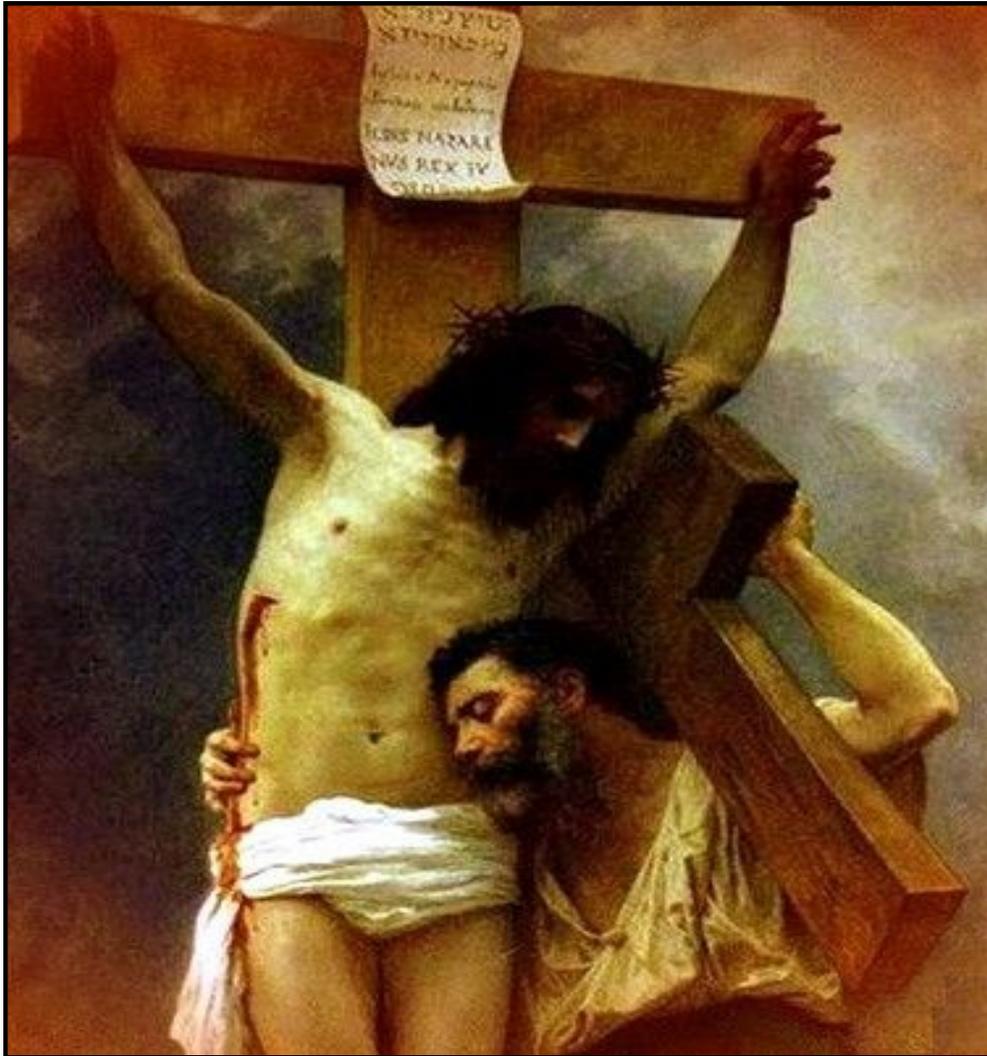


“Closer To His Heart”



Personal Meditations

*Written by Kelly Koshatka with selected writings,
prayers, poems and transcripts of sharings from
R.T. Nusbaum, Ben Koshatka, T. Austin Sparks and others.*

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Preface

This book was given to bless the seeking heart. It is for those who desire to hear heart beats instead of teaching. It for the serious seeker who **MUST** know Him more. May the reader press beyond the words, poems and sermon quotes into the very Bosom from whence they came. Our desire is to awaken to and embrace our oneness with Christ until His Heart is revealed and formed in each one of us.

The endless flow that pours forth from the Heart of Jesus through us His Body can barely be contained in worlds, much less a little book (Jn. 21:25). This book of meditations is just the beginning spurts from an eternal pump (His Heart) that is yet being primed. Rivers of living water will flow forth from the source of His Heart in and through us forever. May the meditations contained herein simply stir the seeker to turn more fully towards the Lord Himself until His heart is truly known, fulfilled and beating in us. Space is given throughout the book for personal notes, heart cries and prayers as a help in seeking His Heart.



Wounded side, broken Heart, given, grieving, crying out.

Who will come, who will hear, who with true heart will draw near?

Alone

The Spirit has poured out my heart for 40 years in the wilderness.

We have wept tears over hardened soil that would not open to my heart.

*I have bled from my wounded side for her to come back to me only to feel her
withdraw from me more.*

I have pleaded, even begged for her to listen but she was too far to hear.

And now I feel weak.

I feel empty.

I feel alone.

Where is my beloved, my home?

I was naked on Calvary

and still naked I wait for her to clothe me, my flesh and bones.

My bride, my home.

Please draw close to my heart for I need you.

*“Today if you will hear His Heart, open and let it beat in you”
(Hebrews 3:7-8).*

To Busy For This Book?

In the Beginning... God (John 1:1).

Nothing yet to be distracted with.

Nothing yet to leave Him for.

Just Him in Eternal Essence in the Oneness that is Him; Father, Son and Spirit.

God is a Person and that Person is known by His Heart.

Out from Him all things were made and nothing that came into existence had any origin outside of Him.

Time was created and begins ticking.

People are created and begin moving.

Babies are born and begin needing.

Houses are built that need cleaning.

Jobs are obtained that need working.

Careers are formed that need learning.

Reputations are built that need maintaining.

Lives are crafted that need living.

Hearts are molded that have completely forgotten... Him.

*And finally, in one fatal error, mankind deems time spent knowing the One who made time...
a waste.*

*Mankind, even His mankind, now feels guilty and irresponsible for spending time with Him Who
will fill all timeless eternity with Himself.*

They feel like they are leaving behind the important things by spending time knowing His Heart.

Jesus Christ Himself told His friend Martha that the things we call important are unimportant.

Jesus said to His friend that the important thing is to sit still and know Him (Lk. 10:38-42).

Mary chose this and Jesus rebuked her critics.

*If we find time seeking the Heart of Jesus is a waste and unproductive, then eternity itself is
going to be an unproductive waste for we shall spend endless ages knowing Him (Eph. 2:7).*

Not Reading,... Heart-Beat Hearing

We need a divine and lasting encounter with the Heart of Jesus.

We need to enter into a true knowing of Him.

We must, like John the Beloved, so press ourselves into the bosom of Christ that we hear His divine pleadings and longings towards His Bride.

We must bear the burden of the word of the Lord's Heart and not just information.

Our words must emanate from a place deeper than ministry need and information.

Isaiah heard the Godhead cry out "Who hath received Our report"?

We may think we have heard, but have we entered into the Heart of the Crucified?

Do we receive God's report of His slaughtered Lamb and bear Him as a Bride?

My request for those going through this meditation manual is to approach

it in a spirit of seeking and openness to the Holy Spirit sharing the Heart of Jesus with us.

For all those who are seeking information or are critics of incorrect information, I would kindly ask you to refrain from walking through these pages. I am sure there is much fault to be found, and for that I that I apologize and ask the Reader's forgiveness. The true purpose of these pages is to stir and spur hungry hearts to get after God and find His Heart.

I would like to suggest praying before, during, and after you read a few pages. The book is laid out as a meditation and not built for a quick scan or read-through. Pondering and soaking is encouraged. I have included many scriptures so that the Word of God would minister the truth and Spirit of everything shared.

Finally, the best and only way to really get anything real out of this book or any book is to find the Heart of God and hear His Heart beating out the real truth behind all of it!

Amen and Hallelujah.

Seeking The Lord's Heart

May we read, cry out, and search the Word for His Heart and His needs.

May we gather to fulfill and strengthen Him.

May we be unto Him the bride that covers His heart and the Body that carries His heart.



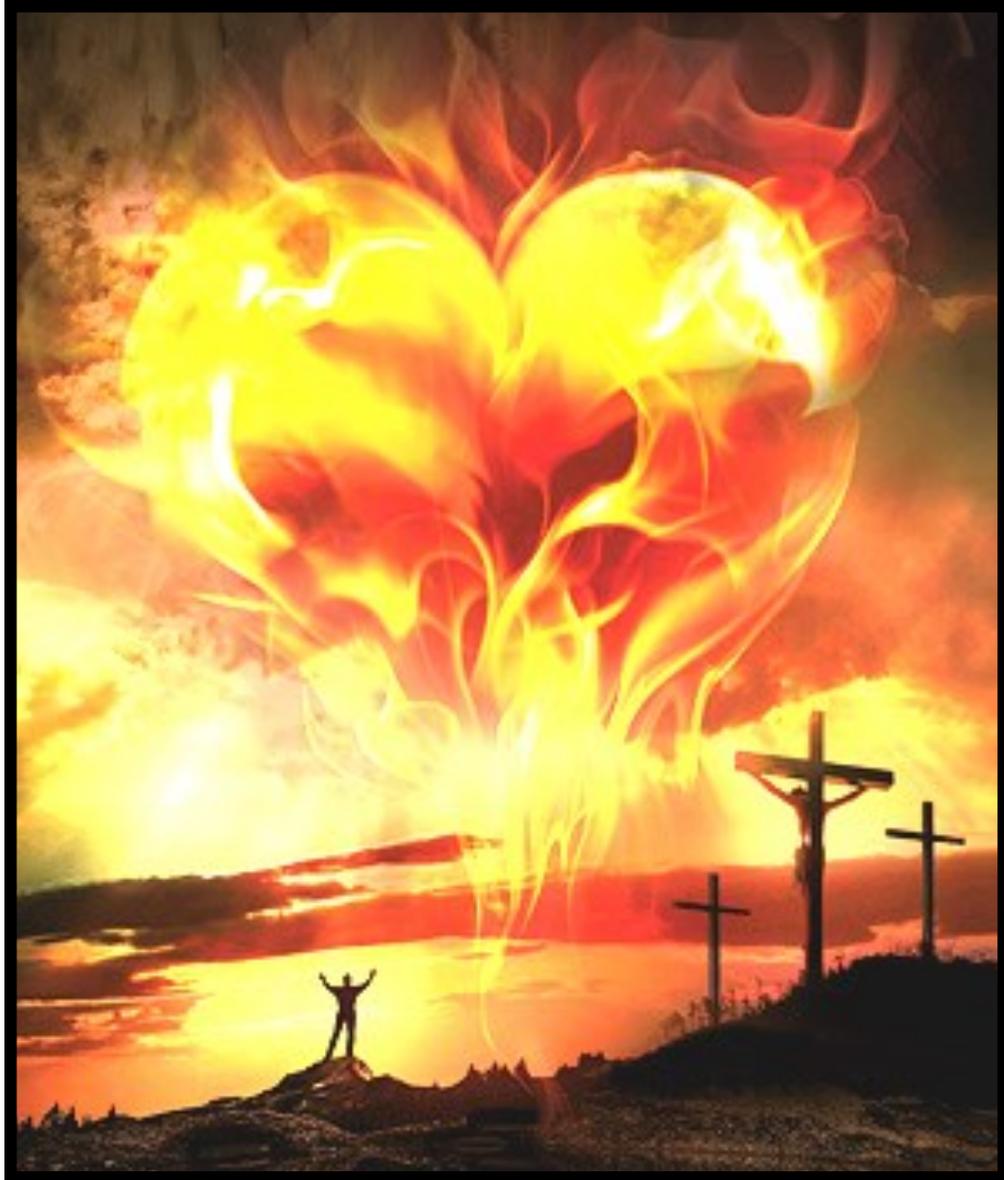
We desire to break before His tender Heart in real ways
and open to Him in new ways.

We want to cultivate a condition of good ground within as we open to Him
with hearts that desire to know Him in oneness, regardless the cost.

We count it all loss if only He might gain us in new ways.

As we draw closer to His Heart may we find His Heart, hear His heart beat, and
enter into oneness with that Heart until it beats in us.

Part One: Drawing Closer



Have I Noticed?

He is not here ...

But have I noticed?

Do I care?

I have His things

I have a busy schedule for Him,

In the midst of it all it is easy to ignore Him.

And then I forgot Him and took no thought

That the One I was once loved was no longer sought.

Where was His fragrance, His friendship, His sweet nature?

I was content to live for Him without Him days without number.

The prophets cried, the Father wept, the Spirit called...

and I slept.

Awaken and shaken and arise my poor soul.

It is time to seek Him and intimately know.



*Come back to Me
with all your heart.*



You Broke My Heart

I remember... those sweet spring days gone by.
Oh I remember.. the love that was in your eyes.
And you were like my first fruits, offering up your heart to me.
And it was wonderful, each and every hour ... you and me.

And in a land not sown still we would sing.
And how you lay there in my shadow through everything.
In the famine and the trial you found hidden springs...
lovers things... lovers things.

And I remember your love.
Oh I remember your love. I remember your first love.

We lay there on the mountain top.
Your thoughts were like perfume,
and your eyes they somehow knew my deepest needs.
And we lay ... in the rest of my love I was Your
shade.

And I would feed you there.
The fruit was rare.

Then you rose after them calling them my name.
You called them Baal and broke my heart.

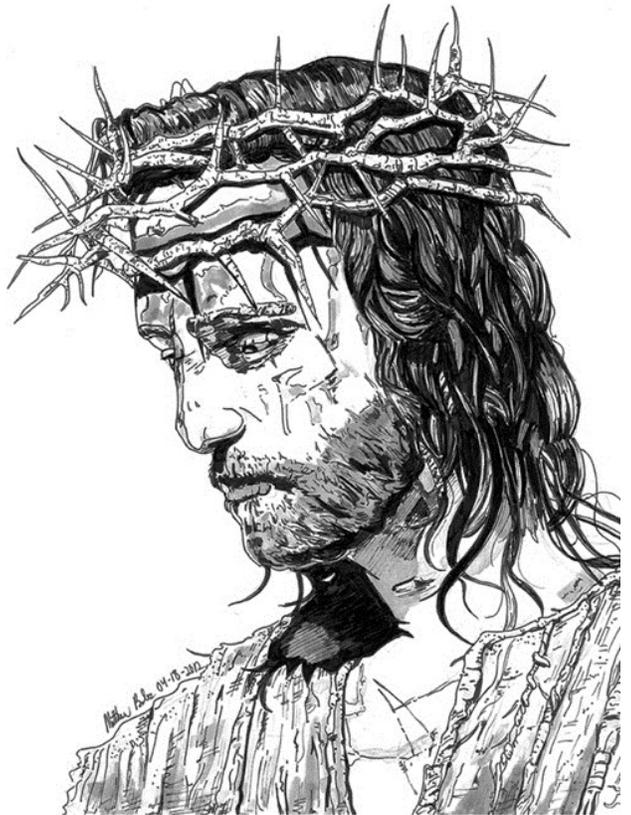
I cried every morning ... you didn't hear.
You left me and forgot the days I was near.

And my kisses became a whisper on the wind.
And my love became a memory now grown dim.

And I am now just a story from the past
as your filled with things besides me I ask...

What have I done.. for you to leave me outside my front door?
What have I done for you to not want me anymore?

But I remember your love.
Oh I remember your love. I remember your first love.



*And my kisses became a whisper on the wind.
And my love became a memory now grown dim.*

The Living God

May we draw nigh to the Living God...
To the Person of God Who has a
living beating Heart.

His Heart was broken open at Calvary
so that we could enter into Him
and know Him in oneness
from the inside out.

*Psa 42:1-2 As the hart panteth after the water brooks,
so panteth my soul after thee, O God.
My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God.*

*Psa 63:1 O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee:
my soul thirsteth for thee,
my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is.*

*Amos 5:4a For thus says the LORD to the house of Israel,
“Seek Me that you may live”.*

*Prov 8:17 I love those who love me;
And those who diligently seek me will find me.*

Many are interested, few are desperate.
Many will respond momentarily, few are fully surrendered.
Many are warmed by the flame, few are consumed.
Some will stop and listen for a while, few will devour with fervent hunger the bread of Life.
Many will say “I agree”, few will live in oneness with Him moment by moment.

When do all these teaching become His Life in us?
When we are desperate, starving, fully given, and hopelessly in love
with the Lamb of God.

Personal Heart Cries



Start With The Heart

Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God.
I Chron 22:19a

You say "It all starts with the heart"
I say, "What all starts with the heart"
You say, "LIFE starts with heart.
LOVE starts with the heart.
GOD starts with the heart."

Do we consult the heart of Jesus in everything?

*Is His heart the Core of our motivations or do we consider things only in the light
of how they will benefit us?*

*Can we feel His burdens, are we compelled by His desires,
do we even sense how things will affect Him in our daily choses and actions?*

*Is the Heart of God the center of our universe, the driving force of our lives,
and the one thing that motivates everything?*

Are we constrained by His love or our selfishness?

The heart is the center of our being, it pumps the rest of the body with life. If we start with God's Heart, then everything else will be filled with His Spirit and Nature. If we start with our selfish needs or personal desires for knowledge, ministry and other self serving things, then everything else will lack the vitality of His Life.

Personal Heart Cries



Closer

How can it be, His heart in me...
beating, burning, living and true,
If I will not turn and press and yearn
and truly come to know You?

Am I even aware that I may have left my first love?

Do I notice His absence in the busyness of "my life"?

*Has my heart been pierced with His yearning to have us draw closer until we walk
in the oneness that He desires to have with His own?*

*Lam 2:18-19 Their heart cried unto the Lord, O wall of the daughter of Zion,
let tears run down like a river day and night: give thyself no rest;
let not the apple of thine eye cease.*

*Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart
like water before the face of the Lord.*

Lam 3:40 Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord.

*Joel 2:12 Therefore also now, saith the Lord,
turn ye even to me with all your heart.*

*Jer 50:4 In those days and at that time," declares the Lord, "the sons
of Israel will come, both they and the sons of Judah as well; they will go along weeping as they go,
and it will be the Lord their God they will seek.*

Personal Heart Cries



Press In

Let us press into the mark of His heart
until it beats in us.

