN*** comes wisdom, because God is going to use that understanding ***that He gives us to guide us!***

He is going to clarify that understanding for us so that we can be ***guided by His Spirit into all wisdom!*** Into:

- what to do
- how to do it
- to understand and discern

both time and judgment, like we read in Ecclesiastics. We have to discern time, we have to discern judgment. *But*:

- we have to have knowledge in order to have wisdom
- in order to have wisdom we have to have understanding
- we have to have understanding in order to have wisdom

Once we have the understanding or have things work, ***God will use that to guide us!*** That's based on the foundation of the knowledge. But we cannot begin to even have knowledge ***unless we have the fear of the LORD!***

That's the reason why so many people that may have knowledge of the world, ***but they don't have the true knowledge of God:***

- ***IE*** they don't come to the Bible
- ***IE*** they don't believe God
- ***IE*** they don't believe what He says

Verse 1: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge..."

But the problem is, fools despise wisdom and instruction. They despise God Himself. The opposite of that is ***US giving our hearts to God!***

- giving ourselves to God
- giving our heart to understanding

We're going to see that this is what God wants us to do! He wants us to apply our heart:

- to knowledge
- to understanding
- to wisdom

That's what God wants for us! But we're going to see that ***God always wanted the hearts of His people!*** He still does, all of us! ***We're going to see that:***

It's very interesting. The two books in the Old Testament that talk about the heart the most are the Psalms and Deuteronomy. What does this tell you? It is the retelling of the Law. These are the Laws and Commandments of God when He gave them to Israel right before they were going to go into the 'promised land.'

All the Commandments of God, all the Law of God... Why is the heart mentioned so much? ***Because the Law and the heart are inseparable in the eyes of God!*** That's the Truth. The Truth is that the Commandments of God and the Law ***are a matter of the heart!*** That's why it talks about:

- circumcision of the heart
- the inner parts of our being
 - ✓ our heart
 - ✓ our mind

We're going to read about that. We're going to read about what was the desire of God for all His people in Israel. We're going to see that in Deut. 5:24. This is when Moses is recounting what happened on Mount Sinai.

It was 38 years, almost 40 years before. He's recounting what happened to this new generation that is about to go and inherit the land. This is after God spoke from top of Mount Sinai and spoke the Ten Commandments, because everybody heard it.

Deuteronomy 5:24—*Moses speaking*: "And

you... [the children of Israel] ...said, 'Behold, the LORD our God has revealed His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice out of the midst of the fire. We have seen today that God talks with man yet he *still* lives. Now, therefore, why should we die? For this great fire will consume us. If we hear the voice of the LORD our God any more, then we shall die'" (vs 24-25).

It's amazing to see their attitude and their heart because they did not die. They had heard the voice; they actually said it. 'We heard the voice of God out of the midst of the fire.' But they were afraid, and that's different than the 'fear of God.' They were afraid for their lives. But that's the problem. They heard the voice, and then they were afraid.

Notice what Moses says after, because this is amazing; it blew my mind. This is Israel speaking:

Verse 26: "For who of all flesh has heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as we *have*, and lived?"

Who has? *You know who: Moses, right in front of them!* The one to whom they were telling all these things. Moses is the one who had heard the voice out of the midst of the fire as they had, ***and lived!*** Remember the burning bush? *It was in the midst of the fire! God was speaking to Moses from the midst of the fire,* and he lived! ***He also obeyed!*** God told Him, 'This is hallowed ground, take your shoes off.' *Then he took his shoes off!*

That's the fear of the LORD. What Moses had was the *fear of the LORD!* He was talking with God. God was giving him the instruction to go and free His [God's] people Israel out of Egypt. Moses was telling God he didn't want to go, ***but he didn't just go his way and ignore it!*** He had the proper fear of the LORD. He talked to God, and he was not afraid for his life; he didn't take off running.

But the people, the people did not have that same *fear of the LORD* that Moses had. *They were afraid for their life!* That's a big difference. Because who was full flesh? *Moses!* Moses had done that. But what was the heart of the people of Israel?

Verse 27: "You [Moses] go near and hear all that the LORD our God shall say. And you speak to us all that the LORD our God shall speak to you, and we will hear *it*, and do *it*."

'We need somebody in between us because this is just too hard! Too powerful! Too terrifying! They were concerned with ***their well-being, instead of being in awe of the power of God!*** They had the privilege and the honor of hearing directly from God from the mountain.

- they did not know God.

- they did not trust God
- they did not know His goodness
- they did not know that He was not there to harm them as powerful as His voice was

That is a matter of the heart. ***Their heart was fully focused on themselves!***

'Let us not die. We'll trust you, Moses. You'll be our mediator. You tell us and we will do. We want an arm's length relationship (from God).

