

The Exercise of the Heart and Spirit in God's Economy

Message 2 (Part 2)

Dealing with the Heart and Spirit

Monday

1 Tim. 4:2 – Footnote 2³

Heb. 9:14 – Footnote 14³

First Timothy 4, verse 2 refers to some who have a conscience that is seared as with a hot iron. Sometimes when you want to prove ownership of cattle, you take a hot iron and burn a brand into the hide. After the searing the nerves are dead; you can poke there and there is no feeling. Just because the cow has no feeling in that spot doesn't mean that I am not poking. Just because we have no sense in our conscience doesn't mean that the Lord is not speaking. "What about what you saw on the internet last week?" Yes it was just a few seconds but you looked back again. Your eyes are defiled. Our conscience is very specific: "On Wednesday, that word you said, was it really true?" You know it was not 100% accurate. Actually, I used the truth to lie. The best way to lie is to include a truth, but with the intention to deceive. The conscience bothers us about not only the words, but the intention. The point is that you cannot have fellowship unless you go along with that shining in your conscience and you say, "Amen". Sometimes we try to exercise our spirit while avoiding our conscience, but we cannot do that because our conscience is a function of our very spirit. In Ezekiel it says that when we are regenerated, we get a new heart and a new spirit. "A new heart and a new spirit I will put within you." Why doesn't it just say, "I will put My Spirit within you"? Why do we need a new heart and a new spirit? Because to be in God's economy in an experiential way, the heart is too crucial and the conscience links the two.

Hebrews 9:14 reads, "How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" This verse is clear that to serve the living God requires a

cleansed conscience. Footnote 3 to the word *conscience* begins, “The blood of Christ purifies our conscience to serve the living God. To serve the living God requires a blood-purified conscience. To worship in dead religion or to serve any dead thing, anything that is outside God, does not require our conscience to be purified. The conscience is the leading part of our spirit.” The conscience is the leading part of our spirit.

Tuesday

Titus 1:15 – Footnote 15³

Titus 1:15 reads, “All things are pure to the pure; yet to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.” Footnote 3 begins, “The mind is the leading part of our soul and the conscience is the main part of our spirit.”

Before hearing this fellowship, did you have this thought? We need to take care of our conscience. To take care of our conscience is to take heed to our spirit. If you take heed to your spirit, you unlock the key to God’s economy, and you can be in the dispensing of the Triune God all day long. Do you realize that just a stray thought could stop the dispensing? You may be at work and a conversation happens and just a stray thought comes, “I can’t stand him.” “I wish she would just stop.” You may have just one thought of vengeance, a thought of hatred, or a defiling thought. We are bombarded in this world by things to stir up our flesh. Now you don’t have to go anywhere; they just come to you on your mobile device. Can you really go a day without our eyes being defiled? We maybe don’t realize the effect on our conscience but then we come to the Word. We come in faith and we are not guided by feeling. But you know when you are having fellowship with the Lord, and when the heavens are not clear to you. There is a difference. Sometimes we come to the church meeting and we sing. We may realize that your spirit is not flowing so we try to stir our own spirit by singing louder, but we go home dissatisfied. If you are not careful and let this go for a period of time, you start to have thoughts about the church, “Oh the meetings are not the way they used to be. That brother, he’s not my favourite speaker. Same thing again?” It might be the same thing but when there is a flow in our spirit and in our heart, we don’t feel like it is the same thing; there is newness there. Yes, we should be more interesting, especially when we are teaching the young people and college students. It is good to be a little more interesting, but we only have one cargo, and it’s always new. We need to learn to exercise our new heart and our new spirit.

Wednesday

Prov. 4:23

S.S. 1:2 – Footnote 2¹

I. To contact the Lord is a matter of the spirit, but this must be initiated and maintained by the heart, which is the gateway to our whole being:

Proverbs 4:23 says, “Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it are the issues of life.” The seed of life got sown into our spirit but that seed grows through our heart. The issues of life are dependent on our heart. The heart is really the gateway.