*Do I care enough about His Heart to continue on past a dealing until His Life is governing in me
and His heart is set, establishing and beating as my true motivation?*

In the lack of external crisis do I settle back in to my old ways and lose my passion to pursue Him?

Am I even aware when I no longer hear His heart beat?

Will I seek Him until I am satisfied or until He is satisfied and has His Bride?

*Phil 3:14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God
in Christ Jesus.*

*Hos 6:3 Then shall we know, if we press on to know the Lord: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he
shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.*

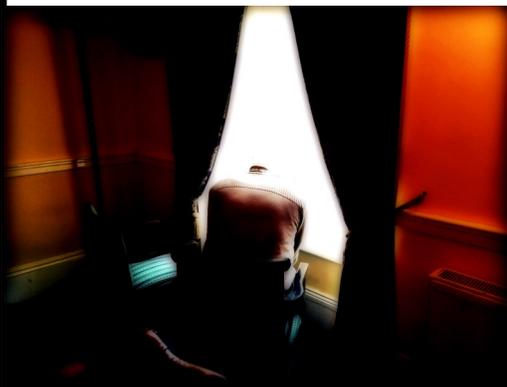
*Jer 29:13 You will seek Me and find Me when you
search for Me with all your heart.*

*2 Chron 11:16 Those from all the tribes of Israel who set their hearts
on seeking the Lord God of Israel followed them to Jerusalem,
to sacrifice to the Lord God of their fathers.*

Joh 13:23 Now there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples

*“As John upon his dear Lord's breast,
so would I lean, so would I rest;
As empty shell in depths of sea,
So would I sink, be filled with Thee.” -Amy Charmichael*

Personal Heart Cries



Hearing His Heart Beat

What moves God...

What MAKES His heart beat?

What motivates Him from the inside out?

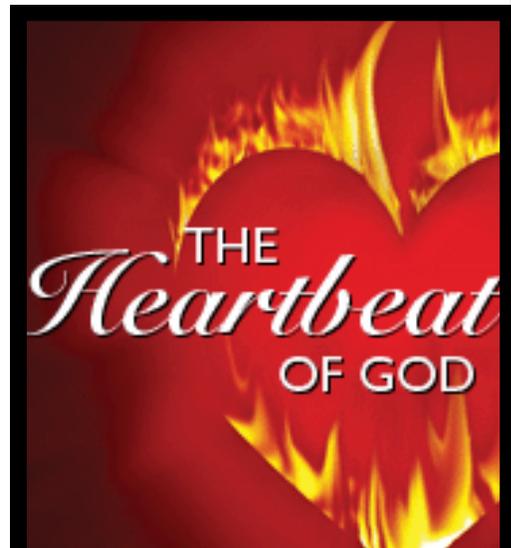
A true move of God is when His Heart moves and we are able to feel it beating in our own bosom.

Hearing His heart-beat can only be heard in the power of the Holy Spirit Who brings to us the depths of God (I Cor.2:10). A heart-beat is a living movement. It comes from the deepest core of that person. To listen on that level is to seek a knowledge that far surpasses book learning and doctrine. We will only seek and listen on that level if His Heart is our one true aim. To really hear the heart-beat of Christ Crucified may break our hearts, yet such brokenness brings forth His heart-beat in us.

Am I seeking for and satisfied with a move from God that affects my soul temporarily, or will I cry out for His heart to be so revealed in me that His Life will move me all of my days?

Is my goal His Heart or my soul?

Personal Heart Cries



Feeling His Heart

The Pain

The Hurt

in my Shirt

His heart,... it hurts... can you feel it, can you feel Him?



My Head

My Heart

His every part

To not just think but feel

Not just to understand but know for real.

“My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, ...” (Jer. 4:19).



*2Co 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith;
prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you.*

Can I detect the living Christ within?

Can I feel His pulse?

Am I motivated by His Heart?

Do I know Him?

Do I want to feel good or feel God?

Personal Heart Cries

From His Depths To Ours



1 Co 2:9-12 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

*But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea,
the depths of God.*

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

The Holy Spirit does not come from teaching manuals, ministry methods or human reasoning. He comes from the deep places in God so that we might know God's heart and live there.

The Holy Spirit is going to help us...

Be sensitive and to know God's HEART not OUR HEART.

HIS MIND not our mind

HIS FEELINGS not our feelings

HIS DESIRES not our desires

His VIEW not our views

And we will walk as crucified to an old heart and motivated by Christ within.

We will exist as "JOINED heirs, and not just children receiving gifts.

Rom 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Personal Heart Cries

Finding His Heart



As our hearts become captivated with truly knowing God in His Person and in His Heart, then a holy pursuit begins. We will press past the words of the sermons, the pages of the books, the hearing of doctrines, to find His Spirit and Life therein. We will leave the shallows of surface interpretations of words and deeds to find the Source from whence they came. We will no longer be satisfied with simple explanations, but hunger and thirst to experientially know His mind and partake of His nature beyond knowledge.

We won't stop till we reach His Heart.

Cry out From the Confines of Self

Self incases us into a small little realm called “me”. There is no room there for others. There is no room for another mind, heart and nature. There is only room for self. Self requires everyone to serve it and understands everything based on its carnal view. The more we live in self the more entrapped in our prison we become. Truly finding the Heart of Jesus requires breaking free from “me”. Jesus died and crucified “self”, but we can still chose to live in the land of “me” and reject His Heart.

We must choose who we are going to contain;

**Our old selfish hearts or the Heart of
Christ Crucified?**



The Word of Life

Jesus said, “My words are Spirit and Life”. Jesus did not call His words teaching and doctrines, but something LIVING and full of His Spirit. His words are living and give us His Life. In John chapter six, people became offended with Jesus when He told them they would have to eat His flesh and drink His blood to have eternal Life. They were repelled at the idea of partaking of a crucified Lamb to have eternal Life. The Life that fills eternity (Lamb) did not draw out their hunger and thirst, rather it caused many to stop following Jesus. Spirit and Life are bride words. Being able to feast on the Lamb Himself draws out her heart and her hunger for Him. She thrills at the idea of receiving living words that can bring her into union with her Crucified Groom.

In Hosea 8:2 the people cried out to God telling Him that they knew Him. Yet, in Hosea 8:12 God replies that these same people counted the great things of His law as a strange thing. How is it possible to truly know someone when you comprehend their intimate sharing of themselves as something strange? David was a man who sought God with his whole heart (Ps. 119:10) and he cried out, “open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law”. It becomes apparent in these verses that some people approach God with a pride that they know Him, even though they are blind. Others (like David) cry out for God to open their eyes so that even when they read the law they see the unveiled person of God rather than rules and commands. May we cultivate a relationship with the Word of God as His very opened Heart for us to know.

Mediations:

Am I hungry for knowledge or Him?

Do I thirst after His nature to the point of drinking His Life Blood

from the scriptures till I am motivated by Lamb Life and have a strong heart-beat from Christ in me?

Word

(By R.T. Nusbaum - Shared on June 14, 2015)

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer” (Psalm 19:14).

Lord, make your Word precious to me again. Remove any thought that I have somewhat attained. My mind may have studied it, my mouth may have spoken it, my pen may have set it forth in words but now Lord, help my heart to possess it.

I once knew a young man who gratefully ate and drank your precious words. The words that sprang from your Spirit unto him were a matter of profound wonder. To him, something had broken the seals upon that book that touched the depth of his being and opened eternity to him. Therefore, when he spoke of you, Lord, he had something in his eyes and voice that showed that he was in possession of something higher than mere words or doctrines.

But now, where has the wonder gone?

Jesus has said that His words are spirit and life, yet, how often do we read any random portion of the scriptures and get spirit and life? Many only get words. The same is true when listening to someone share the Word from His heart. It is possible for Jesus to speak through a man today and all that is gotten from it is a sermon.

Cultivate our hearts, so we can catch every word that falls from heaven; whether encouragement or rebuke or instruction or warning. Help us to receive these words, just as the soft, fertile soul catches seeds. Surprise me, Lord, as a seed surprises itself when something of Life springs forth out of it.



Being in Tune with His Heart

Have you ever heard someone sing out of tune, or play an instrument that was slightly sharp or flat? The song they were singing may have a beautiful melody, and the words to the song may be profound, but if the musician is out of tune, the song sounds bad.

We need to be in tune with the Heart of Jesus. We can sing and say profound words and play beautiful melodies, but if we have the wrong spirit, nature and attitude they distort His beauty and misrepresent Him.



In order to truly “sing His song” we must be filled with the Spirit of the Son! Allowing the Cross to be at work in our hearts brings to bear that we are crucified with Christ and it is now Christ who lives in us (Gal. 2:20).

When we do not walk in the reality of being “crucified with Christ”, we feel OUR heart instead of His. We become sensitive to the motions of the old man and his selfish needs. We walk in closer communion with the corpse of the old man than with the living heart of Jesus that is now our Life.

To be in tune with the Heart of Jesus again, and sensitive to His heart-beat we must first embrace our death with Christ. We must reject the old man and his old heart and abide in the union and reality that Christ’s HEART is ours now.

God has given us a new heart so that we wouldn’t have to live by our old selfish heart. It is our place to receive this phenomenal gift every day by letting it beat within us and replace the old selfish heart of Adam.

Am I in tune with what affects and burdens the Lord today?

*Do I sometimes count as nothing the things most important to Him
because I am more in tune with me than Him?*

*Am I unaware of the great things of His Heart that He is trying to sharing with me because
I am more in tune with the world around me than the Heart of Jesus in me?*

***** Instead of making excuses about why we are out of tune and letting those excuses desensitize us more, may we not excuse that hardness but rather break over His Heart and draw closer to Him.**

2Chron 12:14 And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD.

Psa 87:7b All my springs are in thee.

Who Are We Seeking? Who Are We Drawing Close To?

Before time and space and throughout all eternity He was and is a Lamb.



Right now He is a Lamb.
He will always be a Lamb.
The Great I am is a Lamb.
He is a Lamb in us.



May we realize that the One we are drawing close to is a Lamb.

May we seek and worship Him in spirit and in truth.

May we not just seek in spirit but also in truth, realizing that it is
the Lamb that we are drawing close to.

It is Lamb-Heart that we are joining to.

May we seek the Lamb in a way that will ultimately result in His
attitudes and nature in our daily reactions.

May we press in until the Lamb is formed in our attitudes.

May we press in that He may receive His wife,
one that is after His kind and with Him in oneness of nature.

May we focus our gaze and our hearts to behold the Lamb of God until He is
formed in us and His heart is beating within as our true and daily motivation.

This is my paraphrase of a prayer prayed by Pastor R.T. Nusbaum

The Garden of His Heart

Song of Songs 5:1 "I am come into my garden, my sister, my spouse."

Many times we have our "Jesus Agenda". We become so busy with His things and the needs of the Kingdom that we leave the garden of His Heart.

We leave the place of Life.

Our minds can become distracted and diffused with the cares of this life. These cares become like tares crowding out the Seed of His Life within us. When that happens our inner garden no longer belongs to Him, but to others. He can no longer exclusively call us "His garden" (Song of Songs 5:1).

We become like a field and its workers, such as those found in Ecclesiastes. In that condition we live under the hot sun in labor and vanity. We become under burdens because our affections are no longer set above in Him.

Col. 3:2 "If ye, then, be risen with Christ SEEK those things above where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God. SET your affections on things above, not on things on the earth".

I personally believe the word "ABOVE" used in this verse can refer to both location and importance. The most important thing to me is what is in Christ, and His living beating Heart.

*Seeking His Heart is above ministry needs.
Seeking His Heart is above my needs.
Seeking His Heart is above deep revelations about spiritual things.*

In fact, His Heart is becoming so important above everything else that I am dead to seeking other things. All that I desire to be alive to is HIM because He is my Life.



Personal Heart Cries

The Garden of My Heart

Prov. 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Col. 1:27 Christ in you the hope of glory.

Song of Songs 4:12 A garden enclosed is my sister, my spouse;

Song of Songs 5:1 I am come into my garden, my sister, my spouse: I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk:

Song of Songs 6:2 My beloved is gone down into his garden, to the beds of spices, to feed in the gardens, and to gather lilies.

Jn 19:41 Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden.

Above all else, I want to protect and cultivate the very place in me where Christ dwells. If I allow foreigners into the Lord's garden, then He will not be able to rest and find the fellowship He desires with me. If I do not allow my ground to be prepared to receive His Life, then His heartbeat will be lost among the rocks, thorns and other voices that grow like weeds within.

Holy Spirit breathe in me the cleansing winds of your Spirit to prepare me as a habitation for Christ, for His very Heart and nature to beat within my bosom .

Personal Heart Cries



One Thing

Let them look better
Let them have more
Fill them with treasures
And blessings galore (Ps 16&17)
Lord give me Your heart...
My one consuming desire!
My beauty my being my burning inward fire.

Your heart in me will push others forward,
Will glory in their promotion,
Will die for their perfection.
Will delight in their beauty
And rejoice in their gain.
Will give in pure love again and again.

OH give me the Heart of Jesus.
My portion, my treasure.
My sacred, my holy, my now and forever.

**To gain this One Thing is to have it all.
The Source, the Fountain ...
The Heart of God.**

*Psa 27:4 One thing have I desired of the Lord,
that will I seek after.*

Psa 119:10 With my whole heart have I sought thee.

*Luk 10:42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part,
which shall not be taken away from her.*

*Psa 137:6 If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth;
if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.*

Song of Songs 7:10 I am my beloved's, and his desire is toward me.

Psa 73:25 Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.

Things Important to Him

Finding His hearts' desire

King David was a man after God's own heart. David sought to know and enter into the Heart of God. Because David knew God's Heart, he understood God's desire to have a habitation with and in us. Therefore David gave his life, time, money, ... everything to fulfill the Lord's Heart and what was important to God. Moses did the same thing. After Moses spent time face to face knowing God's Heart he understood God's needs and desires, and tried to gather the Israelites into the purposes of the Heart of God. The people heard Moses' words as commands and followed orders, but Moses always knew it was all about what was in God's Heart and their special part in sharing with God in His deepest desires. Now today the question remains, will each one of us discover what is in God's Heart and give ourselves to care for Him, or will we just be religious people doing our Christian duties to appease God's commands?

*Psa 14:2 The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men,
to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.*

1Sa 13:14 But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart.

*Psa 27:4 One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.*

*Psa 24:6 This is the generation of them that seek him,
that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah.*

*Psa 27:8 When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee,
Thy face, LORD, will I seek.*



Personal Heart Cries

Hast thou heard Him, seen Him,
Known Him?

Is not thine a captured heart?
Chief among ten thousand own Him,
Joyful choose the better part.
Idols, once they won thee, charmed thee—
Lovely things of time and sense.
Gilded thus does sin disarm thee,
Honeyed, lest thou turn thee thence.

What has stripped the seeming beauty
From the idols of the earth?
Not a sense of right or duty,
But the sight of peerless worth.

Not the crushing of those idols,
With its bitter void and smart;
But the beaming of His beauty,
The unveiling of His heart.

Who extinguishes their taper
Till they hail the rising sun?
Who discards the garb of winter
Till the summer has begun?

‘Tis that look that melted Peter,
‘Tis that face that Stephen saw,
‘Tis that heart that wept with Mary,
Can alone from idols draw—

Draw and win and fill completely,
Till the cup o’erflow the brim;
What have we to do with idols

Who have companied with Him? (*anonymous*)

A Sacred Trust



We have been given a sacred trust - the Heart of Jesus.

He has opened His heart, given us access in,
and made us partakers of His divine nature.

He has made Himself vulnerable to us.

We can reject this sacred trust when we reject knowing Him for knowledge about Him. We can forget the precious gift we have been given when we put His things above being filled with Who He is.

Personal Heart Cries



Conclusion To Part One:

If God is truly a Person, and we are truly His Body,
then we have been given more than doctrines and duties.

We have been given the very Heart and Life of Jesus.

We are now the “ark of His Heart”.

Our innermost being is as the Holy of Holies
that bears within it the very Presence and Person of God.

*Jer 3:14-17 Turn, saith the Lord; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion: And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding. And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the Lord, **they shall say no more, The ark of the covenant of the Lord:** neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember it; neither shall they visit it; neither shall that be done any more. At that time **they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord;** and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem:*

Rev 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with and in them, and they shall be his people.



Part Two: Heart Replacement Surgery

“**Jer 17:5** Thus saith the LORD;
Cursed *be* the man that trusteth
in man, and maketh flesh his arm,
and whose heart departeth from
the LORD.

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above
all things, and desperately wicked:
who can know it?



Eze 36:26 A new heart also will I
give you, and a new spirit will I put
within you: and I will take away the
stony heart out of your flesh, and I
will give you an heart of flesh.

Drawing Closer... to Him

*I drew close
and then took for myself*

*I gained in knowledge
but left You out in the cold alone*

*I gained a name
and left You on the Cross in shame*

*I stole Your glory
and never felt Your pain.*

*I plundered Your riches
without lavishing upon You my kisses*

*But now I take Your Heart
I hold it deep, I hold it true,
I hold it and protect You.*



Receiving Correction to Gain His Heart

*Less of me... more of You
An offering pure, acceptable and true.*

*What I once protected I expose to the Cross.
I want to gain Your Heart whatever the cost.*

*Tear the old heart down
burn it to the ground
Let no fabric or fiber of it be found.*

*Holding Your Heart I now come,
My Crucified One.
Passing through this flame to bear Your Name.
I embrace the cost and endure the pain
of feeling what's real,
and giving You time to heal from my lack of care.*



Am I willing to open to the ministry of the Holy Spirit to apply the Cross deep within?

Am I prepared to embrace this work of God in me and not justify and cover self?

Do I want the Heart of God more than my own goodness and sweetness?