WE cannot, brethren, have an arm's-length relationship with God! We cannot have a transactional relationship with God.

God says, ***'My son, give me your heart.'***

- Are we going to give our heart to God?
- All of it?
 - ✓ our thoughts?
 - ✓ our emotions?
 - ✓ our actions?

*God demands **nothing less** from His people!* We're going to see this is His desire.

Verse 28—*Moses speaking:* "And the LORD heard the voice of your words when you spoke to me...."

Meaning, you can say whatever you want, ***but God's still listening!***

- He listens to all your murmuring
- He listens to all your complaints
- He listens now to your request

"...And the LORD said to me... [Moses is transparent; God is transparent with Moses and Moses is transparent with the people] ...'I have heard the voice of the words of this people, which they have spoken to you. They have well *said* all that they have spoken.'"

They have well said because they said, 'You tell us and we will do.'

Good agreement. Good agreement to listen to the one whom God had sent to them: *Moses!* Good agreement to listen to him, to agree to do it, ***and then to do it!*** Good!

That was not exactly what God wanted, because v 29 tells us that God is lamenting and He's saying:

Verse 29: "Oh, that there were such a heart in them ***that they would fear Me...***"

They did not fear Him. They were afraid for their lives, which is different than the fear of the LORD.

Verse 29: "Oh, that there were such a heart in

them that they would fear Me and keep all My Commandments always so that it might be well with them and with their children forever!" *God wanted a heart in them:*

- full of the fear of God
- full of the understanding of God
- full of obedience

But not obedience for obedience sake; *it has to be from the heart!* That's what God says:

Give Me your heart, My son, give Me your heart. That there was such a heart. I will convert it into this. Such a heart that they would fear Me and keep all My Commandments always. That it may be well with them and with their children forever.

Because that's what God wanted. God wanted to bless them; *bless them in abundance far above everything else! God knew!*

He says, 'That they would fear Him and keep His Commandments always,' *because when we keep the Commandments:*

- we're going to be transformed
- we're going to see the results of what the Laws do for us and in us

Psa. 19—just to remind ourselves of what this is. Because anytime the people talk about the works of the Law, usually they go to the New Testament and say, 'See you're trying to earn your own salvation.' ***The works of the Law.*** Paul talks about that. The works of the Law are in Psalms, in Psa. 19; this is where the works of the Law are. They're very, very clear.

God wrote them here so that we remember what the Law is going to do:

- ***IE*** we take those Laws
- ***IE*** we memorize those Laws

We're going to read about that in Deuteronomy in a minute, because that's what God instructed them to do. *God is a loving God! He wants to:*

- instruct us
- teach us
- show us the way

Psalm 19:7 is important, because these are the works of the Law:

Psalm 19:7: "**The Law of the LORD is perfect...** [this is a description of the Law, then the work]: **...restoring the soul...**"

The work of the Law is *the restoration of our body*, because ***our soul is our body!*** That's what it is.

Verse 7: "The Law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; **the testimony of the LORD is sure...**" *What's a testimony?*

- it's what happened
- it's testifying
- it's what happened, what somebody did

"...the testimony of the LORD is sure... [what God does in our lives] **...making wise the simple**" (v 7).

That's exactly what we read. We read about the heart of the wise man discerns both time and judgment, ***because that's wisdom!*** "...the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple" (v 7).

The work of God in our heart and mind! ***We have to give our heart to God!*** Because he says, ***'My son, give Me your heart.'*** *That's why the testimony makes wise the simple!*

Verse 8: "The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart..."

That's what God wants to do. He wants for us to give him, ***for us to give Him our heart, so that he can rejoice our heart!*** David did that. He actually talked about that. He talked about how wonderful it was, how much joy he got from God:

- when he meditated upon Him
- when he had a close relationship with Him

He said that it's more joy than anything else. That's the best thing in life. That's why the precepts of the Lord are right; rejoicing the heart, ***because they show us God's nature!*** We get to know God. ***He wants our heart to give us His joy!*** That's the second fruit of the Holy Spirit.

"...the Commandments of the LORD are pure, enlightening the eyes" (v 8).

We can see the connection between the rejoicing of the heart and the Commandments that enlighten our eyes. That's why what we read when we started in:

Proverbs 23:26: "My son, **give Me your heart,** and **let your eyes observe My ways**"—*because that's exactly what God wants us to do, because the Commandments of the LORD are pure, enlightening the eyes!*

It's an amazing thing when we think about it. When we think about how the connection... Everything connects and everything is stated in the same way. The heart first, and then the eyes can see. That's what he said:.

