



- We need a **new heart** to experience a new life.

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)

Create in me a new, clean heart, O God, filled with clean thoughts and right desires. Psalm 51:10 (TLB)

**Definition of Heart** - refers to our **inner man**.

- The condition of our heart determines the **action** of our lives.

A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart. Luke 6:45 (NLT)

- God is more concerned with your heart than your **actions**.

...from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander. Matthew 15:19 (NLT)

The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT)

God makes our hearts **pure** through Jesus' death.

...Christ made us right with God; **he made us pure** and holy, and he freed us from sin. 1 Corinthians 1:30 (NLT)

Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; **purify your hearts...** James 4:8 (NLT)

- We need to stop acting carelessly and start living **exclusively** for God.

**To live exclusively for God means:**

- We allow God to **examine** our heart.

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24

- We live from a **repentant** heart.

**Prove by the way you live that you have repented** of your sins and turned to God. Matthew 3:8 (NLT)

In their own eyes **they flatter themselves too much to detect** or **hate their sin**. Psalm 36:2

- We want to come as **close** to God as we can.

...God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Hebrews 13:5 (NIV)

But as for me, **how good it is to be near God!** I have made the Sovereign LORD my shelter, and I will tell everyone about the wonderful things you do. Psalm 73:28 (NLT)

**Coming close to God means:**

- Coming close to God means we're **all in**.

Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; **purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world**. James 4:8 (NLT)

**A couple of ways to come close to God:**

- **Prayer** that connects us to **God**.
- **Fasting** that disconnects us from the **world**.

**Actions Steps:**

- Make God your **priority**.

Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is... love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength." Mark 12:29-30 (NLT)

- Have a **purpose** for your **fast**.

- Decide what **fast** you will do.

- Expect **results**.

....Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. Hebrews 11:6 (NLT)

Let us come near to God with a sincere heart and a sure faith, because we have been made free from a guilty conscience, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. Hebrews 10:22 (NCV)



## TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

*These questions also work well for personal time with God.*

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- Why does the condition of our heart determine the action of our lives?
- How does our heart cause us to act carelessly toward God?
- Talk about what it means to live exclusively for God?
- What does it mean to you to be "All In"?
- What is the goal of fasting and how does fasting help us in this objective?
- How does fasting disconnect us from the world? What does being disconnected from the world mean to you?
- How does fasting realign our desires? What does that mean to you?
- What type of fast have you decided to do? Are you in need of encouragement?
- Are you believing God for something specific?

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Today's Talk..



**A Heart That Is Open To God**

Sunday, January 7th, 2024

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