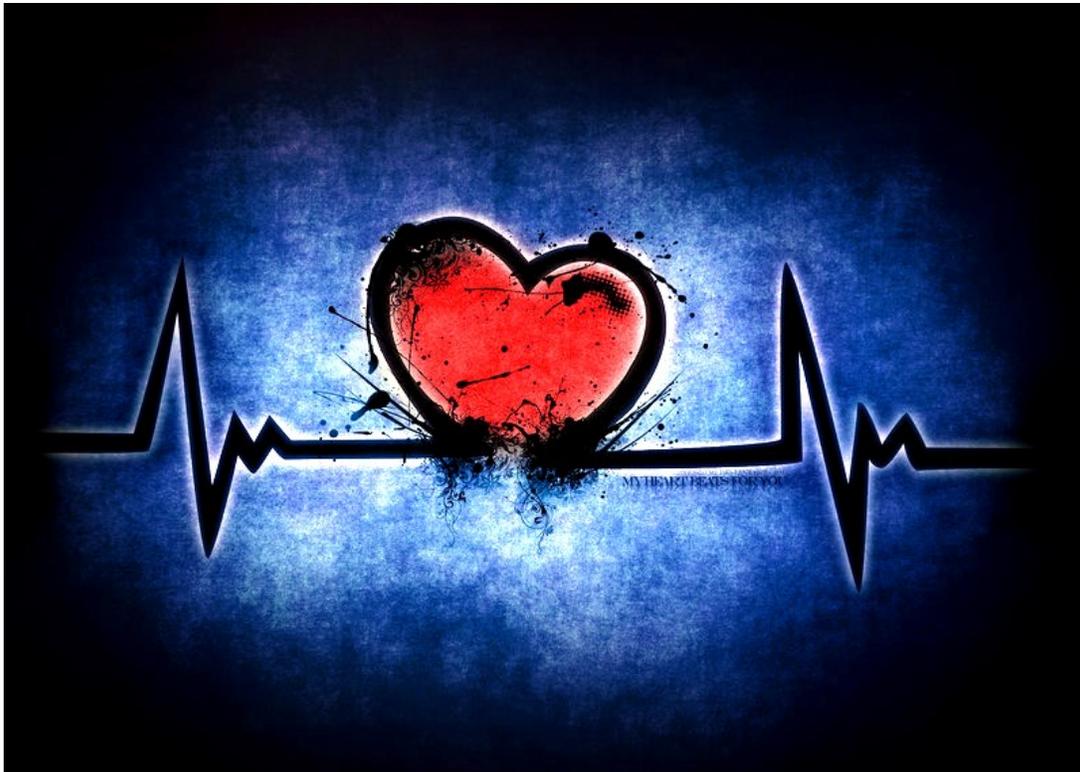
Am I willing to be devastated by the Cross to allow the Lamb nature to rise from my ashes?

Am I serious this time or just playing around with the precious correction God shares with me?

Cold Hearts Needing His Heart

(Excerpt taken from prayer after sermon in June 2015)

“Lord, help us start by realizing that our hearts are cold. Our hearts are cold and we are in desperate need of finding that warmth, that springtime that is Christ when His warmth comes within our soul and within our being. This is not just our spirit where we see something new and fresh, but Christ breaking out of the holy of holies into the holy place and into the outer court as He fills us spirit, soul, and body.”



Meditation: Am I satisfied with remaining cold and unmoved by the Heart of God?

Has it been winter far too long in my Life because I have lived so far from the Heart of God?

Humbling Ourselves in His Sight

Part of this journey into His Heart is our preparations to bear His Heart within. The places within us that were meant to contain His Life many times contain self. It is not always fun to be awakened and sensitized to our true condition in relation to His Heart.

It can be easier to simply live in our own views that protect us from the uncomfortable and often painful confrontations with our true condition that word of God and the Holy Spirit can give us.

James 4:10 exhorts us to humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord, and that if we do so He will lift us up. Someone who truly values knowing the Lord in this way will bow before the dealings of the Spirit and can be easily corrected. They will then turn from self and delight in the Lord.

There is such beauty to the ways of love. Humbling ourselves before God's eyes is the action of a heart bowing before Him in love. As we submit ourselves to God we find all other issues melting away and even the devil fleeing from us (James 4:7).

Nothing can stand in the realm of a heart seeking God in love.

We are not fleeing the devil or our circumstance, but rather we are drawing closer to His Heart. James 4:8 tells us that as we draw near to God, He will draw near to us. The Word of God tells us that God's Heart responds to those truly seeking Him for Him.



THE ROD OF GOD

The rod of God -

my dearest friend, or my worst enemy?

Do I receive correction as Your bride,
or as a foreigner far removed from Your side?

Does each wound have healing power
causing new life to form and flower;
or does infection grow?

Is the soil of my heart fertile to Your touch?

Does each strike of Your plow
speak of acceptance and love?

Or do I accuse Jesus of abuse,
of wielding the sword in cruelty and misuse?

“The Lord is my Shepherd”, I’ve often declared,
as I snuggled close in His green pastures there.

But now in the valley no comfort I find.

His rod and His staff are no friend of mine.

So now I must choose, I must deeply decide...
in which view of His rod will my heart abide?

Will I press in and find You,
allowing Your Seed to grow too...

or will I turn from my Father
accusing Him of abuse and cruel power?



My Part

More important than getting through this
is that You use this.

Yes... it hurts. It's hard to see.
It's painfully obvious that it's not You... it's me.

But let's do this, Lord.
Let's endure the Cross.
Let's pay the price whatever the cost.

And I will remain on bended knee
before Your heart at Calvary.

I won't pretend with blinded eye
that You are not a Christ crucified.

I will stay outside the camp
with You,

until Your heart's desire
finally comes true.

To have a bride after
Your own heart.

Help me Lord to do my part.



“Make the Prophets Stop!”

Make the prophets stop, may conviction come no more.

Their voice rings like a clanging in the hollows of my soul.

What once was lovely singing has become a shrieking howl,

Both dull and piercing this intrusion I can no more can allow.

I've justified, rationalized and excused many a thought,

But no longer can I take this constant swirling plot.

What do they want from me anyway, why must they ever cry

They do not know my healthy state, understood most keenly by “I”

They penetrate, demonstrate, and press with their heaven sent news.

But I can resist, endure, overcome through my hardened and unbreakable views.

“Go away” I scream inside, “I hate your nagging lore.” “I'd rather not live with this for I can endure no more.” “Will you please, oh will you true.. stop this loathsome speech?”

And so the Dove, gentle and kind, will cry out no more,

and the Lord's voice, heard from His view above, mingled with weeping sighs...

joins with the Father, as they mourn, a sound much more saddening than all the prophets cries.

Silence now,
it screams and moans much louder
than the past sharing.

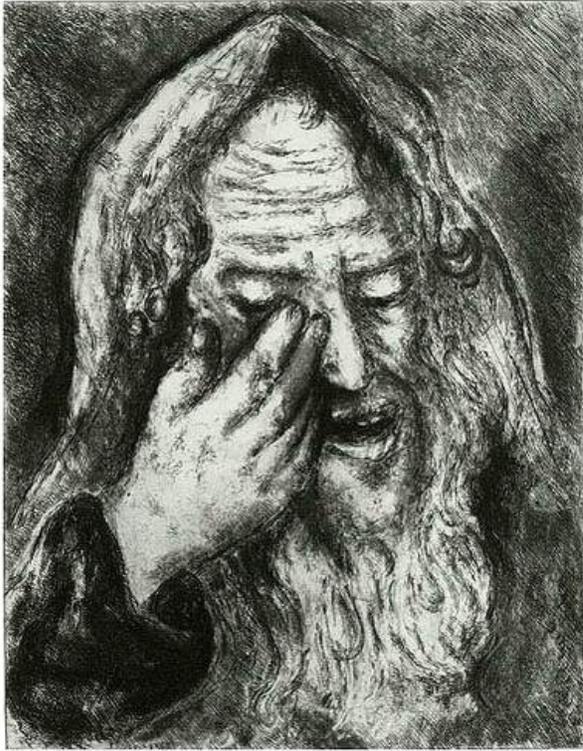
Please save me from this lonely state,
at least show me that You are caring.

But His visitation came and went,
and we have not brought forth.

Another round in the dry,
barren, heat with accusations
of His lack of caring.



When will we break with our harden pride,
and open to God's own view.



Jer. 5:3 O LORD, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return.

Jer 5:4 Therefore I said, Surely these are poor; they are foolish: for they know not the way of the LORD, nor the judgment of their God.

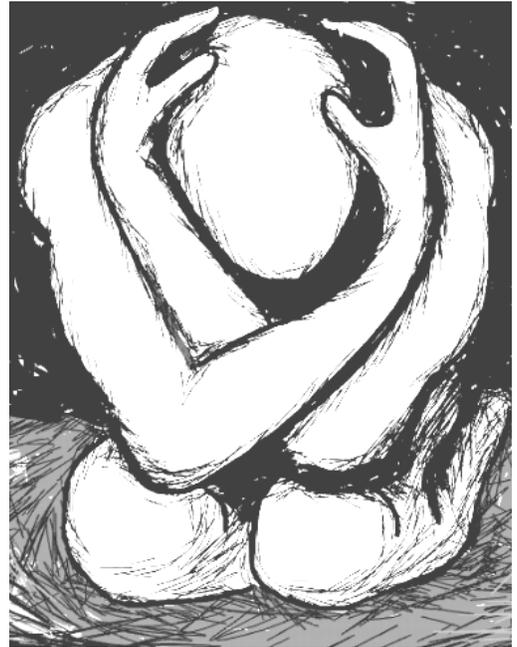
VEILED

Behind the veil
hidden from sight...
not just my sight, but Yours.
I'm hidden from Your delight.

My face is veiled
my voice not heard
because my heart is towards the world.

You wait with feast and fellowship
with heart filled full of unspeakable bliss

“Just turn, ... return”,
You cry to me.
Let Me hear,
let Me see,
Let our oneness “be”.
(Song of Songs 2:14)



Breaking Up My Fallow Ground

Hos 10:12 Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD.

Jer 4:3 For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.

The scripture in Jeremiah 4:3 exhorts us to do the breaking up of the hard ground within us. Some may cry out in confusion at this point, "But HOW do I break my ground when I feel so hard inside?" True brokenness is simply OPENESS to His heart . Only HIS HEART and HIS LIFE in us can overcome our hardness, pride and un-forgiveness, but before Life comes we can break with our hardened views that shut out the Word of God and the beating heart of Jesus within us. Without this form of humility we will continually usurp His heart with our own mind and ways. Even though God has given us a new heart... His heart... we still must chose to allow His heart to beat in us.

May we break with old hard concepts that block out the Heart of Jesus from beating in us. Let us break the idols and images that usurp and take the Lord's place in His own Body. Let us get the weeds out by the roots and not leave any vestige of the old in our land. Let us shout and prevail against fortified strongholds in us that the Cross already destroyed. In all of this plowing and pillaging may the Heart of Jesus be our focus and purpose. We are making place for Him in us, so that His heart can be planted deeply into us.

Personal Heart Cries



Cultivating Openness

Open to Me

Openness is a rare thing because self always believes it is right. When God brings His view and His ways to us, many reject Him because they only esteem their own view as important. When God shares His Heart with us, and we hear of His crucified Lamb ways, we may shut down because such wisdom is distasteful to self. Our heart needs to be captured by the Lamb Himself so that when He comes to us to share His Heart and nature, we do not shut the door in His face and send Him outside the camp. The Lamb is looking for a bride who will open to Him and receive His Life. In order for us to fulfill His need for one after His kind we must cultivate openness.

If we justify and make excuses for our old heart and it's motives, then how can God give us His heart? When correction comes do we embrace it as an opportunity to exchange our heart for Jesus' Heart? Do we open to His care or shut down in offence?

May we learn to humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord that He might lift us up in the Life of His Son. May we see the nail-scarred hands that come to cherish and nourish His bride.

*1Ki 6:18 And the cedar of the house within was carved with knops and open flowers: all was cedar; there was **no stone seen.** (open hearts not stony hearts)*

*Song of Songs 5:2,5 **Open to me**, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled. I rose up to open to my beloved; and my hands dropped with myrrh, and my fingers with sweet smelling myrrh, upon the handles of the lock.*

*Isa 28:24 Doth the plowman plow all day to sow? **doth he open** and break the clods of his ground?*

*Isa 45:8 Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness: **let the earth open**, and let them bring forth salvation.*

*Dan 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows **being open in his chamber** toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.*



Exercising My New Heart In Affliction

I have been captivated by me not You.

Now I am a captive in a land far from your Heart.

Afflicted with my far-ness

Numb with my coldness

I kindle the embers of a love once true and return to You.

Hos 5:15 In their affliction they will earnestly seek Me.

Deut 4:29-31 But from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you search for Him with all your heart and all your soul. "When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days you will return to the Lord your God and listen to His voice.

*The Heart of God cries out to His captives all through out the Old Testament to "Return to Me".
This return to the Lord is the turning of the heart from self to God Himself.*

When we find ourselves in affliction and captive to self,

may our hearts turn and burn and cleave to Christ Crucified until

it is no longer "I" but Christ's Heart beating in us and motivating us by His self giving nature.



Handling His Heart

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life” (1 Jn. 1:1).

In the new testament we find the Apostle John declaring something incredible; that his experience with the Word of God was as intimate as handling the Life of God in his own hands. This verse brings to bear the reality that Almighty God has made Himself so accessible and vulnerable to us that we could actually handle His very Heart in our hands. Very few of us will entrust our hearts to others. We are careful not to open to many because we understand the deep wounds that can happen when our hearts are broken by others. Yet God Himself, through incredible love, has opened and made Himself vulnerable in this way to His body.

There is a sacred trust to the Heart of Jesus, the Lamb of God. In the old testament, only those consecrated through the altar were allowed to handle the sacrifice’s inward parts, as found in Leviticus chapter 8: 24-29. These consecrated ones were priests from the tribe of Levi. These were those who had dedicated themselves to live as separated and joined unto the Lord. These were those who were living in intimate fellowship with the sacrifice on a continual basis.

Can God entrust His Heart to us?

Leviticus 8:29

***Can we hold His heart and inward parts with
Crucified with Christ hands?***

Leviticus 8:27

***Will we handle the word of Life with love or mishandle Him
mistaking His Heart for just words and commands?***

1 John 1:1





**Each member of the Body of Christ has their own function,
but the Heart fills every part and belongs to the whole.**

**Let us pray for one another to know His heart.
Let us exercise the Heart of Jesus in us by praying for others.**

**God, please fill us with Your love that we will bear Your burdens
for others in our prayers!**

**May we not be satisfied until we all come to know Him and relate to Him as His
bride together, for this is His heart's desire.**

**May we continue to groan and travail deep within until the Lamb is truly formed
and manifested in His corporate bride.**

“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem”

*“May my right hand lose its cunning if
Jerusalem is not my chief joy”*



Part Three: Getting Even More Serious!

*Show me, Holy Spirit,
that I might know His Heart and live there.*



There Is More

Our pride and satisfaction with the little we have known of His heart can cause us to stop crying out and pressing in. If we allow this to work in us we will miss the beauty and awe of knowing His heart in fullness. The Holy Spirit is sent to bear witness deep inside of us that there is more of Jesus to know and be filled with. The Holy Spirit is trying to communicate to us that there are much greater depths of Christ's Person to be explored, experienced, and joined with in love.

If we stop early we miss so much of HIM.

If we stop early His heart does not fully enter into rest and manifestation in His Bride.

God gives us an earnest of things yet to come. We experience the first-fruits of that great harvest. But let us continue on to know the Lord until we have a glorious harvest of the Son living through us, and His heartbeat is strong and able to be the driving force of our existence.

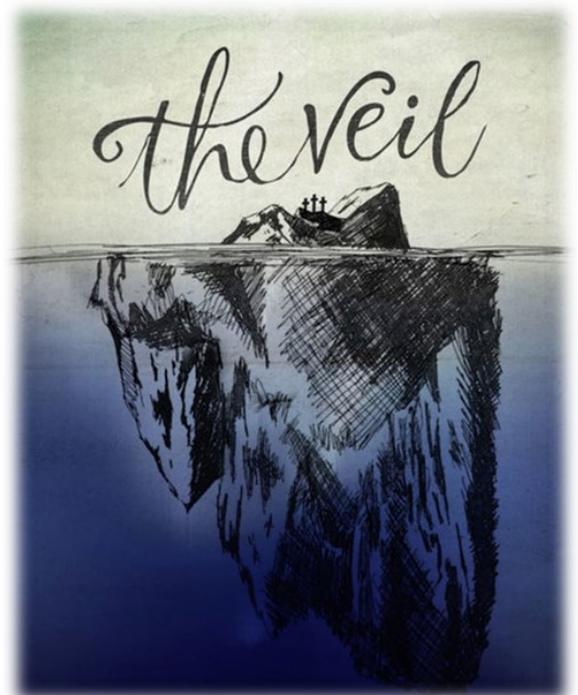
May our passionate pursuit of the Heart of Jesus never be quenched!

Let us not peak behind the veil occasionally, but enter in through the Great High Priest and exist in Him as One.

“Jesus came not from the heart of the circle of Light to teach the people to build magnificent churches and temples. He came to make the human heart a temple, and the soul an altar, and the mind a priest”.

(Lebanese Poet)

Meditation: DO YOU WANT HIM LIKE THIS?



Don't Just Look... Enter In!

Sometimes we can function more like tourists than a bride. We hear the Holy Spirit sharing the glories of Christ our Husband and Life, and we prefer to peek through the veil rather than diving into oneness with the love of our lives. The Holy Spirit is not sharing Christ with us to be our tour-guide on a visit of the Holy Land (Christ). He was sent to bring back a bride to Jesus, just like Abraham's servant Eliezer was sent to bring back a bride for Isaac in Genesis chapter 24. The real question the Holy Spirit is asking is, "Who will come away from their native land, leave father and mother, and join to Isaac." Many will look and listen, but few will leave and enter in. It is all a matter of where our heart is at when the call comes.

Would you leave your native home
for a destination unknown?
To traverse dire terrain
with shame upon your name?
To go outside the camp,
a rebel foreign to those once familiar,
counting all an unnoticed price for the call to be His wife?