Verse 26: "...give Me your heart, let your eyes observe My ways."

Psalm 19:8: “The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the Commandments of the LORD are pure, enlightening the eyes.”

Verse 9: “Then it says, the fear of the LORD is clean and enduring forever... [because that is the beginning of knowledge] ...the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.”

Why? Because that is what God wants to do. ***IE we give Him our heart***, He’s going to do His judgments. ***He’s going to do His work in us!*** That’s His testimony. Making us wise, not for our own sake, but for His glory. Because that’s what matters. What matters is that ***everybody on the earth will know that there is a God*** and:

- He loves us
- He’s going to transform our minds and our hearts

and:

- we are going to be different people
- we’re going to think differently
- we’re going to act differently
- we’re going to speak differently

because of Him!

- because of His Wisdom
- because of His Spirit
- because of His Power

All of it to the glory of his name! That’s what we have to do. That comes from the faith of the LORD. How do we do this? *Let’s go back to Deut. 6.*

We’ve seen the connection already many times between the heart and the Commandments. Between the heart and the eyes related to God’s ways. Because His ways are His Commandments. Those are His ways. But in Deut. 6 He tells us something very important. He was telling Israel this is the ***first and greatest Commandment!***

Deuteronomy 6:4—Moses speaking: “Hear, O Israel. Our one God is *the LORD, the LORD.*”

I love how it’s written in *A Faithful Version*. Because it’s very clear. “...Our one God is *the LORD, the LORD....*” Two LORDS.

- the One Who became the Father
- the One Who became Jesus Christ
 - ✓ two LORDS
 - ✓ two Jehovahs
 - ✓ two Yahwehs

It’s two of Them, the LORD, the LORD! That’s why it’s twice. We know that the is italicized. But LORD, LORD is twice. That’s what it means. Because everybody knows that Elohim is plural. God is a plural word. It was the Word and God. It was the One Who became the Father and the One Who became the Son. In the instruction:

Verse 5: “And you shall love the LORD your God with ***all your heart*** and with ***all your soul***... [your body] ...and with ***all your might***.”

God wants us to ***give Him our heart!*** But first ***we have to know who He is!*** It’s amazing that we do have the knowledge of the true God: *The Father and the Son!* That God and the Father has done everything through the Son, and He continues to do that today.

Verse 6: “And these words, which I command you this day, ***shall be in your heart.***”

We have to love Him with all our heart, but in order to do that, ***these words have to be in our heart!*** It says, and we have things to do. How are they going to be in our heart?

Verse 7: “And you shall ***diligently teach them to your children***, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise up.”

But when you talk about them, it’s not just to your children, it’s with anybody. Even if your children are grown men or gone from the house. Or if you don’t have children, you can still talk about these words:

“...***WHEN*** you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down, and when you rise up” (v 7).

That’s what God wants us to do, because God knows that when we do these things. ***WHEN*** we talk about His words at night, and in the morning.

- ***THEN*** we are keeping them in our heart
- ***THEN*** we are understanding more about God

We’re loving Him, ***and that’s how we give Him our heart!***

- ***WHEN*** we do these things
- ***WHEN*** we pay attention to His words
- ***WHEN*** we are acknowledging Him in all of our ways

It’s an amazing thing when we put these pieces together and we start to see. ***God wants us to give Him our heart, because out of it are the issues of life!*** He wants us to have life; not only physically ***but spiritually!*** He wants to bless us in everything. He’s not going to shortcut our conversion by giving us everything that we need and spoiling us!

He knows what we would react to. That we wouldn’t change much. But He is a master workman. He knows exactly what we need. That’s why we have to trust Him. But we have to give Him our hear, and part of it is letting our eyes observe His ways.

Because He gives us **the what**, but also **the how** and **the when**. How to apply all of these things. He told us you have to speak of these words ‘when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way.’ You have to teach them to your children. **You have to talk and meditate about these things all the time! God is your life!**

Deuteronomy 8:1: “All the Commandments, which I command you this day, **shall you be diligent to observe and to do that you may live** and multiply and go in and possess the land, which the LORD swore to your fathers. And you shall remember all the way, which the LORD your God led you these forty years in the wilderness in order **to humble you, to prove you, to know what is in your heart...**” (vs 1-2). *So that he can see what’s in it!*

- He can fix it
- He can heal it
- He can cleanse it

That’s what He wants to do. But sometimes it’s going to be hard. That’s what He says:

- to humble you
- to prove you
- to know what was in your heart

This is what He wanted to know:

“...whether you would keep His Commandments or not” (v 2).

