

The Heart of God

Dated 03/02/2019

Proverbs 4:23

Jeremiah 17:9-10

Mark 7:14-23

Luke 6:45

Last month we looked at the subject of Human Heart and how the Bible speaks about it in Spiritual Terms/Language that encompasses the activity of a person's intellect, emotion and Volition(power to choose).

I also mentioned the three aspects of the human heart based on those three activities. Those aspects were: (1) Heart as a knowledge faculty (2) Heart as Centre of feelings and (3) Heart as Centre of Volitional activity (making choices) Under these aspects, I mentioned about 32 types of heart that Bible mentions. There are more but I wanted to pick up the ones that relate to us more as a body of Christ. In fact, the word "Heart" appears 946 times in the whole Bible.

I have brought some copies of the notes for distribution so that we have this valuable information/research available to us for gauging our heart condition from time to time. We also looked at Prophet Jeremiah's statement about heart in Jer17:9 as well as Jesus' confirmation of Jeremiah's statement from a practical approach in Mark 7:21-22.

God's answer to the sinfulness of "Human Heart" is REGENERATION. This comes to all who truly repent of their sins, turn to God and place a PERSONAL FAITH in His Son Jesus Christ, as their Lord & Savior. Regeneration is a matter of heart.

Those who repent from their heart and confess with their mouth That Jesus is Lord & Savior of their life (Romans 10:9)—are called born-again people. As soon as they are truly born again, they receive a new Heart & Spirit from God as per Psalm51:10 and Ezekiel 11:19 {I have met many people who do not know that they have to personally confess Jesus as **Lord & Savior** of their life. Yet they consider themselves as born-again}

Those who go through this Spiritual Birth, God creates a desire to Love & Obey Him. Such love/devotion for God and His Son Jesus CANNOT be separated from obedience to His Word as we see in Psalm119:34,69,112)

Today, I want to share some aspects of God's Heart.

1. The first one is HIS JOY.

God rejoices in the well-being and faithfulness of His Covenant People AND in the repentance & conversion of sinners. He bring joy to His people who in turn rejoice in His presence as well as His people. Remember that God is the source of Joy—David in Psalm 37:4 tells us that "Take delight in the LORD and He will give you, your hearts desires (NLT).

In 1-Samuel 2:1, we see Hannah prayed "My heart rejoices in the LORD, the LORD has made me strong"(NLT).

In the New Testament, we see in John 15:11, Jesus said "These things I have spoken to you, that My Joy may remain in you and that your joy may be full"(NKJV)

Even Apostle Paul in Philippians 4:4 says "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice"(NKJV)

Our God, our Father, our Creator rejoices in the restoration of His people.{Read Jeremiah 32:37-41}. In these verses, God told Jeremiah that the Jewish people will be

restored to the land & to a right relationship with Him(V38). Thereafter, God would make an everlasting Covenant with them. In V41, we read “I will find joy doing good for them and will faithfully & wholeheartedly replant them in this land”

My last reference under this aspect of God’s Heart is found in again in Jeremiah9:24. It says “But those who wish to boast, should boast in this alone: That they truly know me & understand that I am the LORD, who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth and that I delight in these things , I the LORD have spoken”{Read in Urdu too}.

There are many other references that high light this aspect of God’s Heart such as Zep 3:17; Dt30:9; Ne1:11, Isa 61:10,65:19 & 42:1; Jer31:20;Lk3:22.

People tend to admire three things: (i) Human wisdom (ii) Human might(strength) and (iii) Human riches. But God puts a higher priority on knowing HIM personally and living a life that reflects His Justice & His Righteousness.

This raises a question what do we (individually & collectively) want people to admire most about us???? You decide

2. The second one is HIS COMPASSION.

This condition of God’s Heart reflects God’s nature in His sympathetic understanding of human weaknesses and His restoration of those in trouble. To be compassionate means, to feel sorrow for someone else’s suffering, with a desire to help. Out of His compassion for humanity, God provided forgiveness & salvation.

If we look at Psalm 78 alone, we see that this Psalm was written to remind Israel why so many devastating judgments of God came upon them through out their history.

The Psalm warns them to learn from the Spiritual failure of their forefathers and to strive diligently to avoid the same unbelief & unfaithfulness.

God’s people/church should pay close attention to this Psalm, for many believers, churches and denominations have lost God’s presence and power through unbelief and through disobedience of His Word. Ultimately, failing to live by defined Biblical Standards and by living the double- standard lives.

V38 tells us that “Bur He, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity and did not destroy them. Yes, many a time He turned His anger away, and did not stir up all His wrath”(NKJV). As a matter of fact, God shows His compassion to **all**—Psalm 145/8-9 tells us that “The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. The LORD is good to all, and His tender mercies are over **all** His works”(NKJV)

God shows compassion as a parent/Father too. Psalm103/13-14; Isaiah 49/15-16 as well as Isaiah 63/15-16 and Jeremiah 31:20 all relate to God’s compassion as Father’s Compassion on us. Too often, we focus on God as Judge & law-giver, ignoring His compassion & concern for us. When God examines our lives, He remembers our human condition. However, we should never use our weaknesses as a justification for wrongdoings. His mercy takes every thing in account but we need to do our part.

I would like to close on this note that God’s Compassion is essential to believer’s well-being. The cry of Psalmist in Psalm19:77 should also be our cry. It reads “Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight”(NIV)

We can always call upon God our Father and say a prayer of penitence as Isaiah did in chapter 63:15-16.

As we prepare ourselves for the Lord's table, let's remember and contemplate upon John 3:16, Thinking of God's great love for humanity That He did not spare His only begotten Son. Our God has a heart of Joy & Compassion. Let's confess our short comings and seek His face, his love, His forgiveness, His compassion and His mercy for us. May God help us do that.....Amen.