Misunderstood, mocked, and coolly laid aside...
the One you seek is hidden from their eyes.
But unveiled within your heart you have seen Him,
and fixedly press your all into His Bosom.

And when He gathers you into His tent,
all others realms now rent
you will have disappeared, gone from things once dear.
You have died, and now another
much more beautiful than you
appears our from sweet communion
from within His sanctuary... you!

Meditation: Are you ready to come?

Reading The Signs

John the disciple was resting on the Heart of Jesus when he saw Jesus break bread and pour out wine and hint that these things represented His death that was soon to come. **Even with all these clues John fell asleep when a few hours later Jesus asked him, Peter and James to pray for Him before He went to the Cross to die.** Eternal things were happening and Jesus was inviting those closest to Him to be with Him in deeply intimate fellowship with His sufferings. Even John fell asleep and left the Lord alone to endure the travail by Himself.

We may feel we have reached a place where we are sensitive enough,
but are we continually fellowshiping in the things of His heart and are we truly close enough to even be fully aware of what those things are?

Cultivating sensitivity to the Heart of Jesus requires being aware of the clues the Spirit is giving us, the movements of the Lord in our midst, the Word's the Father is declaring concerning the needs of His Son, and the tenor of the Spirit and the burden of the Lord in
His Heart.

We will continually miss the signs because of insensitivity. If we are more aware of this world and our soul and body than God in all His relating to us, we will eventually miss eternal moments and not be there for Him in the way He needs His Bride and Body to be with
Him.

When Jesus rose from the dead Mary Magdalene tried to tell the disciples that something incredible had happened. Jesus was risen! She was communicating that it was no longer time to hide in fear but to pursue Christ in His resurrection and find new Life! It took a while, but finally the disciples realized that Mary was God's sign to them that something real had happened. **Once their hearts awakened to discern Mary was sent to them from God, they ran in pursuit of the resurrection.**

Many time God tries to help sensitize us to what is going on in His Heart through those Who are in tune with His heart.

If the Spirit is blowing over us and we see the effects of His movement in the lives of those around us, **may we start RUNNGING** after Jesus until we too apprehend all that is in His Heart for us at this time!





Given completely... a whole burnt offering.
His blood poured out, His soul poured out too.
In weakness crucified, a bride taken from His side.

He waits for her, His flesh and bone.
He waits for her, His body and home.
He waits for the bride for whom He died to return to her first love.



Who has believed our Report?
And to Whom is the Arm of the Lord revealed?

Lamb of God, we pour out our hearts before You.
Surely You have borne our griefs and carried our sorrows
and we did not esteem You.
You were smitten for us, and You died.

We now choose to receive Your Report with open hearts.
We respond by joining with You as the bride from Your wounded side.
We hold fast to Your Life because we are Your wife.

Part Four:

Assorted Meditations on Heart Choices

Lord we need to know You in a new way!

*We need to know Your Heart,
to see the Face of Your depths,
to function by LOVE and not knowledge.*



Heart Level

Our relationship with Jesus may lack the intimacy of love and the vitality of His Life because we have chosen to know Him in a surface way rather than at “heart – level”. To live below heart-level is to reside in a place that lacks God’s Heart beating in us. To live in heart-level is to find the place that is HIM.

Hand Level: This relationship is based on what God can do for me. His ability to move in power, bring blessings and help in crisis is a strong motivation for seeking the Lord at this level. In this relationship the works of His hands describe who He is and what He is doing more than His unveiled beating Heart.

Mouth Level: Our gaze stops at the Lord’s mouth we have the blessing of knowing the Lord after “the hearing of the ear”. We hear the Word of God and share the Word with others. We may even understand by the Holy Spirit the deeper things that the Lord is sharing with us. Our knowledge of the Lord can be very impressive at this level, yet it deeply lacks the love of Christ Crucified being released through what we share.

Heart Level: To relate at this level is to relate as one in whom the very Heart of Jesus is alive and beating. Heart level only functions through union, for here we are living by the nature and love of Another. Here, we have found Him as a bride who knows her groom through the intimacy of oneness. Here Christ Crucified is manifesting through us.

On what level do I relate to Jesus?

Will I be satisfied with less than Heart level?

Will I gain His hands and mouth and miss the best – His Heart?



Heart Learning

There is an intimacy and simplicity to knowing the Lord from our place in Christ. From within this relationship we can learn of Christ Who is our life. Even as John the beloved disciple rested on Jesus' bosom, we can also rest in His love as we come to know Jesus. The best "seat" to learn from in the school of Christ is in Jesus Himself, for we have already been raised together with Him and are now seated together in Him (Ephesians 2:6).

"His left hand is under my head, and his right hand doth embrace me" (Song of Solomon 2:6). This description of the Lord holding His Church in the Song of Solomon sounds far more intimate than a preacher charging people to obey a far away Sovereign. The Shulamite woman in this passage of scripture has much to learn yet, but Solomon is holding her in the bonds of a relationship that will define every stage of her growth.

Where are we seated and from what position do we know the Lord?

Have we found the place of His embrace?

Do we live there?

Do we learn from there?

Is it the only place from where we relate to our Beloved?

The spiritual environment of acceptance in Christ prepares our hearts to embrace all knowledge only through union. Knowing Christ can only happen from a certain place. John the beloved found that place in the bosom of Jesus. From this picture we can see that learning Christ goes beyond mere instruction into the very essence of relationship, it reaches to the heart.

Get out of your desk...



and into His Heart!



Heart or Head?

Prayer Meeting in December 2003 - R. T. Nusbaum

Information or Essence?

I was thinking of the scriptures in Song of Solomon where it says, "A bundle of myrrh is my well beloved unto me. He shall lie all night between my breasts." In the Amplified it reads, "My beloved is to like a bundle of myrrh that lies inside my bosom." I was thinking of the difference of the relationship with the Lord that is seen there. There is the difference of relationship between Jesus being an instructor as opposed to this verse in Song of Solomon. Here the relationship is one of essence where, "my Beloved is to me like a bundle of myrrh that is inside of my bosom." In this relationship there is a constant fragrance of Him that fills you and not just a knowledge of Him in your mind.

I am moved by the difference of relationship?

Is God simply my instructor?

Is He simply instructing us in informational truths?

Am I allowing the Holy Spirit to impart Christ in an essence to His Body and to the Bride?

Do I understand Christ simply understood as right information in my head,

or is He a bundle of myrrh inside of my bosom?

The bride in Song of Solomon declared, "My well beloved is a bundle of myrrh inside my bosom."

I think that the Holy Spirit is loosed to crush up the incense so that the sweet fragrance of Christ can go forth and crush up the preconceived, lined-out, controlled understandings to bring forth and release Christ in His essence. We can know Him so clearly in understanding and not have any fragrance of Him that others detect. We can know Him so as to explain Him clearly to others, and be correct in our explanation. But in the Song of Solomon the Bride is finally sought out as someone who can release the true fragrance concerning who Jesus really is. "What is thy beloved?" they say to her, "that would put in you in such a frantic way—weeping, caring, and longing for Him. We already know Him but what is this of Him that you are emanating?" And she begins to describe not knowledge, not facts such as, "Well, He's five foot six and He has got this and that." Rather, she begins to describe the bundle of myrrh that is bound up in her heart, and they are drawn. (Song of Songs 5: 6-16)



Knowledge or Knowing God

Excerpt from a T. Austin Sparks article

Our Lord makes the statement that *“this is life eternal, that they should know Thee the only true God, and Him, Whom Thou didst send, even Jesus Christ.”* (John 17:3). This does not mean merely that eternal life is given on the basis of this knowledge.

Our minds are so often occupied with service and work; we think that doing things for the Lord is the chief object of life. All well and good, for these are important matters; but, back of everything the Lord is more concerned about our knowing Him than about anything else.

It is very possible to have a wonderful grasp of the Scriptures, a comprehensive and intimate familiarity with doctrine; and yet, alas, to have a very inadequate and limited personal knowledge of God within. So often the Lord has to take away our work that we may discover *Him*.

The ultimate value of everything is not the information which we give, not the soundness of our doctrine, not the amount of work that we do, not the measure of truth that we possess, but just the fact that we know the Lord in a deep and mighty way.

Do I know many deep THINGS about Him and minister FOR Him,

or I do I feel His Heart beating in me as His Lamb nature manifest through me to others?



*Why can't I get over this, press past it,
rise above it?*

I am not close enough to His heart.

*To have His heart is to live by Love
through Christ
and not personal abilities to get through.*

*How can I live by Love if I don't have His
heart, but only His facts in my head?*

Having His Heart-Beat in Living Oneness



Exo 28:30 And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the LORD: and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the LORD continually.

In Exodus 28:1-15, God gave Moses specific and detailed instructions on how to make the priestly garment for his brother, Aaron, the High Priest. Verse 15 says, “fashion a breast piece for making decisions”. The urim and thummin was found in the breast-plate (heart-plate) of the High Priest. The breast plate was folded double to make a pocket or pouch around the heart. Inside this pocket or pouch were placed two objects, the Urim and Thummim (read Exodus 28:29-30). They were to be close to Aaron’s heart when he entered the Tabernacle in the presence of the Lord.

The name “urim and thummin” has been translated “Perfection and Light” and also “Revelation and Truth”.

Urim and Thummim were a means of revelation entrusted to the high priest. They were consulted for specific guidance. No description of them is given but we can assume urim and thummin consisted of a material object or objects since it was physically stored in the breast-plate of the high priest.

I believe that it is very significant that the urim and thummin were inside the breast-plate of the High Priest. The breast is where the heart is, and the urim and thummin could represent what is in the Heart of Jesus. To me, the urim and thummin is like the very heart-beat of the Lamb. Jesus, the Lamb of God, is the Great High Priest Who took us into Himself in death and ascended with us as His Body in resurrection. We are now the Body of the High Priest and His Heart should flow into each member.

In the old testament people would consult the urim and thummin in matters of decision-making, judgments, and other things that required clear direction beyond the basic mandates of the law. This was a measure of trying to hear from the Lord beyond the letter of the law into the hearing of His heart. They were in situations that required them to press past the general way of knowing God to truly find what was going on in His heart so they could acquire their answer. Usually in times of crisis the people would ask the High Priest to consult the urim and thummin to determine God’s will; *Numbers 27:21, 1 Samuel 23:1-2, 1 Samuel 30: 1-8 , Nehemiah 7:65.*

“And of Levi he said, Let thy Thummim and thy Urim be with thy holy one, whom thou didst prove at Massah, and with whom thou didst strive at the waters of Meribah” (Deut. 33:8).

At the end of Moses’ life he prayed a special blessing over the tribes of Israel. When Moses prayed for the tribe of Levi he began the prayer asking God to give the urim and thummin to these who had separated themselves unto the Lord and drawn close to His heart. Moses is literally praying, “Let Thy living beating Heart be in these levites”. He is asking God to give them the portion and blessing of the Heart of the Lamb in a real way that can only happen when one joins to the Lord and abides. .

If we truly desire to bear the life of His Heart in a real way, we must have more than a concept of oneness but a joining that brings us into the very beating and burdens of the Heart of the Lamb. Existing passively in a religious culture gives us prescribed answers with no true union into Christ our Head. People seeking an answer to their crisis rather than pursuing oneness with the Lamb will never truly honor the urim and thummin. These do not want to bear His nature and let His Heart beat in them, rather they want good counsel and clear direction so they can get out of their predicament and find relief.

If we keep “missing the mark of His Heart” it may be because we have not yet drawn close enough with a true heart and continued to press in until God gives us the Urim and Thummin of Christ’s revealed Heart in us. We may be seeking the Lord for behavior modifications in us rather than the urim and thummin that is in His Heart, and can only be accessed through union into Him as Head and Heart.

Meditations:

Am I seeking to hear answers from God to help my needs?

Am I seeking to hear God’s Heart so I can be one with Him as a bride?



The Choice

December 31, 2003

We all have the choice to pick one of two paths.

Both paths will bring forth Christ,
yet only one path will give the Father His Son and
Jesus His Bride.



Will we be “of” God, or we will “be” God in essence?

Will we be of God by inheritance to preach, to minister,
to comprehend, to know, to see, to understand mysteries?

Will we be of God to speak with great power, to heal, and to sing by the Spirit?

Or will our portion be the very Heart of the Lamb as our Life?

When people encounter us will they will declare, “They were truly OF God.
They heard FROM God, and they were OF God.”

or

“I encountered the living Christ in nature through them”?

In choosing oneness with His Heart above His things, those who encounter us will declare, “They were a savor of Christ”. This path is the decision to embrace Christ as essence bundled in our hearts above all things, ministry, being right, and being “of God” and whatever else. We will be like ignited incense that ever covers the mercy seat , first and continually ministering the sweet savor of the Son to the Father, and ever giving the Lamb one of His own kind. We will hold the Dove in a relationship of tender communion and we will be the Lamb to others. This path may outwardly look less “of God” than the others, for this essence will often times bear the reproach of others, take the lowest seat, and intentionally make itself of no reputation. It will bypass ministry opportunities to more deeply release Christ. It is a hidden path to all but God, and yet is the path of fruit that remains.

The ultimate end of the first path is self.

The ultimate end of the other is love, fulfilling all commands.

Functioning by LOVE

Excerpt from "Formed or Conformed" by R.T. Nusbaum

There is the possibility of finding the nature of Christ and at the same time depending on the nature of Christ, but in love. Because of the uniqueness of the way we are approaching this we find that instead of just coming into the Godhead by nature we are also entering into Their relationship. There is a portion of scripture where God is rebuking Solomon because he had married wives that had foreign gods (I Kings 11:2-11). The emphasis of this rebuke was not that he had gone after foreign gods or was worshiping idols, but that he had turned his heart away and had done it in love. That is a big deal to the Bridegroom concerning this thing of love and this thing of honor. Notice God's heart in this same manner as spoken through Jeremiah 2:2 "*Go and cry in the ears of Jerusalem, saying, Thus saith the Lord; I remember thee, the kindness of thy youth, the love of thine espousals, when thou wentest after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown.*" That is a big deal to God. It is not just doing our duty because of the nature of Christ. That would be real convenient for some, if God just put the nature of Christ in us and we did what we were supposed to do because we were automatically run by a nature. It would be like a computer that is programmed to do certain things. In that case it would simply be the nature of the program and would not require anything, much less dependence and a love of dependence. Think about that wording; a love of it. To love the Lord thy God is the first commandment.

Why do we do what we do?

Is it just Christ in us in a way that we have no feeling at all?

Do we consent to lay down our lives for those that are perishing because it is the automatic result of Christ's life in us,

or is it God's Heart of Love filling us to give ?

Look closely at this scripture; "*For God so LOVED the world that He gave.*" There is this whole other aspect that has to be worked in us which is not just the automatic nature of it.

By LOVE sever one another" (Gal. 5:13).

It is possible to lose one's passion for the Lord and simply function by nature independent of that love relationship.

Rejection of His Heart - War Against the Lamb

Excerpt from New Years Service - 1999 - R.T. Nusbaum

In the Book of Revelation it states that there was war with the Lamb, not war with Jesus. Did you know that there is rebellion against the Lamb of God right now? Rebellion against the One Who says turn your other cheek when you are smitten. There is rebellion when He says bless your enemies and rebellion against the Lamb when He tells us, don't justify yourself. The rebellion is against Jesus the Lamb of God. And rebellion after rebellion will lead to war.

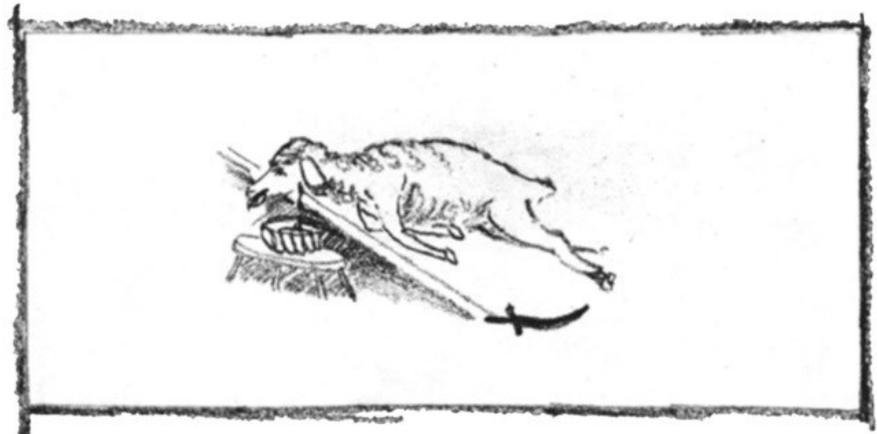
How does war happen in heaven? How does war come about against the Lamb? It is about little rebellions happening left and right. And you can point out everybody's problems, but if you are rebelling against the Lamb and you are not submitting unto His spirit and you're not like Him because there is no conformity, then what does it matter if you're on the cutting edge of ministry?

There is coming a day when there is going to be war raised up against, not Jesus, not your Savior, but against the Lamb because there is rebellion going on in the Kingdom right now while you are going to Church, while you are serving God, while you are doing the right thing and it is all justified in your mind. "I am involved in all these things, I am really a good person." **But your spirit and the core of who you are is not joining with the Lamb.** You will never walk in the Bride if you continue in that way. And eventually there will be war against the Lamb.

That war is going on, but there is something else going on in heavenly places; and that is a marriage. That is a union where people are saying, "yes, I do...yes Lord...yes Lamb...yes Husband... yes I submit... yes I don't care about what happens in the earth...yes my greatest desire is You my Husband the One that I am joined to and the One the I love. I am after You and I have given up everything. I am like Ruth and have left my family and left my home to be joined to You."

This strikes at the heart of the New Testament message when it is all said and done and when it is all divided. There is going to be war in heaven and there is going to be those who have joined to the Lamb. There is going to be those who are wise and have taken on His Name, the wife that has taken His Name, the Bride that has taken on His image.***

Meditation: Am I warring against the Heart of the Lamb by pushing forward to have my way? Do I let ministry and doctrine be an excuse for not having His Heart and rebelling against His nature?