- A. The heart is both the entrance and exit of our being—whatever enters must enter through the heart and whatever exits must proceed through the heart.
- B. The heart is the controlling organ.
- C. The love of the Lord is the best way to unlock the door of the heart—S. S. 1:2; John 21:15-17.

This is not a matter of trying to love the Lord more. Romans tells us that the love of God has already been poured out in our heart. There is love in our heart for the Lord. Say, “Lord Jesus I love You.” This is always true. We may say, “Lord I don’t feel like I love you so much today, but I love You.” Don’t we feel sometimes, “Lord, I don’t feel like I love You”? It’s good to add, “But I do.” It’s good to tell the Lord that you love Him. I learned 1 John 4:19 in the King James Version as a child: “We love *Him*, because He first loved us.” In the Greek, there is no *Him*. In the King James Version, the word *Him* is italicised which means that it was provided by the translators. That was their interpretation, but the context of this verse is not about loving God; it is about loving the brothers. The context in the original is actually, “We love each other, because He first loved us.” But it is not wrong to say, “We love Him because He first loved us.”

Thursday

1 John 4:19-21 – Footnote 19¹

If I had a mirror and the light shone on it, exactly what goes in comes out in the reflection. With God, we love Him because He first loved us. Every day in the morning we should position ourselves in front of the Lord. “Lord, love me. Would You love me more? Because if You do not love me I cannot love you, because I love You only because You first loved me. Love didn’t start with me. Lord I have no love.” We have Hymn 546 by sister Guyon:

I love my Lord, but with no love of mine,
For I have none to give;
I love Thee, Lord, but all the love is Thine,
For by Thy love I live.

“I love You Lord, but I have no love to love You with.” Why do we get frustrated because of our lack of love for the Lord? Learn from the hymn; learn from our Christian heritage. It is good to say, “Lord, I don’t love You. I have no love for You.” That is releasing, but then get yourself in front of the Lord and just say, “Just love me, love me who has no love for You” and see what happens. We will spontaneously love Him. Never worry about how much you love the Lord. Only worry about how much time you spend with the Lord. If you spend time with Him, guaranteed you will love Him. So in 1 John 4 tilt the angle a little bit. The Lord’s love comes to us and it’s not just that we return the love to the Lord, we love the brothers. We don’t try to love each other; we just love each other.

Friday

1 John 1:9 – Footnotes 9¹, 9², 9³, 9⁴

II. Dealing with the heart:

- A. Our psychological heart has three main arteries; these arteries, which are also the three parts of the soul, are the mind, the will, and the emotion; the way to unclog the three main arteries of our psychological heart is to make a thorough confession to the Lord.
- B. We may begin by confessing all the sinfulness and uncleanness that is in our mind, in our thinking; by confessing our thoughts one by one, we shall remove the blockage from this artery.

Sometimes just our thoughts, we come to the Lord's Table but our week was a week of thought life. Have we confessed? Were any of our thoughts defiling? My father went to be with the Lord last year at the age of 99. He spent his final 30 years in Christ and his final 27 years in the church life. Growing up, my dad loved me and he just poured out for me. I can tell you that in my whole life I never spoke back to him once. I never gave him an attitude because I was afraid of him. If I had given a little attitude, he would have smacked me and I would end up over there. Even in his 90s I think that he was still stronger than I was. He was a strong man, a carpenter; so I am a carpenter's son. The only time I ever went against his word was before he got saved. He was trying to help me. In the state of New York we need to get our car's emissions tested every year. You have to go leave your car for the test. He had a friend who worked at a gas station who would sign off to show that the car passed emissions. He wanted to save me time and money. He said, "I am going to that place tomorrow. Just give me your registration." I said, "Pop, thank you but it's OK." "No come on." My conscience was bothering me. I was standing at the door of his apartment and we were talking at the doorway. He said, "Come on. I'll save you dollars." He loved me and he was trying to help me, but I said, "no pop, I am going to get it done." He said, "Why would you waste your money? I don't understand." I said, "My conscience just won't let me." He said, "Conscience" and slammed the door. He felt that I was rejecting his love; he didn't understand. He got saved a few years later. That was

the only time I went against him. But do you think that when I was growing up, I never got angry with him? Do you think that I never cursed him in my heart? I just wouldn't express it.

