

Thankful!

Following Jesus has never been a behavior issue, it has always been a heart issue. Proverbs 23:7 declares, "*For as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.*" The way you think within your heart will affect everything that comes to you and out of you. The condition within your heart will determine whether or not you will receive the Word when He comes to you! The condition within your heart will determine whether you will receive the Grace of God!

There are many kinds of hearts. The Bible teaches there are bitter hearts, hardened hearts, deceitful hearts, lazy hearts, discouraged hearts, confused hearts. But there are also strong hearts, kind hearts, merciful hearts, thankful hearts and pure hearts. Our hearts are not static, they are constantly changing, constantly needing to be nurtured and protected. It is easy, especially after wonderful services, to think "Oh, I'm okay now! Everything has been taken care of." But we can be lulled into a lethargic state, thinking all of the issues of our life will somehow just unravel on their own and everything will be perfect! Why does God meet with us as He does? What is the purpose of His divine presence in our midst? What role does thanksgiving play in this process? Don't quit. Don't give up. Continue to move forward!

Our hearts can easily deceive us and give us a false picture of our lives. Jeremiah 17:9 declares, "*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?*" But God answers! "*I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.*" He is testing you today! Remember, Jesus wants us to pass every test! So, He gives us the answers in advance, doesn't He? But it is always the condition of the heart that will determine how we respond to His answer. So today, let there be thanksgiving! It will soften your heart before the presence of the Lord.

"Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life." Proverbs 4:20

– Randy Bach
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