In The Earth

If in the earth you must stay because your heart will not come away,
(for I have drawn and cried to some, yet still their hearts will not come),
then all these woes will yours be, a realm you've chosen instead of eternity.

With clenched fist you've held your treasure.

When I brought release, you said, "never".

The beast ascended from bottomless pit, you saw his face yet would not quit.
He brought you pain, torment and woe, yet your answer to the Lamb still remained "no".

"I have my life here in the earth, and what it holds is what I count worth.
"Worthy is the Lamb" is only a phrase I use from my place far below His Face.

You send your horses, sound trumpets, pour out wrath,...

By none of that will my fortress be attacked.

My heart is set, my love is true.

I have chosen my own life down here and rejected You.

Make your prophets stop, their words pierce and bruise.

I do not have to be subject to such abuse.

I feel your heart and see my lack... I prefer my blindness above words that attack.

Let them die off, may their speaking cease, so I can remain in my earth at peace.

Though heavens cry and creation groans, I will not forsake this earth as my home."

So to a church on Sunday I go.

I listen to the teaching and pretend to grow.

But deep inside I feel the lack, and know it's because

from You my heart has held back.

The years they pass. My earth has increased...

but the beatings of Your heart have ceased.

All is dead and ritual now, as deeper into my slumber I continue to fall.



Reversing The Love Famine



Joel looked over a field and nation full of issues and needs, and saw only the heart of God. He did not become overwhelmed with anxiety because of the condition of the people; neither did he take upon himself the burden to make everything better. Joel did the one thing that was needful, he went to the One he loved and spent some time with Him. At some point Joel must have turned his eyes away from the crisis and looked deep into God's heart, for Joel comprehended what the real problem was; a lack of communion. The scriptures in Joel chapter one emphasize the lack of drink and meal offerings. These offerings consisted of bread and wine, the very elements that represent communion. Outwardly it appeared as if the true famine was in the wasted fields, for locusts and draught had destroyed the increase of the harvest for years. Yet the very heart of the famine could only truly be understood by looking upon the empty altars. Starvation had reached the House of God and the table of the Lord. Without a fruitful harvest, there was no wine for the drink offerings and no bread for the grain offerings. In New Testament language that would be described as a lack of Christ in us to bring the Father the fellowship that He hungers and thirsts for, His Son through us. Joel understood the famine emanated from a spiritual poverty which can only be understood in New Testament terms as a lack of Christ formed within.

*Joe 2:12 Therefore also now, saith the LORD, turn ye even to me with all your heart,
and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning:*

*And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God:
for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.*

*Who knoweth if he will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind him;
even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the LORD your God?*

Joel 2:12-14

Part Five: A Science Lesson



Breaking With The Gravity of Me



We can become trapped in the universe of “me”. Self presses us into a smaller and smaller space, further and further from God until we can barely breath. Something deep inside of us has to scream out to break with the gravity of self and this earth to be liberated into union with God above. We need to press, and claw and fight our way out from the constant pull of that old selfish heart. The more we draw nigh to God, the more God draws us to Himself (James 4:8). The closer we draw to God, the more powerful His drawing power becomes. This is true in the scriptures and it is also true in science. This concept can be clearly seen in the reality of massive black holes and their event horizons.

We are going to explore the scientific details about black-holes and see how their governing principles show us the powerful way God draws us to Himself and how we can break gravity with our selfish earth existence and be swallowed up in God!

Before we embark into the science of this subject, let us prepare our hearts to look over this information in the desperation of one who must break free from self to be with the God they love above all.

Something deep inside of us has to scream out to break with the gravity of self and this earth to be liberated into union with God above.



Seeing the Drawing Power of God through the example of a massive black hole:

Most of the material referred to in this article has been gleaned from a class taught by R.T. Nusbaum entitled, "Realities Beyond the Seen" and can be listened to and downloaded at: www.christaslife.com

BLACKHOLE

A black hole is the highest manifestation of a massive sun going into death.

When a massive sun dies it goes supernova and forms a black hole.

For the rest of its existence that black hole will be drawing in and gathering millions of suns in its lifetime.

Jesus is true and massive SON that went into death so He could draw us into Himself in oneness.

Exactly how a star dies depends in part on its mass.

SUPERNOVA

Once a massive star's core surpasses a certain mass the star begins to implode.

Massive suns have a type II supernova which occur at the end of a single star's lifetime. Eventually, the core is so heavy that it cannot withstand its own gravitational force. The core collapses, which results in the giant death explosion of a supernova.

Another way to say this is when the massive sun dies it goes supernova.

The desire in the Son's heart to bring forth a bride so burdened Him He gave Himself for her unto death.

(Gal. 2:20, Jn. 12:24)

EVENT HORIZON

When a massive sun goes super-nova it becomes a massive black hole.

A black hole is an object with a gravitational field where gravity is so strong that not even light can escape. It is the strongest drawing force in the universe, but only by getting close enough to it will an object be drawn into it into oneness.

There is a certain point of "closeness" to the black hole that is the point of no return. Once an object reaches that point the drawing power is greater than any other force. This "point of no return" is called the "event horizon".

When "sons of God by Christ" draw close enough to Christ Crucified (the massive black hole) they will be drawn into oneness with Him in greater ways than they have ever known.

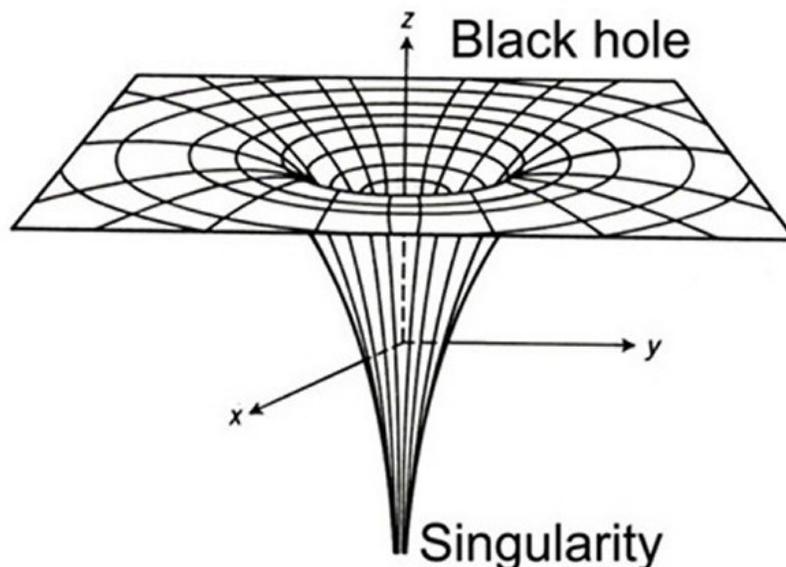
SINGULARITY

In the center of a black hole is a gravitational singularity, a one-dimensional point which contains infinite mass in an infinitely small space, where gravity becomes infinite and where the laws of physics as we know them cease to operate. A black hole's singularity remains hidden behind its event horizon. It is the place where all the gathered matter, suns, light, and everything within it is drawn into a oneness that becomes the densest point of matter in the universe.

There are many sons of God (by Christ within) who are born again and in the family of God. Yet the Bride of the Lamb is not many but ONE. Even though we may have Christ in real and tremendous ways, have we drawn close enough to His Heart to see the wife of the Lamb and be drawn into that relationship of oneness? Have we gone past circling from a distance this great Crucified Son to draw close enough to Him to reach the event horizon of His Being and know Him and others in a oneness that forms us as His Bride? That point of singularity in His Heart is Christ all and in all, compressed and formed as the Zion/Bride of His Heart.

This point of singularity in that massive black hole creates the densest point of matter in the universe, where many become compressed into one.

Those who draw close enough to the Crucified to pass His event horizon are pulled into a oneness in His core/heart where many are compressed into one Bride.





Many suns and planets may swirl around a black-hole, but only those who get close enough to the event horizon will be drawn into oneness.

Meditation:

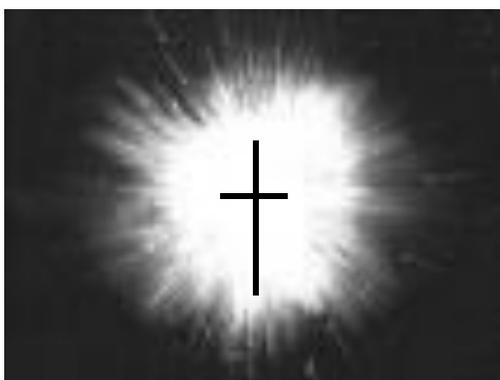
Am I willing to draw close enough to the Heart of Jesus to be pulled in deeper than ever before?

Joh 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

Joh 12:33 This he said, signifying what death he should die.

The power of the resurrection of the dead Son (Christ Crucified) is the power

He now has to draw us into oneness.



The drawing power of a massive black hole is the strongest drawing force in the known universe. It is so powerful that scientists cannot understand it and the laws of physic do not apply.

The prayer of the dying Son/Sun

Joh 17:21 "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us".



Jesus is the “massive sun (Son)” that went super-nova (into a great death) to bring forth a Bride and gather her ever deeper into Oneness with Heart (singularity).

Will you draw closer to His event Horizon?

The preaching of the Cross is the power of God to all those who receive a Crucified Christ as Life.

*Stuck in ruts of time and space,
never truly approaching your face.*

*Satisfied with what I’ve seen,
satisfied with what I “be”.*

*Never close enough to You to feel
the drawing of your Heart,
the pull of your fire,*

*the force of the love released from Your massive death,
the greatness of your desire.*

*I’ve counted Your heart as a doctrine and made it a
light thing. It held no weight in me and no Person
behind my veil did I see.*

*Keeping my distance from You
my comfort zones held fast and true.*

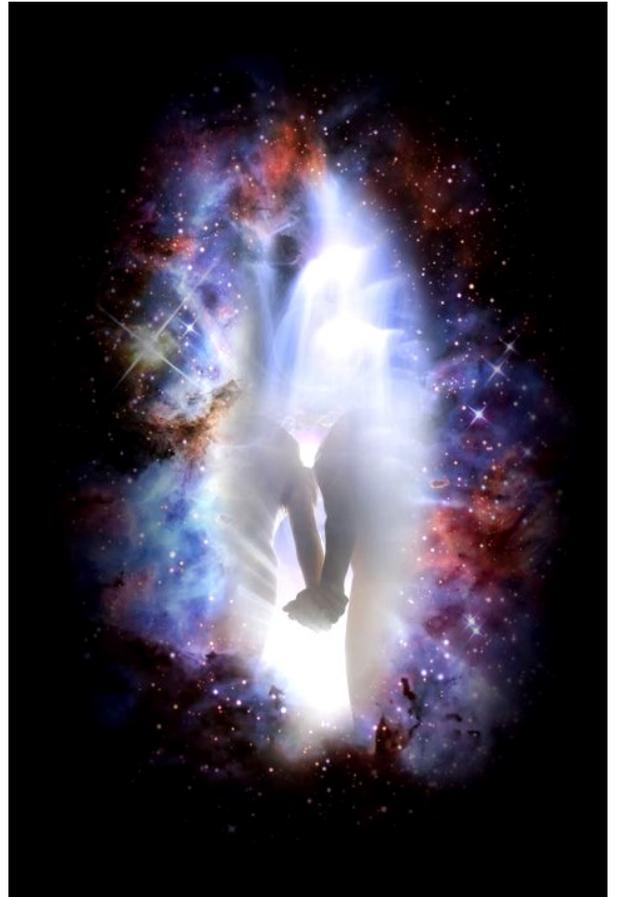
*Peace, peace at any price, just don’t let me lose my life
in that foreign land of the God Unknown; that massive,
scary black -hole.*

*Peace, peace at any price has kept me from relating to
Him as wife.*

*I cannot see, I do not know, my heart is reaching into
Your great unknown.*

*Holy Spirit come, take me home, show me Christ in the
great unknown. Draw me close, draw me near until
into Isaac’s tent I disappear.*

*And my the earth and stars and galaxies too
mean nothing to me when compared to You.*



*Do you want to help answer the
prayer of the Son of God right
before He went super-nova:*

*“That they all may be one; as thou,
Father, art in me, and I in thee,
that they also may be one in us”.*

Draw closer to His Heart.

Her Response (Rev. 19 – 21)

Have you heard her response to You.
She says, “His judgments are righteous and true”.

With each judgment deeper in she came,
flesh consumed and a bride remains.

A heart prepared, captured and bought;
for with each judgment Your Heart she sought.
Separating from earth to marriage in heaven;
the gravity of Your Heart purges her leaven.

Her eyes lock in , her focus strong...
the event horizon is coming along!
She’s reaching the point of no return,
for You alone her heart does burn.

Matter tears, substance shatters...
she’s losing all.

He’s all that matters.

Held by oneness, drawn by love,
pressed and formed deep in the Son.
Purified by fire, compressed by desire...
her form is changing from sons to Son.



This singular point, deep in His heart
is where the New Jerusalem gets her start.
Have you seen her... the wife of the Lamb?
Come up and be carried away, let your eyes be opened wide
For this one alone is the Lamb’s true bride.

Sunday Night Prayer June 7, 2015

R.T. Nusbaum

Father, our prayers are our arms reaching out to You. Reaching from where we are at, unto You, where You are at. Reaching to enter into something that's more than knowledge and more than information and more than teaching. Reaching for You Jesus. Beyond all that we know of You, beyond all that has been so real to us. Take our hands Lord. Let these prayers reach your heart. Bring us as a bride unto you Lord. Father, You sent the Holy Spirit to bring us as a bride to Jesus. Father, if there ever was a time to use that phrase, "Father send the Holy Spirit", it is this time and this place. Send the Holy Spirit to bring back a bride unto Jesus. Come O Holy Eliezer (*Gen. 24*). Come to our place, come to our distant land and our distant minds and our distant hearts. Bring us unto Him and not just bring us unto Him in any other form than Bride form.

Holy Spirit come into our foreign brains. Bring us out of this foreign land of our own mind to the fresh bride, glorious Lamb, Jesus. You long for it Jesus, more than we could ever long for it. You long for it. Father, You sent Him here, Your Son to die for it. Be enthroned in us, as a Lamb, as slain Lamb. Be enthroned in us, that we could become a bride. Be enthroned in us as a slaughtered Lamb and then we will be seen as Bride.

Holy Spirit, it is impossible without You. You are the only one who knows how to get there, You are the only one who knows Him well enough to instruct us along the way. May our arrival at Isaac's tent be the reward. Holy Spirit, in this journey, break down every resistance, every selfish motive, every soulish thing that pulls us away from the journey and from the heart of the Lord. May we be set apart for Jesus. Father, send the Holy Spirit to this place, to these people at this time. May he bring the bride out of these foreign hearts and foreign minds. We set as much as in us, we dedicate ourselves unto this task, this end, unto this purpose, for this is where we want to go. This is who we are. Who we were called and made to be.



May we be set apart for Jesus.

Part Six: Bride Meditations



This is an expert from Christ as Life Study Manual #7 - "The Bride Series" by R.T. Nusbaum

His Death to Bring Forth His Bride

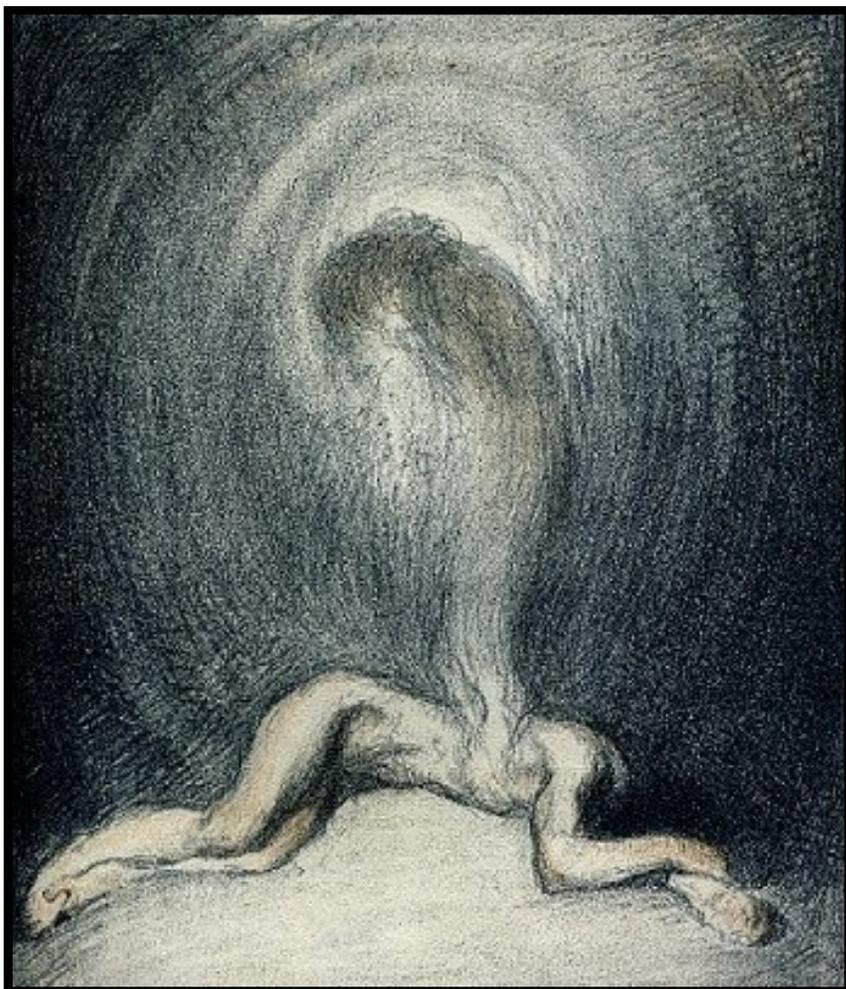
"And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and He took one of his ribs; and closed up the flesh instead thereof: And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called woman because she was taken out of man." Genesis 2:21-23

Look closely at Ephesians 5:25, which says, "...Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for it". This means that before going to the Cross, Christ loved the Church and knowingly went to the Cross in order to give Himself for her – a spotless bride. **In order to bring about a bride for Adam, the Lord put him into a deep sleep. Just as Adam was put to sleep to bring forth Eve, Christ was put to death (or sleep) to bring forth His Bride. In this sense, it can be referred to as a sleep rather than a death. Why? Because death relates to sin and punishment. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Eze. 18:4). God even said to Adam, "In the day that thou eatest [of the fruit], thou shalt surely die" (Gen. 2:17). Adam was not put to death but put to sleep to bring forth Eve. And so Adam was put to sleep not because of Eve's sin, for Eve did not yet exist. She did not yet have any sin. Adam was put to sleep because he desired a counterpart for himself, and this was God's method of bringing one about.**

The Operation

The bringing forth of Eve can be likened to an operation that Adam had to go through in order to get a bride. The kind of surgery Adam underwent was not to remove cancer or disease but to take out something in him, part of himself, with the hope of bringing forth a new creation into existence that would always be out from himself. The specific part of Adam that was taken out during the surgery was his rib, a bone that is located close to the heart that covers the heart as a protection.

