

NATHANAEL - A HEART WITHOUT GUILE

John 1:43-51

(John 1:43-51), “The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee, and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me. {44} Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. {45} Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. {46} And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see. {47} Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, **BEHOLD AN ISRAELITE INDEED, IN WHOM IS NO GUILE!** {48} Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee. {49} Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel. {50} Jesus answered and said unto him, Because I said unto thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? thou shalt see greater things than these. {51} And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.”



S NATHANAEL WAS ON OF THE 12 DISCIPLES (John 21:2). He is believed to be the same person as the disciple named **BARTHOLOMEW**. In the lists of **THE 12 DISCIPLES**, when Bartholomew is mentioned, Nathanael is not mentioned. It is logical to assume they were the same person. **HIS FULL NAME** might have been **NATHANAEL BARTHOLOMEW**. **HIS LAST NAME**, BARTHOLOMEW, is a compound Greek word: “**BAR,**” meaning “**SON,**” and “**TOLMAL.**” Together they mean “**SON OF TOLMAL.**” Peter was called “**SIMON BAR JONAH.**” It means, Simon, the son of Jonah.

S FACTS:

- 1) **NATHANAEL WAS FROM CANA** in Galilee (John 21:2). Cana was the city where Jesus performed His **first miracle** (John 2).
- 2) **PHILIP**, was the person that brought Nathanael to Jesus. Philip did for Nathanael what Andrew had done for Peter.
- 3) **NATHANAEL UNDERSTOOD THE SCRIPTURE**. **PHILIP SAID TO HIM:**
(V. 45), “. . . WE HAVE FOUND HIM, of whom **Moses** in the **law**, and **the prophets**, did write, . . . ”

Nathanael did not have to have the meaning of those words explained to him. He was very knowledgeable of **O.T. PROPHETIC SCRIPTURE** related to the **COMING MESSIAH**.

PHILIP WAS SO SPECIFIC REGARDING THE MESSIAH, THAT HE GAVE HIS ADDRESS:

(V. 45), “. . . **JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE SON OF JOSEPH.**”

- His **NAME** was “**JESUS**”
- He **LIVED** in “**NAZARETH**”
- His **FATHER’S NAME** was “**JOSEPH**” (he is *the son of Joseph*).

- 4) **NATHANAEL’S FIRST RESPONSE** was **FILLED WITH DOUBT & PREJUDICE:**
(V. 46), “. . . ‘Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?’ . . . ”

S WE ARE **NOT TOLD** what sparked SUCH A NEGATIVE COMMENT regarding Nazareth. It is believed that Nazareth was **SO SMALL** at that time that it was considered to be insignificant. Perhaps it was that Nathanael lived in **CANA** just **10 MILES** from Nazareth and he was aware of a **NEIGHBORING TOWN RIVALRY**.

S **WHATEVER THE REASON**, Nathanael **STUMBLED** over the fact that Jesus was located in Nazareth. Nathanael **WAS GUILTY OF THE SIN OF PREJUDICE**.

ONE PROBLEM WITH THE UGLY SIN OF PREJUDICE IS IT CAN KEEP a person from hearing **GOD'S INTENDED WITNESS**. **IN ONE FELL SWOOP**, PREJUDICE can cause a person to **REJECT THE WITNESS** that God has sent.

1) THE PHARISEES WERE **PREJUDICED AGAINST JESUS** because He wasn't born in an **UPPER CLASS family** with **political sway**. He was neither politically, nor religiously, correct. He wasn't from **Jerusalem** and He had not been trained in one of their **schools**.

2) THE PHARISEES WERE **PREJUDICED AGAINST THE APOSTLES** for much the same reason. They perceived the disciples **WERE UNLEARNED AND IGNORANT MEN** (Acts 4:13).