Even, what we say in our mind, we need to confess that. God sees that. We may come to the Lord's Table with many things behind us. No wonder sometimes the meeting is not so flowing. Our thought is, "We need more prophesying" or "We need better speaking" or "We need more saints to..." Actually, what we need is to unclog the artery of our heart. What we need is a thorough confession. The kingdom of God is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Do you want the joy? It's not by looking for joy; the joy starts with righteousness. When we confess our sins He is righteous. We are not righteous; He is righteous and He is faithful to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness and peace will come in. What kind of a church life would this be when all the saints come to the meeting at peace with both God and man. Joy would be there.

Saturday

1 Tim. 1:5 – Footnotes 5², 5³

- C. If we go to the Lord concerning our will, He will expose it in a thorough and detailed way; we shall realize that we are very rebellious, that we do not know what it means to be submissive to the Lord; one by one, we need to confess the germs of rebellion in our will.

Have you ever had a sense out of the blue to call a brother or a sister? This is the intuition; it doesn't have to do with sin or the conscience. It is a little sense, "Reach out. How about a little text to the saint?" We have no idea what that saint is going through. That might be such a supply but we think, "They are probably busy now." Have you ever made an excuse such as, "What time is it? She is probably busy now, probably feeding the baby. I'll do it later." Then you forget until the next Lord's Day when you see her in the meeting and she gets up to say, "What a horrible Wednesday I had." Then you realize, "It was Wednesday when I had a feeling to reach out to her." Do you know what your excuse was? That was rebellion; this is disobedience but we have no feeling about it. Sometimes in our homes between spouses, we have the feeling, "Don't say it." Your dear wife may call, "David". This is not a testimony. I stayed in their home but I never saw him do this. This is just a hypothetical example. But it could be that right away there could be a response, "What?! I am busy." You know what happened last week when you answered that way, so when you start to react, there is a feeling, "Don't say it." Do we never get a little feeling, "Don't do it; don't do it"? However, the Lord speaks and we just sin. Then we get caught in the middle of the situation and we forget that we had that little sense in our spirit. This is not just with spouses, this is between many different relationships. Ignoring when our parents call us is rebellion. Do we confess everytime we ignored? Or are we carrying the baggage of many sins of ignoring someone at the table meeting. We come to the table meeting saying, "Thank you Lord for your blood" but there is a mountain of sin behind us.

- D. The artery of the emotion also needs to be unclogged; when we realize how serious is the problem we have with our emotion, we may be deeply sorrowful; we shall realize that

in many cases we hate what we should love, and love what we should hate.

- E. If we would deal with our heart in such a way, our whole being will be opened to the Lord, because the gateway is open.

III. Dealing with the conscience:

- A. If we are pure and single in our heart, the function of the conscience will immediately be very keen and alert.
- B. In order to know the difference between the soul and the spirit, we need a keen conscience.
- C. Our conscience can only be made right by confession and by applying the sprinkling, the cleansing of the Lord's blood—Heb. 9:14.
- D. A pure conscience is also a good conscience—1 Tim. 1:5, 19; 1 Pet. 3:16, 21.

VI. Through the exercise of the above dealings we obtain a proper heart, a transparent and pure conscience, which gives us a perfect fellowship with the Lord, resulting in the function of the intuition.

How about right now we each spend time with the Lord. If there is anything from these words that as we were speaking, the Lord spoke, don't wait to confess. How about right now we spend some time to unclog the arteries of our heart. Don't wait until you get home; you might forget. How about we all pray silently in our seat for a few minutes and confess to the Lord?