This rib had always been in Adam before the surgery. Because it was outside of him after the surgery, it was able to come into an intimate



relationship with him. Even Eve's designation as "woman" means that she is out from man. In terms of manifestation, one became two that day, but as we shall see, just as Eve continued to find her existence in the heart of Adam, even so shall the Church be found in the heart of Jesus so that the two are to become one in the mystery of their creation.

Wounded to Bring Her Forth

Now let us look more closely at Adam's operation as the means to bring forth his mate. Let us meditate upon Genesis 2:18-15 in the setting of a surgical operation. Adam was laid down and put to sleep. A rib was taken out, and he was closed back up again. If someone were about to operate on you, would you think it serious if they wanted to put you to sleep? Such a procedure indicates that you would be undergoing major surgery.

Try to picture Adam lying there in a sleep so deep that it is likened unto death (which is the Hebrew meaning of the word that is used for "sleep" in this passage). While in this death-like sleep, God wounds Adam near his heart. God's hand alone goes deep inside this area, removes the desired rib, and then closes up the wound. This was quite a traumatic operation, for something deep within Adam had been removed, and he would never be the same again.

At the same time, that which had been brought forth from within him had entered into a new existence, even a new creation. She was not something created separate from Adam or formed from the dirt, but through the operation of God she was Adam, out from him – Adam in female form.

When Adam awoke after the operation, he probably felt like he had just been through major surgery! He may have awakened with a cry of pain. I am sure that he wondered if God could not have found an easier way to bring forth his bride. It would have been a lot less painful for him had God just reached down and made her from dirt the way He had made Adam. However, Eve's creation is a picture of Jesus and His Bride, and so Adam's surgery had to fulfill the pattern.

Paul speaks of this in Ephesians 5:30-31, which says that Christ gave Himself for the Church that she might come into existence. Another creation made of dirt would not have suited Jesus as a Bride for Himself, for it would not have been of His kind.

And now, that which is risen with Christ is not dirt, but bone of His bone. "Old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God" (II Cor. 5:17-18). As the Church comes to know who she now is, all the grief, regret, and viewpoints of our past identity in the old creation will be washed away! Our definitions will change as this union awakens an understanding in our hearts. The Church is His Bride, His Body, His Bones, and she is not dirt. She has not been formed from the earth, but taken out from Him. She is bone of His bones and flesh of His flesh.

Meditation: Do I really know that I am bone of His bone and made to exist in oneness with Him for real?

Seen But Not Seen

But why should I appear when I am not even here?
To see Him is to see me, He is all of my identity.

In this I am satisfied to be His rib hidden in His side.
To feel His Heart and know His Mind, Hidden in another for all time.

And when Your hidden words fill my mouth, and burn in my bones, and constrain my heart,
then out of hiding I will come so they may see the Holy One.

But I will never leave my place hidden in You as your Heart plate.



“Of His Rib”

“Of His Rib”, she said as she walked the other way.

His heart-beat once so strong and tender
was now a distant, muted sway.

“From His Side!” she yelled in gleeful pomp
as clapping and skipping she went...
yet He lay there moaning for His one
to come back to Him once again.

“Of His Bone!” she shared
of all the glory she had heard...
yet from deep to deep within she knew not
the spirit from whence she was birthed.

“Oh how I love Him!” did she proclaim
as desire filled her soul...
yet leaving Him in adoration
to other lovers she would roam.

“I’ll sacrifice a word to Him,
I’ll give Him some of my time,
but to other altars I must offer,
and drink another’s wine.

I owe dues to another god,
I must sacrifice to that king...
But worry not, for I have gifts to Him
that I also will bring.”

A Crucified Bride

God the Father would not give the Son of His love a bride that was not crucified. Therefore He sends the Holy Spirit to destroy in her all that is not Him in nature. She already is Him, but in “her” form. She has not yet appeared as “Him” (in His image and nature) because her conformity is yet in process. So the Spirit woos the church, speaks to her, draws her, begs her to apply the Son’s death and yield to His Life so that she might live as Him and function as the bride that she already is in His heart.

A huge part of the passion of the bride drawing closer to Christ her Groom’s heart is her willingness to apply His Cross to her own flesh. The journey to His Heart and conformity to His image is filled with daily applications of her own death with Christ. She must choose to forsake her old identity rather than cleaving to it through justification. She must choose to allow the Word of God to become a circumcising instrument to remove her flesh. When the Word of God uncovers her selfishness, she reckons it dead with Christ in a manner that cleaves to His death as her own with purpose of heart. She wars against her own soul’s devises to sneak past the applied cross and survive. She stands against everything in her that is not yet conformed to Him in nature. She takes the sword of the Lord from the Word of God and begins applying and embracing His Cross to hasten His appearing in her. Her focus is not her flesh but His fullness. Her passion is not hatred of sin but love for Him. This one is making herself ready for her Groom, and she is using the tools He gave her through His death.



“The Cross is a tool for lovers!”

Our Response To The Call

Ben Koshatka - June 28th 2015

2 Chron. 15:2 "And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin: The Lord is with you, while ye are with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found by you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you."

This was a prophecy contingent on their response to it. It wasn't like Jerimiah telling them that they were going to Babylon no matter what, this was saying "what your future is going to be is dependent upon whether you truly set yourself to seek the Lord or not."



THE CROSS

in relation to

SEEKING THE LORD

Ben Koshatka - June 28th 2015

2 Chron. 15:12-13 “And they entered into a covenant to seek the Lord God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul, That whoever would not seek the Lord God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.”

Here we have the heart and the soul being brought into a state of being completely given to seeking the Lord. This will only truly happen if there is a willingness to kill whatever will not line up. It is like a circumcision, a cutting off of the flesh. We look at the cutting off of the flesh a couple different ways. First there is the cutting off that happened at the cross, in Christ our flesh was crucified. In ourselves we still deal with it, we still walk in it to some measure. God comes along and deals with us through various means such as circumstances, or preaching. We see our flesh rise up and we know to stand in faith with the Lord. The flesh is looked upon as sinful, displeasing to the Lord, something wholly rejected by God. Yet this cutting off is in direct relation to seeking the Lord. In this scenario the flesh is what gets in the way with seeking the Lord. Whatever is in your heart and in your soul will not seek the Lord, whatever it is that is pulling you another direction, talking you into giving your time and attention to lesser things, coming up with excuses, that is to be killed. The lesser thing needs to receive a death sentence, the excuse, the attitude, the hobby, the habit even selfishness with personal time. Asa stretches a sword across his nation and says you are all under this blade, if you don't line up with what I am saying I will kill you. And it's not just the great things, it's the small things, the things that may seem like they are not really a threat.

Bride Warfare

Do I allow my reasoning, the knowledge of good and evil,
and things happening in the earth to desensitize me
to the Heart of Jesus and make me more sensitive to me?

Eve did it in the garden and probably realized later that what she did was break
with Life and end up in death and separate. The same law is true in His Eve
now (*the Church*). We can join with Him and abide as His rib, bone of His
bone covering His Heart, or we can separate with the Serpent and live far from
His Heart and unaware of His true needs.

Do I allow the Serpent into my Garden, His Garden?

Do I leave my place as His rib covering His Heart
to be something apart from Him?



Do I allow the river within me to flow back into
me because of offense rather than out from me to minister to Him and bless others?

Do I leave love to be something separate from Him?

Remember, love fulfills it all and remains forever.
Rather than wrestling with things that don't matter,
give yourself wholly to love.

Protect your path as you walk in love from all snares of self-awareness.

Do I allow circumstances, pain, personal loss and my soul
to remove my heart from His care to my own?

Do I allow carnal thoughts to linger in my mind until they get planted
into my heart and grow tares in the Lord's garden?

Am I more aware of my world than His?

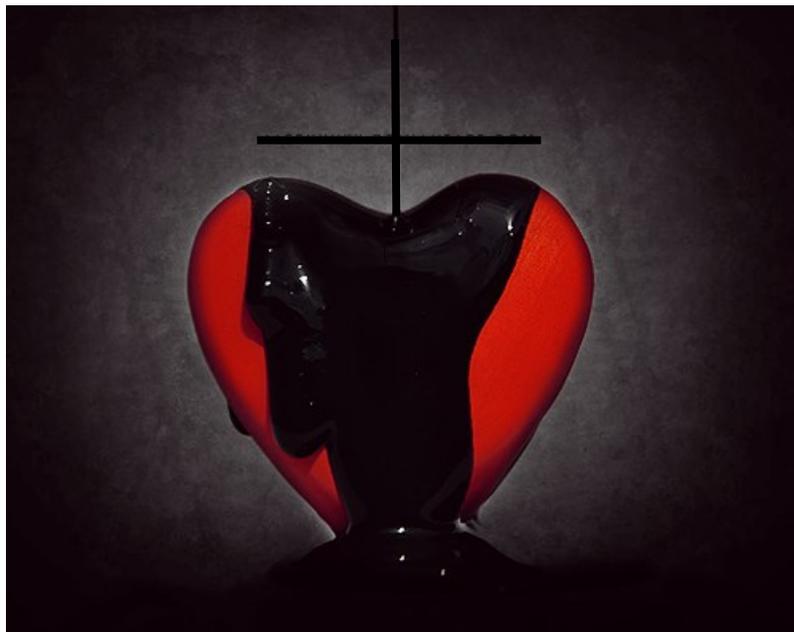
... of my needs than His?

... of my view than His?

... of my pain than His?

Am I desensitized to God and others because
I have maintained a high sensitivity to myself?

Can I discern the Lord's Heart or am I too far away
and caught up in myself to perceive Him?



First Love and God's Dealings

Prayer Meeting April 4, 2000

I feel full of the matter of the first love. I believe the Lord is drawing us back to our first love. And that is something that He is doing, it's not something that we can do. We respond to His love. He is trying to show us His heart. In the Book of Jeremiah, Jeremiah is trying to explain to them God's heart of love for them. He is not trying to tell them that they need to get better; He is asking them to respond to Him, to return to Him... to come back to Him. And in doing so they are going to be lifted back into His love and they are going to love Him so much that they will not want the earth and all the other nations and all the other lovers and everything else for they will just return to Him. Here is a scripture from Jeremiah 2:2: "*I remember concerning thee, the love of thine espousals, how you went after me in the wilderness, in a land that was not sown.*" The Lord is saying, "I remember when we were first together how you went after Me with that first love, in the love of thine espousals. And you went after Me when there was nothing, the whole thing was a big wilderness. You didn't have anything, you didn't have anything to gain, you just said, 'I am just so flat in love with you. I am a fool for Jesus. I don't care about the earth, or battles in the earth. I don't care about ministries or titles, or what I am going to get, or who I am going to marry, or how many houses, or not having a house. It doesn't matter how many friends or how many enemies, or how many of whatever earthly idols I have lifted up.'" God came against those things in Jeremiah and He said to "cast down your idols, take down your high places and quit offering incenses to other gods or I will take away your temple. I want you to be My bride and to cease in this place. Cease ye, I am so jealous of your love." And T. Austin Sparks also said, "If necessary, this first love will die of starvation in order to be with it's lover."



Come back to me with all your heart.

“I remember concerning thee and the love of thine espousals.” That is what Jehovah said to His people. Who can say that He doesn't want our love more than anything else? God has such an incredible initiating love that He will press them to get through to them that, “I love you, and I desire to have you with Me in My place first. In union first. Why do you crowd it up with all these other issues? It is not about all the battles. I am going to let Babylon be my right arm and let him win the battle because it is not about winning battles, it is about loving Me. I am going to let Egypt be my tool and let him win because it is not about winning, it is about loving Me. I can deliver my people into the hands of the enemy because I don't care if the enemy wins, I care that you love Me. And the Word of God testifies of this time and again with Babylon, Assyria, and so on. They may take His people into captivity, yet His people will be chastised and scourged because He has chosen them to partake of His Divine Nature and be one in love. And after your obedience is fulfilled, then I will go to Babylon, Egypt and Assyria and they will pay to the uttermost for their sin against Me, against My beloved, for touching the apple of My eye. And you have chosen to be one with Me as I am. Therefore I will not hold back on you. I will let the winds blow from the four corners and sift you into them until you see what I have called you to be in Me, until you see who you truly are. This is love, saith the Lord. Not winning battles. Babylon can win. If God wanted to He could allow Babylon to come back and win again to redirect our hearts to our true place in His Son. To the true victory of His love.***



Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.

Meditation: Do I see the Lord's passion in His chastisement?

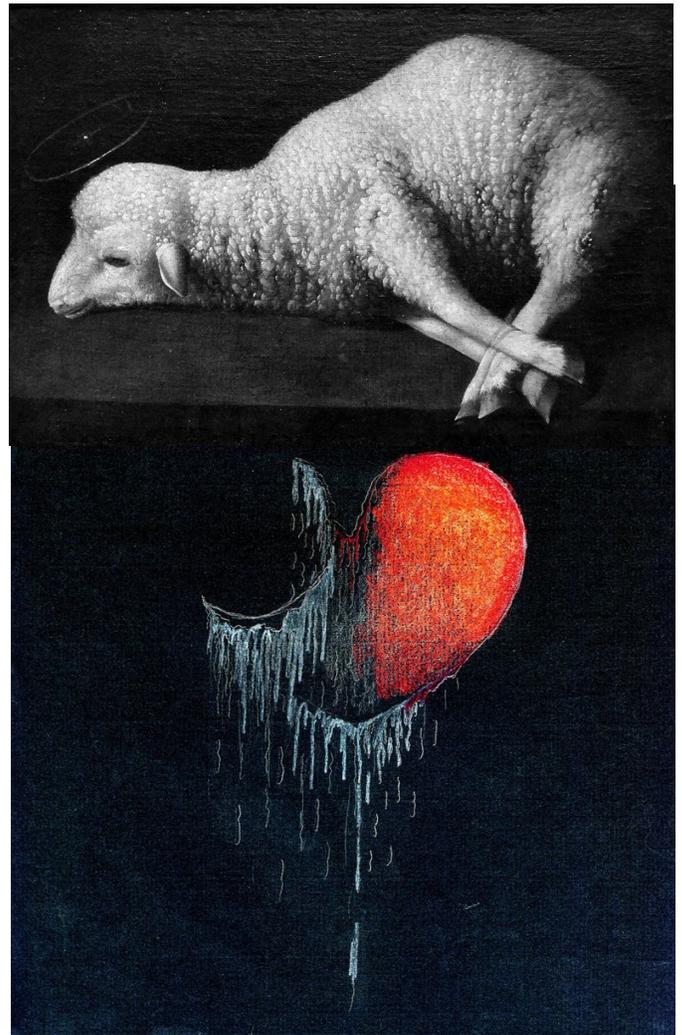
Do I feel the great love and desire that is behind all of His dealings?

The Lamb's Wife

Kelly's Personal Notes From Randy's Sharing on the Lamb's Wife in Ireland 2015

There is a progression for the churches to move from individual and divided entities to one wife with the Lamb. The deeper John (and the churches) moves into the Spirit – the greater their hearts are awakened and eyes opened to behold that the One they are married to is a slaughtered Lamb. This is the great unveiling... that the One in their midst, the One that makes them one is a little slaughtered sacrificial offering. Now, only a heart pulsating with the Spirit's view will truly feel the impact of such a knowing. Words, scriptures, teachings and man's comments avail nothing apart from the Spirit's unveiling of Him (our Husband) in this view. Until the crucified heart of that slaughtered Lamb beats in our bosoms, we will continue to be in the Spirit on a Sunday service yet living as divided, critical, proud, competitive, jealous and carnal. Though we hold a belief in the realities of the Spirit, we live in the earth separate from the Lamb and divided from one another. There is no cure for this condition until the heart turns towards the Lord and chooses to see Him Who is speaking, get caught up in His heart and marry Him on a moment to moment, heartbeat to heartbeat basis.

Meditation: Have we been caught up by the Spirit to see the Lamb so deeply that we begin to relate and walk as His wife?



"Home"

He is my home. Nothing else but Him alone.

Where is He? Not in the earth...

The earth is in darkness; the darkness of men.

How do I find home... Him?

I find Him and feel Him within

and I also follow the Dove

Who carries the tenor of His Person in his wings

and the needs of His heart in his breast.

At Calvary He was strong...

Strong in love; strong in self-giving for her.

In raised form He is weak, weak because now He

relies on her to enter into their oneness by love.

Without love not only her earth but His heavens

are in darkness, the darkness of being alone.

With love both are caught up and filled. Both are home.

Word from the Lord About Shining

(Wednesday evening prayer meeting in 1995)

“You shine best when you are out of the darkness, when you show forth my purpose. I gave unto you all power and authority and you shine when you use that to cover the little ones to come, you shine when you strengthen their arms.

**When you stand in boldness, My Word in faith, you are my jewel and my crown.
You shine in my heart and in my eyes and you are a jewel unto my heart.**

**I speak not of great things, but of things in my heart.
Are you not always a gem? Yes, but you shine when you stand and draw forth to
My purposes in the earth. You are an extension of me.**

You shine and bring joy and rejoicing to my heart.