ALL SATAN HAS TO DO, in many instances, **TO HINDER A DIVINE APPOINTMENT** is to prejudice a person's mind toward the witness God has intended. **FOR EXAMPLE**, **SUPPOSE** God intended that **A CERTAIN PERSON** come to **A CERTAIN CHURCH** and hear the gospel. It was at that particular church that God intended to save that person. On the Saturday before attending that church, that person drank coffee with a friend and received a negative, prejudicial report regarding that church. Perhaps the subtle message slammed the **pastor**, or **staff**, or their **doctrine**, or their **character**. **NONE** of that report had to be **TRUE** in order to be effective. Because of the report, that person **DECIDED** not to go to church at all. **THE NEXT WEEK** a member from that church went to share a witness at that person's home. **THE MOMENT** that person discovered where those visitors were from, the witness was over before it ever began. That is **THE POWER OF PREJUDICE**.

(V. 46), "... **'Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?'** .

.."

S "Can anything good come out of **THAT CHURCH?**"

S "Can anything good come from **THAT CHRISTIAN?**"

(V. 46), "... **PHILIP SAID UNTO HIM, 'COME AND SEE.'**"

S **NATHANAEL WENT TO SEE! FORTUNATELY**, **NATHANAEL'S PREJUDICE DID NOT RUN TOO DEEP**. **HIS SEEKING HEART WAS MORE POWERFUL THAN HIS PREJUDICE**.

OUR FOCAL VERSE

(V. 47), "Jesus saw NATHANAEL coming to him, and said of him, 'BEHOLD AN ISRAELITE INDEED, IN WHOM IS NO GUILE!'"

TWO PARTS TO JESUS' STATEMENT:

#1. "BEHOLD AN ISRAELITE INDEED"

S THAT STATEMENT HAS A VERY INTERESTING APPLICATION FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.

IN THE O.T. CONTEXT not every person that claimed to be an **ISRAELITE** (i.e., Jew) was really an **Israelite** in the biblical sense of the word.

- **(Rom 9:6b)**, ". . . For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:"

TO BE A TRUE ISRAELITE MEANT that person loved God's Word. He kept God's Word because it was **DEEP IN HIS HEART**. He was what the Bible refers to as **CIRCUMCISED IN HEART:**

- **(Rom 2:28-29a)**, "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: {29} But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, . . . "

AN "ISRAELITE INDEED" IS AN ISRAELITE WHO CARRIES MORE THAN JUST A NAME. For the "Israelite indeed," God's commandments are **GENUINE, DEEP, AND REAL**. God's Word is so deep in that person's life that **GOD'S CHARACTER IS REFLECTED** in their daily life and activity.

S NATHANAEL was AN ISRAELITE, INDEED. He was a GOD-FEARING, GOD-SEEKING man who had a genuine desire to know God and to live a life pleasing to Him.

S IN A N.T. CONTEXT WE WOULD SAY, "BEHOLD A CHRISTIAN INDEED." When someone makes a comment, "HE (OR SHE) IS A REAL CHRISTIAN," what does he mean? He means their commitment to Christ is more than surface. It is not an outward "SHOW." We can thank the Lord THERE ARE **MANY SUCH CHRISTIANS** whose walk is genuine. When we observe them, WE ARE **CHALLENGED** to walk closer to the Lord.

SOMETIMES we hear about a Christian whose walk is **SURFACE ONLY**.

- Perhaps it is **A STUDENT** at school whose lifestyle brings shame upon the Lord.
- Perhaps it is **A BUSINESS PERSON** whose dishonesty has brought reproach to the name of the Lord.
- **A PASTOR** once told me of **PROSPECTIVE MEMBER** who came to his office and told him that he desired church membership in the church where he pastored. The problem arose

when the man revealed the reason he wanted to join. He said that he would be **running for political office** and church membership would be **GOOD EXPOSURE**. I am quite confident that man was not prepared for the response the pastor gave.

S **THANK THE LORD** for those folks whose walk is so genuine that it can be said of them, **"BEHOLD A CHRISTIAN INDEED."**

#1. "BEHOLD AN ISRAELITE INDEED"

(PART 2)

#2. "IN WHOM IS NO GUILDE!" (V. 47)

S **"IN WHOM IS NO "DOL'-OS,"** = "trickery," "deceit," "subtlety," "fraud," "hypocrisy."

(1) IT WAS SAID OF THE **PRIESTS, SCRIBES,** and **ELDERS:**

(Mat 26:4), "And consulted that they might take Jesus by **SUBTLETY** (dol'-os), and kill him."