Then he repeats it in v 3; God is very transparent. With Moses and with the people. Moses tells the people straight up:

Verse 3: “And He humbled you and allowed you to hunger, and then He fed you with manna, which you did not know, neither did your fathers know it, so that **He might make you know that man does not live by bread alone; but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD does man live.**”

That’s exactly how Jesus responded to Satan when being tempted. **We have to live by every Word of God!** That’s what God wants us to do. **He’s going to test our heart!**

- He tested them
- He humbled them

To know what was in their heart!

Verse 4: “Your clothing did not wear out on you, nor did your foot swell these forty years.... [we have to remember this] ...And you shall consider in your heart...” (vs 4-5).

That’s why we have to give our heart to Him. So that he can really show us these things, otherwise

we cannot see it.

Verse 5: “And you shall consider in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the LORD your God chastens you.”

- even in the chastening
- even in the trial
- even in the punishment of 40 years
 - ✓ their clothing did not wear out on them
 - ✓ their foot did not swell
 - ✓ they were not hungry
 - ✓ they were not thirsty

They weren’t even hot, because they were covered by the cloud. They were not cold at night, because it gets cold in the desert; they were covered by the pillar of fire.

God is a loving God, always! When we give Him our heart we can see these things. We can meditate on His Law and what He actually says. We can meditate on what he actually says. We can consider in our heart that **IF** we are going through trials, **it’s because God chastens us. like a loving father chastens the children whom He delights!** He has to correct us. He has to teach us. He wants to do it. But the question is.

- Are we going to give God our heart?
- Are we going to obey?
- Are we going to be rebellious when the trials come?

Again, so many Scriptures that talk about the heart in Deut., and obviously in the Psalms. *Because:*

- there are poems
- there are songs
- there are emotions

of David and others:

- Asaph
- even a song of Moses (Psa. 90)

It just reflects the heart; the attitude in the heart. But when God says. ‘Give me your heart’ we are reading almost all these Scriptures in Deut. in the Law. The Law and the heart go together. **That’s how God converts us!**

Deuteronomy 11:11: “But the land which you are entering to possess, it is a land of hills and valleys that drink water from the rain of heaven. It is a land which the LORD your God cares for. The eyes of the LORD your God *are* always upon it from the beginning of the year even to the end of the year. ‘And it will be, **IF** you will hearken diligently to My Commandments, which I command you today... [first Commandment]: ...to love the LORD your God and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul’” (vs 11-13).

- love Him
- serve Him

With your whole heart! God expects nothing less. He wants that there was such a heart in us. That we would love Him! Keep His Commandments always, so that we would:

- meditate
- talk about them in the morning, at night, all the time

Then these are the blessings:

Verse 14: “Then I will give the rain of your land in its due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain and your wine and your oil.”

He just wanted to bless them abundantly. Because our God is a God of giving. Giving joyfully. Giving abundantly.

Verse 15: “And I will send grass in your fields for your livestock so that you may eat and be full.”

Verse 16: “**Take heed to yourselves that your heart may not be deceived,** and you turn aside and serve other gods, and worship them.”

That is a warning! That our heart may not be turned aside. That’s why God wants our heart. Because ***IF*** our hearts are with God, they are safe.

- they will be tested
- they will be humbled
- they will be transformed

That’s what God wants!. That’s why God says in:

Proverbs 23:26:[transcriber’s correction] “**Give me your heart...**”

The next time we will continue talking about this ***giving of our heart to the LORD*** and see some more things about it, more of the function of the heart and why God wants that.

But we are going to wrap it up for today. We have seen that God wants us:

- to give Him our heart
- to let our eyes observe His ways
 - we have seen the relationship between the Law and the heart
 - we have seen how our hearts are set to do evil by nature

But He is going to transform them!

- we have to trust Him
- we have to have the fear of the LORD

- we have to understand that He wants what’s best for us.

What’s best for us is that **we would give Him our heart!**

Have a great rest of this Sabbath, brethren. We’ll see you next time.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Proverbs 23:26-28, 19
- 2) Proverbs 4:23
- 3) Ecclesiastes 8:5-7, 11
- 4) Proverbs 23:26
- 5) Ecclesiastes 8:11
- 6) Genesis 6:5
- 7) Ecclesiastes 8:11-12
- 8) Proverbs 1:7
- 9) Deuteronomy 5:24-29
- 10) Psalm 19:7-8
- 11) Proverbs 23:26
- 12) Psalm 19:8-9
- 13) Deuteronomy 6:4-7
- 14) Deuteronomy 8:1-6
- 15) Deuteronomy 11:11-16
- 16) Proverbs 23:26

Scripture referenced, not quoted: Psalm 90

Also referenced {**truthofgod.org**}: Message Series: *The Heart-Mind Connection* by Fred R. Coulter

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