**Remember the moments when you break forth as a glorious bride
and you shine as you break forth as a bride - meaning that which says, “I am joined.
I am one with Him”. Wearing and properly displaying my nature, that which says,
“I am His”. You bear His Lamb image to properly display Him to all the earth.**

You shine in my heart, says the Lord.”



Let The Spirit Awaken You

(A Transcribed Spontaneous Song During Worship Sung by R.T. Nusbaum)

December 30, 2001



For the eyes are in the Head, and I see you according to what I have done. Your eyes are in the earth, when you look down below, for there you strive so hard. But come up and come away, enter in... be filled with all the fullness. For I have separated you, I have made you holy; separated unto Me. And you have strived hard to be one with Me, but My work is done. And I would awaken you. I have wrestled you from your sleep; your deep slumber. And I say, "Look, look above. Look not into your dreams or desires, but into that which is and find all joy. Enter into the joy of the Lord. Enter into what He has done for you. Be not afraid, for His work is a beautiful work, but you must have your eyes opened to Him. And when you see you will know that it wasn't just a work; it was union that settled the fact with the enemy, the world, and with the flesh. He made you one with Him and all that He is now yours.

Let the Holy Spirit arouse you, awaken you, and shake you. Let the Spirit of God move upon you. Let the Holy Spirit speak through the Word of God. Let Him declare things too wonderful to be said. And let Him show you that which no man can do, but that the Son has done. That is why His Name is above every name for it is a glorious work for He has brought us in, into Himself and made us one. So rejoice! Rejoice and cry out at the same time. For joy rejoice, and yet cry out. For He that has made you one will open your eyes, for you are there with Him. You are not far from Him. For you are one with Him, joined to Him... side by side, bone of His bone. Cry out, and He will show you glorious things; wonderful things. And your mind will be renewed. Your mind will be washed. And you will be free from dead works, and those dead works will fall off of you as old, rotten, and decayed things. And you will be separated unto newness of Life. And you will walk in the peace that comes from being one. You will not fear what man shall do unto you, but you shall be found in joy with Him Who makes your heart glad.

Let the Holy Spirit arouse you, awaken you, and shake you. Let the Spirit of God move upon you. Let the Holy Spirit speak through the Word of God. Let Him declare things too wonderful to be said.

“And I Say Come”

Who will come away to dwell in me
Who will seek me for my heart
Like the morning she appears to me
Rising, her dawning fills my eyes

And I say come, And I say come,
And I say come away to me
And I say come, And I say come
And I say come away with me

She will stay here far above the earth
Never clothed with Babylon
She will not become defiled with them
She has kept my garments on

And you will dwell with me through all the years
Separate and from above
Turn your heart and then your eyes will see
What true marriage is made of

We will fly far above the earth
And live together in my place
Soaring one throughout eternity
She will only see my face

I See The Temple, The Lamb's Wife

The Pillars high – they fill my sky
Each on a tear, a Lamb's dying sigh

The Bulwarks strong – sturdy and true
To me, I see a remnant small and few
Who stood and held to a Seed so small
But loved Him above their life their all

The foundation laid, twelve levels deep
Each one a martyr laid in the streets
The people rejoiced in their trampled death
But God's own temple was filled with their breath

And such a throne, so majestic and royal
I see motives of Lamb held by hearts truly loyal

The King the King.. the glorious man
A small slain one, a meek little Lamb

Official glory – Royal throne – Exalted Temple – God's own home

I see You in places, hidden and meek

I believe in my reality

Let the earth dwellers weep.



Part Seven: Fodder for the Flame

Assorted excerpts from sermons of years past



The Word of God is meant to be like a fire, a living flame that consumes our flesh and burns in our bones with the reality of the Crucified as our Life.

There are times and seasons in the condition of our hearts that we are not as prepared to received the fire of God as we could be. As we spend time cultivating good ground within, the Spirit returns to the “ark of our hearts” with an olive branch from the risen Son. The Word of God that was once forgotten and lost now becomes a whole new creation for us to enter into, Christ our LIFE.

The Holy Spirit is ever ready to bring to us the Heart of Jesus in Spirit and Life. To breathe into us the very Essence, Mind and Nature of Groom, the Lamb.

The question is, are we ready to be ignited? Is our inner altar ready for the living flame of Christ Crucified?

May the following excerpts serve as meditations that are living flames ready to awaken, consume and vitalize the hungry.

How far from Jerusalem?

The Core Issues of His Heart - R.T. Nusbaum

Luke 24:13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.

The part I want to focus on in that verse is this little phrase which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs. Now if you turn with me also a similar scripture John Chapter 11 and verse 18.

John 11:18 Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, or near unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off.

We want to center on that little phrase, about 15 furlongs off. I want you to notice that there were two cities mentioned. They were mentioned in relationship to how far they were from Jerusalem. There were not just mentioned, they were not just mentioned with a story like this one is dealing with things we are really familiar with like, Lazarus dying. It does not just get into the story. It tells you where it happened and it tells you how far away from Jerusalem it happened.

The road to Emmaus story, the disciples talking after the death of Jesus, wondering about His resurrection. And it mentions that they were in Emmaus, or going to Emmaus. But it does not just mention they are going to Emmaus, that particular city called Emmaus. It mentions how far Emmaus is from Jerusalem.

Now to fully understand what we are talking about turn with me if you would to Psalm 137. Psalm 137, this is just one scripture example of a whole book. I mean Psalm's is full of things like this in relationship to God's heart, and God's peoples heart. People such as David, who God said, David, you are a man after my own heart. You should hear David talk about Jerusalem. So much happened in Jerusalem, so much. I mean You would be shocked at many of the stories that you are familiar with and how they happened in Jerusalem. But here we have Psalm 137, let us just read verses 5 and 6.

Psalm 137:5-6 If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.

When you talk about Jerusalem, all through the scriptures, you should read the Lord's heart for Jerusalem. Now, Jerusalem is special, it represents the bride.

Where are you in relationship to Jerusalem?

The two disciples, that were walking on the road to Emmaus. Jesus had to come and get them, come talk to them, come open the word and then open their eyes to see Him before He could even get them back to Jerusalem. He had to begin to show them the essence and He begins to open the scriptures and show how they all really did relate to Him.

Randy's Prayer at Prayer Meeting. Nov. 13th 2002

R.T. Nusbaum

Awaken us to our faith Lord by hearing, by hearing. Not heard and heard over and over. But Lord move us into a time of regular hearing, never ceasing always hearing. Not ceasing to having heard. Lord, faith doesn't come by having heard and then forgetting and having heard and then forgetting. Faith cometh by hearing and Lord hearing comes by the living Word of God. Thank You Lord Jesus for embracing us and engrafting us. What an embrace that is, Lord. Oh Lord it is not just "we need a hug", You embraced us and grafted us into You. You didn't minister first to our souls, You ministered to our spirit and joined us to You and he that is joined to You is one spirit. And you told our souls to line up with our spirit which is You and Your life and Your way. Not to be fed or pampered, but to run in freedom and joy . Thank You Lord Jesus. Thank You heavenly bridegroom, thank You my Beloved. Thank You lover of my soul, who loves my soul so much you don't let it wonder. You are ever, ever drawing me to Your face. You are drawing my eyes away from the things that I am so troubled with. You are ever faithful to love, to love us Lord. I hear the voice of the bridegroom. I hear You Lord saying again and again, "come away, my beloved, come away". Lord thank You, thank You for faithfulness. Not for a faithfulness of religion or faithfulness as a thing, but a faithfulness to us, faithfulness to us. Dedication to bring us in. Thank You Jesus.

Lord I want to leap upon the mountains with You Lord. I come away with You, I come to where You want to be Lord. I rejoice with You. I hear Your word and I exult in it. I am with You Lord where You are. Oh Lord, my feet are not as developed as Your feet, so I see You hesitate and wait for me but Lord my feet are climbing higher. You have given me hinds feet and I am going up, climbing more. I am standing on precipices I could have never stood upon without Your grace, and without the oneness that grace has brought. Lord Jesus, my precious Lord, I am with You Lord. I see Your heart, I speak Your word as You speak it, I see as You see and I come away from seeing as I see. I love it Lord. I love Your heart and I love Your way and I love Your Spirit and Your mind. I love the separateness of it from the earth. I love how it does come down and manifest in the earth. For all of those that are bound and sit in darkness, that are in prison to this earth Lord. Use this body and use these individuals, Lord to be channels of Your being, of Your Spirit, of Your way, of Your nature. Envelope them and enfold them, fill them to such a degree that they know nothing but You Lord. They are ignorant to the ways of the world, to the thought patterns of earth beings bound by gravity. Lord move in each of them. Give them the tongue of the learned. Give them, Lord, wings to break with this earth, to fly to those in many places Lord. Let the Word of God dwell in them richly Lord, richly, treasure Lord, filled vessels filled with glorious treasure spilling out upon the people around us. Lord, I send them. Even now in spirit, in preparation I send them Lord. In Your name I send them, ambassadors from Your kingdom, send them. Empower them Lord by Your Spirit, they are empowered. Lord we claim further places on this planet. Lord we claim further places, not foolishly, not as earthly men, not as evangelists Lord but as ambassadors of another kingdom going there to declare the heavenly kingdom. Lord Jesus, not as missionaries from the United States, No. As ambassadors from Your place. Lord open the doors, but more importantly open the hearts, Lord, open the hearts of the hungry, the hurting that need the word in due season. Those who need something not of the earth. Manna from above that will sustain them with spiritual life while they are caught in the wilderness until they break out Lord. Till they know they cannot live by manna in the wilderness but by every word that proceeds from Your own mouth. That they would sit, seated in heavenly places in Christ eating from the very bread Himself. Lord open their hearts, open there ears, open there eyes. Lord I ask you give each one in this room and this fellowship bread and wine, oil and wine, Lord to pour into the wounds and bandages. Lord, feed the starving, minister to the wounded Lord, minister to the wounded and the outcasts, the ones that were left for dead and considered useless. We'll take them Lord and feed them with the Word, the living Word. May they rise up in You, and be strong in You Jesus and in the power of Your might. Give us the poor and the needy and the outcast.

Excerpt from Progression From Church to Bride

R.T. Nusbaum

Why this long journey between Haran and Isaac? Why does Eliezer have to go and make a long journey and then take the time to bring her on those camels? Because those camels represent the work of the cross. It represents that which is contrary to the Lord's nature and the Spirit of God. Continually, Eliezer is describing Isaac, telling of his heart, telling of his ways. Therefore two things are going on. She is being rubbed and pulled by the humps of the camels and she is being conquered by the Word coming through Eliezer. This continues until the cross has done its work and she is more like Isaac (Jesus) than she is like her earth family. So a conformity and union is taking place by virtue of the Spirit's impartation of the Son and of the Seed. When she finally gets there she lifts up her eyes sees Isaac and alights from the camels. She has arrived. She no longer needs the camels.

Father, we thank you for your Holy Spirit who is right on key and right in tune. He knows what is important. He knows where to put the emphasis. He knows the timing. He knows the seasons. Lord I realize that even now more than any other time much of the church is talking about the bride but Lord help us not to miss this and start applying the truth of bride to bunch of carnal self-centered Christians. Lord help us to see that which came out had to go through Jordan before it came in. Lord, help us comprehend the death of the Red Sea and the death of Jordan. Help us to see these things and to comprehend them so that we do not misapply the teaching and encourage all Christians everywhere to walk around content that Jesus just loves them the way they are with out any desire to be after His kind. Father save us from our own misconceptions and let us not continue in the path that we have with every theme that You have brought along and make it self-centered. Help us this time to do as Mary did and sit at Your feet and hear the word of it from Your own mouth. Father, grant us that grace, for we ask in Jesus name, amen.



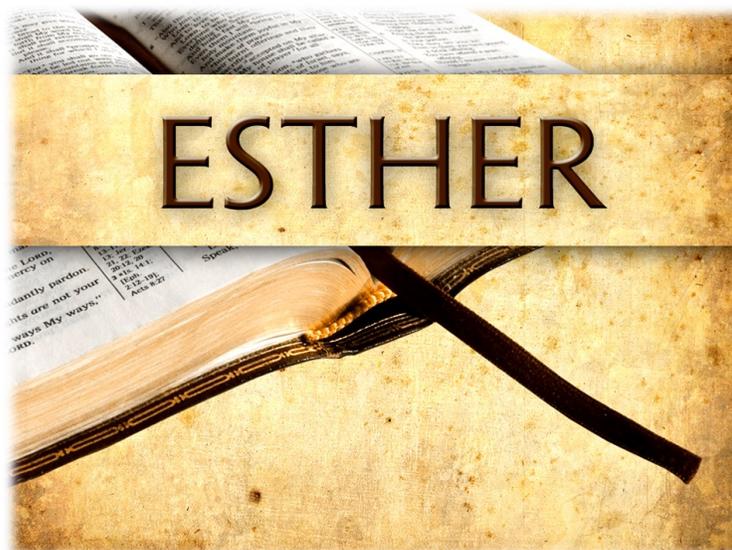
Esther – 6-14-98

R.T. Nusbaum

Esther stepped in there (into the King's chamber), and he looked. You know, I love one of the things it says about her, about the king when he chose her. It says, not just that she found grace, not just that she found that she was accepted, but it said that he loved her. Did anyone ever notice that in those scriptures? It said he loved her. Well, you know, there were a lot of women walking in and out. There were a lot of women. But it said he loved her. And when he looked and she stepped in there, he looked, and he said, "That is my wife. That is me." She did not know. She just did what she did in the right spirit, His spirit.

Esther is a picture of the spirit of the bride, and her groom is the lamb. It is the marriage supper of the lamb. And it is not about ministry, and it is not about doing something to put forth your name for Him, or putting forth our name as some great church in a local area, or putting forth our name as declarers of a great message. It is about exuding, I do not know how to put it, but it is about exuding Him in His Spirit and in His way. That is what it is about. And so everything that we do has His Spirit or it has that Vashti spirit that says, "Well, I do not like this, and that is not right, and that is not right". I do not care if God blesses it, that spirit is not blessed. If the Holy Spirit blesses it, it still is not blessed in the reality of the Groom receiving His bride.

“it is about exuding Him in His Spirit and in His way”



Kingdom of Priests

Consecration of Levi #2 - February 2005 - Mexico - R.T. Nusbaum

Exodus 19: 5 – 6 “Now therefore if you will obey my voice indeed and keep my covenant, then you shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people, for all the earth is mine and you shall be unto me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”

Revelation 5: 9-10 “And they sang a new song, saying, 'Thou art worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals. For thou was slain and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood, out of every kindred and tongue and people and nation. And hast made us unto our God a kingdom of priests and we shall reign on the earth.'”

This story here in Exodus does relate to Revelation chapter five. When Moses looked and saw this mess, he said, “Who is on the Lord’s side?” From this story we would say, “Well, I will be on the Lord’s side.” That is not what is meant here, that is not what is seen here, but apparently the tribe of Levi picked up on what was really meant here. After this point, from this point on, they became the priests. There is a reference that states the reason why Levi was chosen out of the congregation to become priest in Exodus nineteen verse five and six, “Now therefore,” this is God speaking through Moses to the children of Israel, “Now therefore if you will obey my voice indeed and keep my covenant, then you shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people, for all the earth is mine and you shall be unto me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” Originally, God said to all of Israel, “This is a going be a kingdom of Priests.” Originally there was not going to be a tribe of priests. All of you are going to be priests. It was after this incident that Levi became the tribe of priests and no one else. It was because of this incident that the tribe of priests came to be. What is the significance of these scriptures, what is the significance of what God is saying here?

First of all, I think that there are things that you can blatantly see in verse twenty-six, Exodus chapter thirty-two, “Then Moses stood in the gate at the camp and said, ‘Who is on the Lord’s side, let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.’” He did not say, “Who is on the Lord’s side, go kill everybody.” That is not what this verse says that he said. He said, “He that is on the Lord’s side let him come unto me.” And think of this, out of all of the people, only one tribe gathered unto him, the tribe of Levi. And they went through the camp and they killed men of war, and they killed women and they killed children, little girls and little boys, and they killed and slaughtered thousands of people. Now how do you judge that? What do you see in that? “Well, in the Old Testament it was rough, but in the New Testament it is different.” No, now there is the revelation of Christ.

The Father Sees Death and Resurrection

They went through the crowd and they killed male and female, bond, free. The cross takes all into death. The purpose of this is to bring about a New Creation that is pleasing to the Father. Not one is better than another, all must go into death. God honored Levi not just for standing up for God. The message of the Bible is not just to stand up for God, but the message of the Bible is Christ and Him crucified.

Hew Agag To Pieces

R.T. Nusbaum 7-27-14

Do we want to run from the Cross in an attempt to keep Agag alive?

What does it mean to obey the word of the Lord?

It means to immediately stop letting Agag live.

To obey the word of the Lord means to do what Samuel did and not Saul;
HEW AGAG IN PIECES. Take the Cross that you know happened two thousand
years ago and APPLY IT. “Get out of my mind, get out of my emotions. I want the
Lord and I want the Kingdom of God ruling in me.”

What does it mean to disobey?

It means to continue to let Agag influence you.

You may be saved and in the family but not in the Kingdom.

Can we give this testimony to one another,

“This morning I hewed Agag to pieces before the Lord”?

I want you to encourage one another to hew Agag to pieces.

I am asking you who still put up with Agag not to react against someone who is try to
help you.

And I am asking you who do this to do it in the Spirit of Lord to save a brother or sister
and not in some sort of religious self-righteousness as if you are good and they are not.

The Lord is trying to help us maintain the break-throughs that we have had.