(2) IT WAS SAID OF **JESUS:**

(1 Pet 2:22), "Who did no sin, neither was guile (dol'-os) found in his mouth:"

(3) IT WAS SAID OF **NATHANAEL:**

(V. 47), ". . . Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile (dol'-os)!"

NATHANAEL IS AN EXAMPLE OF TWO N.T. VERSES:

#1. PHIL 1:10

(Phil 1:10 KJV), "That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be **SINCERE** and without offence till the day of Christ;"

S The word translated "SINCERE" in the KJV ("pure" in the NIV) is the Greek "**EILIKRINES**" (i-lik-ree-nace') and it means "tested by the sunlight and proven to be genuine." **THAYER** says it means "found pure when unfolded and examined by the sun's light." The farmer who raises chickens and sells their **EGGS** illustrates this word. On occasion I would help our neighbor get their chicken eggs ready for the market. They would take each egg and hold it up to a bright light. The light would shine through the egg proving it either to be pure and marketable, or clouded and rotten, and unmarketable. You could use this Greek word to describe **A MARKETABLE EGG**.

S The Greek word "EILIKRINES" is translated into English by the KJV as "**SINCERE**." The English word "SINCERE" is based on the LATIN. The Latin word for "SINCERE" means to be **WITHOUT WAX**. There is a sense in which to be "WITHOUT WAX" speaks of that which is pure. FOR EXAMPLE, I have a hand carved wooden man in my home that has a split in it. The carving took place before the wood was dry. As it dried it split. Unless you look very close, you would never know the carving has a crack. The crack is filled in with wax the same color as the wood.

S **NATHANAEL WAS A MAN "WITHOUT WAX."** You could hold him up to the sunlight and not find impurities. He was a believer that

could have been put on trial and there would have been ample evidence to convict him as genuine.

#1. NATHANAEL IS AN EXAMPLE OF **PHIL 1:10**

#2. NATHANAEL IS AN EXAMPLE OF MATT 5:8

(Mat 5:8), "Blessed are THE **PURE** IN HEART: for they shall see God."

- S **"PURE"** (kath-ar-os) MEANS **"undefiled," "clean," "unmixed."** It is the OPPOSITE OF "GUILE."
- S **"PURE"** CAN BE USED OF
 - (1) **CRYSTAL CLEAR WATER** in which are **no pollutants**
 - (2) **A SCALPEL** used for surgery. It has to be clean so that infection will not poison the incision.
- S WHEN **JESUS** USED THE WORDS **"NO GUILE,"** He was **NOT TALKING ABOUT WATER** or SCALPELS. Jesus was speaking about **A PERSON'S SPIRITUAL HEART.**
 - **"NO GUILE"** MEANS TO LIVE **WITHOUT DECEPTION, "COVERUP,"** or **HYPOCRISY** in one's heart.
 - **GOD DESIRES "PURITY" IN EACH OF OUR HEARTS.** **(1 Pet 2:1-2)**, "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all **GUILE**, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, {2} As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"

JESUS SAID:

(V. 47), ". . . *Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!*"

NATHANAEL SAID:

(V. 48), ". . . *'HOW DO YOU KNOW ME?'*. . .
"

- S **THAT WAS A LEGITIMATE QUESTION!** Nathanael had never met Jesus. They had never talked before. How did Jesus know what was in Nathanael's heart? **THE ANSWER IS VERY IMPORTANT**, because it is **THE VERY SAME REASON** God knows every secret thing about us.

JESUS SAID:

(V. 48b NKJV), ". . . *Before Philip called you, when you were **UNDER THE FIG TREE, I SAW YOU.***"

- S **JESUS KNEW WHERE NATHANAEL WAS.** He was under a fig tree. Jesus knew **WHAT HE WAS DOING** under that tree. **WE ARE NOT TOLD** what Nathanael was doing under the tree. That is left to speculation. It is **MY GUESS** that he was having his devotional time with the Lord. He might have been praying and reading the Bible.

Perhaps he was pouring his heart out to God.

- S **JESUS SAW WHAT NATHANAEL WAS DOING** BECAUSE HE WAS **OMNISCIENT GOD!** NATHANAEL KNEW **THE ONLY WAY JESUS COULD HAVE KNOWN** he was under the fig tree was for Him to **BE THE "ALL KNOWING" GOD.** THAT IS WHY NATHANAEL **MADE THIS IMMEDIATE DECLARATION:**

NATHANAEL SAID:

(V. 49 NKJV), "... "RABBI, YOU ARE THE SON OF GOD! YOU ARE THE KING OF ISRAEL!"

- S NATHANAEL UNDERSTOOD **THE ONLY EXPLANATION** for such **supernatural knowledge** was that **JESUS WAS THE MESSIAH.** NATHANAEL'S NEW UNDERSTANDING CAUSED HIM TO **JOIN THE RANKS** of those who believed in Jesus. He became a follower of Jesus along with **Philip, Andrew** and **Peter.**

IN LIKE MANNER AS NATHANAEL, **GOD SEES THE SECRETS OF OUR LIVES.** He can tell us who we are before we ever meet Him. He reads our character perfectly. HE SEES us when we are **UNDER THE FIG TREE.** He knows our **thoughts;** our **feelings;** our **devotional activities.**

THREE VERSES HELP UNDERSTAND HOW GOD KNOWS US:

- (1) **(Prov 5:21 NIV)**, "For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths."
- (2) **(Prov 15:3)**, "The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."
- (3) **(Jer 16:17)**, "For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes."

GOD SEES THE SECRETS OF OUR LIVES. HE SEES OUR PRIVATE DEVOTIONS. He **HEARS** our prayers. Consider this verse:

JESUS SAID

(Mat 6:6), "But you, when you pray, enter into thy closet, and when you have shut the door, pray to your Father which is in secret; and your Father which **SEES IN SECRET** shall reward you openly."

OUR STUDY OF THIS TEXT STOPS AT THIS POINTS AND WILL BE CONTINUED IN OUR NEXT STUDY. The remainder of this message will **FOCUS ON** living a life **WITHOUT GUILF.**

- I. **GOD'S WORD REGARDING A HEART WITHOUT GUILF**
- II. **GOD'S PROMISES TO A PERSON WITHOUT GUILF**
- III. **HOW TO HAVE A HEART WITHOUT GUILF**

I. GOD'S WORD REGARDING A HEART WITHOUT GUILF

(1 Pet 2:1-2), "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all **GUILF**, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, {2} As newborn babes, desire the

sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"

(2 Tim 2:22 NIV), "Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of **A PURE HEART.**"

S **"GUILE" & "PURE" ARE OPPOSITES.**

- **"GUILE"** describes a heart that is filled with deceit and fraud.
- **"PURE"** describes a heart that has **"NO COVERUPS."**

S **A HEART WITHOUT GUILE** is a heart that is given fully to God.

(Mat 22:36-38 NIV), "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? {37} Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with **ALL** thy HEART, and with **ALL** thy SOUL, and with **ALL** thy MIND. {38} This is the first and great commandment."

- **"ALL" MEANS "ALL"**
- **SOLOMON SAID**
(Prov 3:5), "Trust in the LORD with **ALL THINE HEART . . .** "

DAVID SAID

(Psa 9:1), "I will praise thee, O LORD, with **MY WHOLE HEART; . . .** "

S **A SIMPLE FACT — WHATEVER IS IN OUR HEART WILL EVENTUALLY MANIFEST ITSELF OUTWARDLY IN AND THROUGH OUR LIFE AND OUR LIPS:**

- **IF THE HEART IS CLEAN & PURE** it will show itself through the body clean and pure!
- **IF THE HEART IS UNCLEAN** it will show itself unclean through the body.

JESUS SAID IT THIS WAY

- **(Matt 12:35)**, "A good man out of the good treasure of the **HEART** bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things."
- **(Mat 12:34)**, "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of **THE ABUNDANCE OF THE HEART** the mouth speaketh."