Delivered Unto Death / Weak With A Purpose

R.T. Nusbaum 2-9-1992

“For we which live are always delivered unto death...” Not unto life, unto death. We want to get hold of the life, but there is no life until there is a death. We want to read, “We who are dead are always delivered unto life,” or “We who are dying are always delivered unto life.” But no, it is for we who live. *“For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you.”*

Later, in II Corinthians 12:9 Paul says, *“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness.”* I think we often misunderstand what God means by His grace being sufficient in this passage. When we read that, we think it means His grace will strengthen *me*. It will make me overcome. But God is telling him, “You are going through junk that you have got to deal with by grace, and my grace is sufficient for you because I am making you weak with a purpose.” Maybe you have never thought about being weak with a purpose. The purpose is to let the life of Christ come forth in you. “My grace is sufficient for you.” It does not seem very sufficient to Paul, but God’s grace was allowing what was going on. Grace was literally allowing, even ordering, what was going on so that God’s strength was made perfect in Paul’s weakness.

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, and distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong” (II Cor. 12:10).

Life Out Of Death

Notice what Paul says: *“...we are weak, and ye are strong: and this also we wish, even your perfection.”* Picture this: Jesus hanging on the cross. He is bleeding, he is wounded, and he is dying. We say “What a beautiful picture!” because of what it does for us. The scriptures say that there is no beauty in Christ that we should desire him (Isa. 53:2), but if all the cross accomplishes is salvation and blessings for you, then there is beauty there. You know what is not beautiful at all? The cross of your own crucifixion. There is beauty if all you understand is what that death is doing *for* you, because death is working in him, but life for you. He is not getting any glory. By the grace of God he tasted death for every man (Heb. 2:9). The grace of God brought him to that place and he is not feeling warm and fuzzy and glorious. He is wounded, he is dying, he is bleeding, but somehow by the power of God in his dead state when there was no strength, God took that living sacrifice. I am not saying there was no strength in the work of the cross, but Jesus was not feeling strength, he was not emanating strength. He was crying, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” Death was working in him, but all that looked and saw and believed got the result, got the life poured into them. The life of Jesus has the power, through laying it down, to bring forth life in others.

Excerpt from “The True Meaning Of Gologotha”

R.T. Nusbaum

We all have a skull, and eventually we all will die, and when we are in the grave, all the flesh on that skull will melt away. This is true physically when you die physically, and it is true spiritually when you embrace your death with Christ: when the Holy Spirit reveals the reality of Christ, it brings about a removal of the flesh so that the beauty that is Jesus – not just of Jesus but that *is* Jesus – begins to be seen, but only by those who have eyes to see. But what God presents to us as beautiful, His Son on the cross, is not beautiful in an outward, external way. In an outward, external way, it is as unappealing as a skull with all the flesh melted off it. With a skull, there is nothing left to appeal for compassion, or mercy, or love.

And now you will judge based on what you really are: if you are flesh, and you look at Jesus on the cross, you look at that skull, you will not be drawn into that. Think of John: he was the only disciple standing there. The rest had run away. And John is the same one who, during the Lord’s Supper, was leaning over on Jesus’ breast. It was almost like he was listening to His heart more than He was listening to His words. It’s almost like he is hearing His insides. It’s like he was getting the inside of Jesus, he was getting the reality of Jesus, and not just drawing on the moment. Imagine one of the disciples sitting there saying, “Oh, what a lovely meal” or “Oh, this is so nice” and they had no inclination that Jesus was about to go to the cross. In their minds He was about to be made king and they would be honored along with Him. It’s the room, and the setting, and they are so caught up in all of that, and John just did not seem to be caught up in any of it. He is caught up in Jesus and he is just right there at Jesus’ heart, trying to hear His heart beat, trying to hear the reality of what is going on in His heart. He is not just listening to the words. And I think that is part of what drew him to the foot of the cross, at the worst of times. When they were stripping Jesus bare, when they were gambling over his clothes, when they were doing all of that, John was standing right there. Peter was not even at the cross, he was just at the courtyard outside during the trial, and somebody says, “Aren’t you one of his disciples?” and Peter says, “No, I’m not!” and denied Jesus three times. Well, the trial is one thing. Standing at the foot of the cross? When they are ripping and tearing at Jesus, and they find out you are one of them? How much worse could that have been for John? He did not care. He was there. Maybe he was there because he really did hear His heart. Maybe he really was in tune with the heart of Jesus, not just the circumstances. He could have said, “Oh, these are terrible circumstances! Everything was going so well! We were feeding the 5,000 and we were blessing and we were doing all these wonderful things and now look how bad it is! Run away!” But he did not. There is something more eternal working in him to where he is not repelled by Jesus when He has no outward beauty to make Him desirable.

Prayer: Continue to work openness in us. Continue to cause us to be humble, humble enough to bow our knee before the cross at every juncture, at every moment that you bring us there, that we may see the true beauty of Jesus the Lamb: His nature, not just His external. And that we may love Him, and eventually not just love Him on the cross but love Him in the same spirit that is at work in us and love it because it is beauty to us. Father, I pray release of the Holy Spirit upon those who are yours and who so long after you in these ways. Make it real. Make it alive. Make it established so that any reproach that might come will just fall away just like it did for all the generations of kids who bore reproach and just kept on going. Father, why should *we* not *more* do that? May we be the true goths, in the spirit of what you are trying to communicate. In Jesus’ name, amen.

January 15th 1998 - Prayer from student body at ACTS Bible School:

“Father, even as rivers of water... something soft and living... turn our hearts. Let them flow into Your Son. Let us be unto Him a bride. Lord, as a river of water we would be poured out before You. As love slaves, people who are responding in love. As a river of water poured out before Your throne and the Lamb. As rivers of water poured out from the Lamb’s side through His bride.

Let us seek His face not to gain but to lose. Not to increase but to decrease. Not to know but to conform to the One we love. Open our eyes in that way. That we might not know for self,... stop us. That we might not see for knowledge, ... blind us. That we might not seek for self,... keep us. That we might not walk for our own glory, ... hide us. But that we might know out of love,... show us. For You. For Your image. For Your pleasure. For Your glory. For Your Heart’s desire. For all You wanted. For all You hoped for. For You and You only, and others towards You more.

For these reasons, Father, reveal Your Son in us.



Assorted Quotes

Brass Shields

“So these men are protecting the heart of God”. 2/26/01

“ Don't hold, back don't slacken up, don't slow down, don't turn to the right or left. Go forward and go as hard and fast as you can”.

Reviving God's Children 5/26/02

“Swing Levi, swing”.

“The Consecration of the Tribe of Levi” 1/30/05

“I am pain. And until the change happens in me I will continue to be pain, I will continue to be Jacob, a deceiver”.

Jabez#2 4/8/01

“A lot of times we get offended in the Lord because we do not understand His ways”.

Blessed are the unoffended 2-18-01

“The only thing that has ever applied to the gentiles was David's tabernacle”.

Tabernacle of David 5/17/00

“This was not a sacrifice from sin, this was sweet savor to the Lord”.

The Offering Of Noah 6/6/02

Spontaneous Worship Song – Sunday morning, March 2015

More than the dawning of the morning Lord,
Seven times in the night
We stir ourselves to seek Thee
We stir ourselves to seek Thee.

Our hunger is stirred for You Lord
More than we have words to say.

More than the dawning of the morning Lord,
Seven times in the night
My heart communes within me, Lord
Stirred up for Your Light.

Come Lord as we seek You.
Fill the hungry soul.
The ones who pant like deer, O Lord.
May they be made whole.

For they seek You to know You
They care about You Lord
They are wanting Your heart more than their own

Seven times in the night Lord.
More than the morning sun.
You're all we need.
You're all we seek.
And we stir ourselves.

Oh come let us seek the Lord
For surely He will be found.
He hath torn us and He will heal us.
Surely we will appear in His sight.

And He will be unto us as the former and latter rain.
And we shall know the Lord
If we seek the Lord.

More than mornings dawning,
Seven times in the night
We stir ourselves to seek Thee
We stir ourselves to seek Thee
We stir ourselves to seek Thee.

Heart

R.T. Nusbaum

We must know you as you are in heart. Instead we seek to comprehend "God", in which we will never gain "all-knowing". A comprehended God is no God at all but a God of the heart can be approached.

You take us into your heart and speak, "Song of Solomon words" to us, but we cannot comprehend such words, such a selfless environment, found only in your heart. We drag our selfish views into your heart and trample love.

Precious Lord Jesus, may we realize that what we lack is not time but heart. The lack of a passionate heart in me is working to destroy all sense of the precious, the unique, the irreplaceable.

So draw our heart to you, so that we may be wholly yours; utterly dedicated to your heart and your glory... then use us.



Close To You

“Things” in the earth, “things” happening to us,
“things” in our minds, souls and bodies...
“Things” always trying to tears us away
from deeply abiding in the One we love.

Yet, for those who love God, ALL THINGS can work together to bring forth
more of Him whom we love(Romans 8:28).

Today, we yield “ALL things” to be used for His Glory.

Today, we choose to draw closer to the Crucified instead of being torn further
from him because of the many “things” within and without that pull on us.

Today we choose to be motivated by love for Him above all.

*Close to You, my Crucified.
Ever looking into Your eyes.
Seeing things from Your view
as I live inside of You.
Your pierced heart
Your wounded side,
these places are where I choose to abide.
Your crucified mind,
Your nail-pierced hands...
by these do I, this life, understand.
It is only a crucified Christ that I see,
and so close to you I will ever be.*

Prayer from Sun night service – Oct 11th 2015

Lord right now we feel, not the earth, but the heavens of Your heart.

Oh God that we would not fall back down to the earth like Lucifer did, rather we keep our wings. We hold fast to the wonder of Your Spirit in our midst and the ministry in His heart.

That it would carry forth beyond the details and carry us through old temptations.

Old temptations to declare ourselves instead of the Groom.

Old temptations to be rigid in our stance, immovable in our views and concrete in our design rather than melted before the throne of grace.... melted before the Lamb's face.

Forgive us Lord. Forgive our haste. Forgive our insensitivities.

Forgive us for falling so quickly back into who we are rather than running into who You are and never looking back.

Forgive us.

Lord for whatever sins have been committed up to this point, the sins of the heart, the sins of the intention, motive and thought-life that have released and odor rather than a sweet savor, ... we repent now. We ask the blood of Jesus to cleanse from all sin and we believe that the blood of Jesus avails. And we believe that at this very moment we are receiving the Spirit of Your Life and a new beginning. To start fresh and to lay aside those sinful attitudes that will beset us in our race to the banquet, we say no. We mean it Lord.

We are as serious as we can be in our needful state. We are serious.

Lord we are not going to ask you to pass us by because we will RUN after you.

We will respond in a new way, as Bride.

Lord, we resist getting caught up in the muck and mire, not of details and ministry, but of the motivations that can make them so not You and do not carry the glory of the Groom and show forth the beauty of the King in His nature, the Lamb our Groom.

Everything of the sinful flesh in us up to this moment that has not been responding in Your nature as Lamb's wife, we say, "show us" and we will hew that Agag to pieces in the name of Jesus.

We open to you Jesus and for your Spirit to fill us in new ways.

Have your way Lord, in Jesus Name. Amen

May I....

May I return to Your heart... to rebuild Jerusalem.

May I not allow the good to remain alive and lose the Kingdom like Saul did.

May I not carry myself in pride and fall from Your heart like Vashti did.

May I fight for my brethren like Nehemiah did.

May I pour out Your word so a corporate man could enter in like Ezra did..

May I die for you to gain a corporate bride like Esther did.

Soaking In Oils of Myrrh – 11-1-2015

Esther had special access to the heart of the Lord through twelve months because the Holy Spirit (*as seen in Hegai*) was willing to minister Christ to her in such a way.

Esther had twelve months of such an access to the heart of the Lord, and it was the Spirit who was bringing her that access. The first six months of that time was a time of soaking in oils of myrrh, oils of applying our death with Christ.

At times we can feel, “I am too hard to soak” and believe that we have violated that access, but this is when we need more myrrh. And the only way we are going to get more myrrh is to pursue that special gift that is being offered us by the Holy Spirit to reveal our death with Christ in a way that we have never known. This myrrh is like ointment poured... something that we can soak in and can get deep into us, reaching our inward parts to eradicate these attitude and pride and all that is not the Crucified Himself in our motivations. We need this special access right now and we do not want to reject our own mercies. We want to say, “Yes, Lord. The fact that I am hard, resistant and proud is the fact that I need this special access to the Holy Spirit’s ministry of my death with Christ. I need all the myrrh I can soak in. If you feel that way than come, come to Christ Crucified and His Cross in an eternal way and open to His flow. Let it reach you in places that have never been touched. You can give the cross special access to your heart and allow the myrrh of His death to remove you and make way for the King.

Let me go?

How amazing that our God is a God that wants to be wanted!

He needs us to need Him... that's just the way He is.

Time and again throughout the scriptures we find God "checking out the hearts" of those who were seeking Him to see just how much they really wanted Him.

After a full night of wrestling with God, God told Jacob... "Let me go!" Jacob's answer was not.. *"Oh, I guess I have to stop pursuing God because He told me to stop!"*... Rather Jacob's answer was, *"I WILL NOT let Thee go except Thou bless me" (Gen. 32:26).*

Elijah told Elisha to "let me go" again and again, but Elisha would not be shaken off and eventually got a double portion of Elijah's spirit (*2 Kings 2*).

In *Luke 24:15-31* Jesus spent some time sharing with a couple of disciples on the Emmaus road. When Jesus got to their house He acted like He was going to keep going, but the disciples constrained Him to stay with them, and as a result had their eyes opened to really see Jesus.

Naomi told Ruth, *"Go.. leave me and return to your mother's house"*. Ruth's reply was, *"Do not urge me to go or leave you, for where you go I will go, where you lodge I will lodge, your people are mine, your God is my God, where you die I will die, and where you are buried there will I be buried" (Ruth 1:8-17).*

How easy is it for Jesus to "shake us off"?

How far will we go to communicate our passion to Jesus?

Do we convince Him that we will not stop seeking, crying out, wrestling, and searching until we have reached His heart and entered into the blessedness of bearing His Life?

The scriptures show us that the answers to these questions are important to the Heart of God.



Fixing our Gaze

In this holy pursuit of love, our hearts have one focus, and that is to behold the Lamb of God. (John 1:29,36)

In Psalm 27:4 David said, “Oneness have I desired of the Lord, and that will I seek after”. Many translations use the words “one thing”... but the word “thing” was added in. In our own lives we can do the same thing. Instead of hearing the cry from the heart of God to seek and see Jesus only, we add “things” into the way we respond to God’s call. All the added “things” distract us from the real need... oneness with the Lamb.

Only as the heart turns towards the Lord ALONE and ONLY HIM... will we be ready to truly see Him and be changed. (II Cor. 3:16-18).

May we heed the exhortation found in Hebrews 12:2a ~

“Looking away [from all that will distract] unto Jesus” (Amplified).

“Today if you will hear His voice, harden not your heart”.

(Hebrews 4:7)



Come Away My Love (Song of Songs 2:10)

Come Up Here! (Revelation 4:1)

Love has a wonderful way of lifting!

Lifting our eyes above ourselves.

Lifting our hearts into His heart.

Lifting us up into HIM!

Troubles can become like the Isle of Patmos upon which the Apostle John was found in his final years. In the book of Revelation, when John was stuck on that small piece of earth a door was opened in heaven and God said to him, "Come up here".

Because John was willing to look up into God instead of into the earth and its problems, God was able to show John His heart and desire for His Bride, the New Jerusalem from above.

May love liberate our hearts from obsessing over earth problems into joining with God in His heart for His bride. May we be with Him where He is at so that we are always ready to minister to His needs, trusting Him at all times with ours.



Our Final Prayer

May we experience and know the very heart of God.

May we have such a divine encounter with the heart of Jesus
that we become constrained by His love.

May our words and actions emanate from a place deeper than
ministry need and spiritual information.

May all that is within us and through us be the result of
His Lamb Heart beating in us.

And may His Heart beat in us as one... one Lamb's wife flowing in His love.



Personal Notes



Many are interested, few are desperate.

Personal Notes



Many will respond momentarily, few are fully surrendered.

Personal Notes



Many are warmed by the flame, few are consumed.

Personal Notes



Some will stop and listen for a while, few will devour with fervent hunger the bread of Life.

Personal Notes



May we break with old hard concepts that block out the Heart of Jesus from beating in us.

Personal Notes



Many will say "I agree", few will live in oneness with Him moment by moment.

Personal Notes



Come back to Me with all your heart.



Personal Notes



*When do all these teaching become His Life in us?
When we are desperate, starving, fully given, and hopelessly in love with the Lamb of God.*

Personal Notes



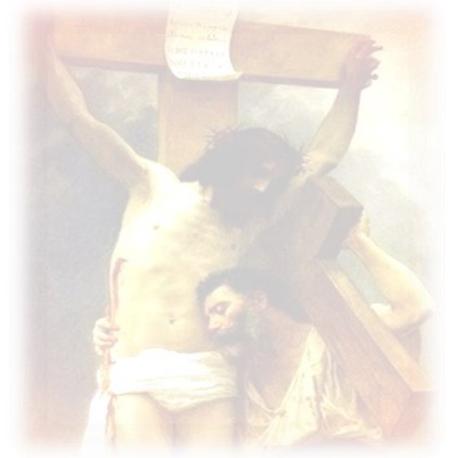
*Am I even aware that I may have left my first love?
Do I notice His absence in the busyness of “my life”?*

Personal Notes



*Arise, cry out in the night: in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart
like water before the face of the Lord.*

Personal Notes



Will I seek Him until I am satisfied or until He is satisfied and has His Bride?

Personal Notes



A true move of God is when His Heart moves and we are able to feel it beating in our own bosom.

Personal Notes



*The Holy Spirit does not come from teaching manuals, ministry methods or human reasoning.
He comes from the deep places in God so that we might know God's heart and live there.*

Personal Notes



Am I unaware of the great things of His Heart that He is trying to sharing with me because I am more in tune with the world around me than the Heart of Jesus in me?

Personal Notes



Many times we have our "Jesus Agenda". We become so busy with His things and the needs of the Kingdom that we leave the garden of His Heart.

Personal Notes



*God has opened His heart, given us access in, and made us partakers of His divine nature.
He has made Himself vulnerable to us.*

Personal Notes



If God is truly a Person, and we are truly His Body, then we have been given more than doctrines and duties. We have been given the very Heart and Life of Jesus.