S **AN INTERESTING HUMAN PHENOMENON** exists which the Bible calls, **HYPOCRISY**. The word literally means, "**TO WEAR A MASK.**"

HYPOCRISY IS the attempt to keep the inward contents of the heart from being manifest outwardly. It is an attempt to hide the inward contents of the heart. **THE PROBLEM** with hypocrisy is that **GOD HAS PROMISED TO EXPOSE IT** sooner or later.

(Mat 12:33), "Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for **THE TREE IS KNOWN BY HIS FRUIT.**"

S **HYPOCRISY IS LIKE THE MEASLES VIRUS.** When a person contracts the measles virus, it will eventually manifest itself. It cannot be hid.

S THE SAME IS TRUE FOR **PURITY**. When a person's heart is pure, it will eventually manifest itself.

S **WHEREAS THE PHARISEES** were examples of **HYPOCRISY** by virtue of the things they manifested, **NATHANAEL** was an example of **PURITY** by the things he manifest.
(V. 47), “. . . Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!"

I. GOD'S WORD REGARDING A HEART WITHOUT GUILF

II. GOD'S PROMISES TO A PERSON WITHOUT GUILF

(V. 51), “And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter **YE SHALL SEE** heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.”

(Mat 5:8), “Blessed are the pure in heart: for **THEY SHALL SEE** God.”

S TWO WORDS **ARE COMMON** in those two verses. The common words are, “**SHALL SEE.**” In both instances Jesus was describing SOMETHING THAT CAUSES a person **TO GAIN SPIRITUAL INSIGHT**. In both instances it had to do with possessing a heart without guile, i.e., a pure heart.

S **GOOD REASONS EXIST TO MAINTAIN** A HEART WITHOUT GUILF. **THE ABILITY TO SEE GOD IN THIS LIFE, and IN THE LIFE TO COME, IS DEPENDENT UPON A PURE HEART.**

IN A VERY REAL SENSE, THE PURE IN HEART see God in this life in ways the impure in heart can never see Him.

(Heb 12:14), “Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:”

JESUS SAID

(Luke 10:21), “. . . I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.”

(John 14:21), “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and **WILL MANIFEST MYSELF TO HIM.**” (THE **CONVERSE IS TRUE, TOO**)

S **NATHANAEL'S GUILFLESS HEART HELPED HIM TO SEE:**
(V. 50-51), “. . . “Jesus . . . said unto him, Because I said unto you, I saw you under the fig tree, believest thou? **YOU SHALL SEE GREATER THINGS THAN THESE.** {51} And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **HEREAFTER YOU SHALL SEE HEAVEN OPEN, AND THE ANGELS OF GOD ASCENDING AND DESCENDING UPON THE SON OF MAN.**”

S **MOSES' GUILFLESS HEART HELPED HIM TO SEE**
(Heb 11:24-27), “By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; {25} Choosing rather to suffer

affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; {26} Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward. {27} By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: FOR HE ENDURED, as **SEEING HIM WHO IS INVISIBLE.**" (Moses SAW THINGS no one else in Pharaoh's palace could see)

S **JAMES IRWIN** was **AN AMERICAN ASTRONAUT** who was flown to the moon several years ago. He said that from the moon he saw the earth in space as if it were a little Christmas tree ornament. He was so moved by its creator-God that he came back and surrendered to the Gospel ministry. He traveled the country telling people about the Lord Jesus. Others have been shot into the same space and their comments were different. One man said, "I don't see God anywhere." One was able to see God while the other was unable.

I. GOD'S WORD REGARDING A HEART WITHOUT GUILF

II. GOD'S PROMISES TO A PERSON WITHOUT GUILF

(Psa 24:3-4), "Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? {4} He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully."

III. HOW TO HAVE A HEART WITHOUT GUILF

SCRIPTURE ASKS THESE QUESTIONS

(Prov 20:9), "Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?" (Answer is: **NO ONE!**)

(Jer 13:23), "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil." (ANSWER: **"NO"**)

WE CANNOT MAKE OUR HEARTS PURE any more than A **LEOPARD** can change his spots — **BUT GOD CAN. AND GOD DOES** when we place our faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

<<< **HERE IS HOW GOD DOES IT** >>>

- **(1 John 1:7)**, "... **THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST** his Son **CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN.**"

< **WHEN GOD MAKES US CLEAN, WE ARE CLEAN INDEED**

- **(Isa 1:18)**, "... **THOUGH YOUR SINS BE AS SCARLET, THEY SHALL BE AS WHITE AS SNOW**; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."
- **(Titus 2:14)**, "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us **FROM ALL INIQUITY, AND PURIFY UNTO HIMSELF** a peculiar people, zealous of good works."
- **(Heb 10:17)**, "And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more."
- **(Rom 8:1)**, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

GOD TOOK THE CORINTHIAN'S AND SAID

(1 Cor 6:9-11), "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor

adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, {10} Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. {11} And such were some of you: but **YE ARE WASHED**, but **YE ARE SANCTIFIED**, but ye **ARE JUSTIFIED** in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God."

CONSIDER SIX PRACTICAL STEPS TOWARD GAINING A HEART WITHOUT GUILF. GOD'S GIFT OF PURITY COMES WITH INSTRUCTIONS. IT IS LIKE **A NEW BICYCLE** that comes with instructions that read, "**SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED.**" For the **SAKE OF ANALOGY**, God built the bicycle called purity, but the recipient has to "PUT IT TOGETHER."

CONSIDER SIX ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS, ALL OF WHICH ARE ADDRESSED TO THE HEART:

#1. FILL YOUR HEART WITH GOD'S WORD

FOR TWO REASONS:

(1). GOD'S WORD IS A CLEANSING AGENT. IT IS LIKE SPIRITUAL LAUNDRY DETERGENT.

- **(John 15:3)**, "Now ye are **CLEAN THROUGH** the **WORD** which I have spoken unto you."
- **(Prov 16:6)**, "By mercy and **TRUTH INIQUITY IS PURGED** . . ."

S **REMEMBER WHEN** you were a little kid and you didn't want to take a **BATH** after a long day of play? Even if you took a bath, you didn't think that using **SOAP** was all that important. When I was a little boy, my grandmother once made me take two baths, one right after the other. She was convinced I didn't use any soap the first time.

S **KEEP GOD'S SOAP IN YOUR LIFE!** God's Word is God's CLEANSING AGENT. It washes and cleanses the heart. We should all wash often with the Word of God

(2). GOD'S WORD IS A GUIDING LIGHT. IT IS LIKE A SPIRITUAL LIGHTHOUSE.

- **(Psa 119:105)**, "Thy word is **A LAMP** unto my feet, and **A LIGHT** unto my path."
- **(Psa 119:11)**, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

S When you don't know what direction to turn because it is dark, **GOD'S WORD CAN GUIDE YOU.**

S **JESUS USED GOD'S WORD IN THE WILDERNESS** for His protection and direction. If Jesus used it, **SHOULDN'T WE?**

S You will find the people have **ONE OF TWO RESPONSES** to the light of God's Word. They either **RUN TO IT**, or **RUN FROM IT**. John 3 describes both:

(John 3:19-21), "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into

the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. {20} For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. {21} But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God."

#1. FILL YOUR HEART WITH **GOD'S WORD**

#2. CONFESS THE SINS OF YOUR HEART

(1 John 1:9), "IF WE CONFESS our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

S "CONFESS" comes from a COMPOUND GREEK WORD that means "TO SAY THE SAME THING." When we confess our sins, we agree with God regarding what He has said about those things.

S **KING DAVID** is a good example of genuine confession. David went for about one year refusing to confess his sin regarding Uriah and Bathsheba. He was miserable beyond comparison for that period of a year. Listen to David's distress.

- **(Psa 32:3-4)**, "When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. {4} For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer."

DAVID WAS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF

- **(Prov 28:13)**, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy."

FINALLY, DAVID CONFESSED

- **(Psa 51:1-4)**, "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. {2} **WASH ME** thoroughly from mine iniquity, and **CLEANSE ME** from my sin. {3} For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. {4} **AGAINST THEE, THEE ONLY, HAVE I SINNED**, and done this evil in thy sight . . ."

S THE APOSTLE **PAUL** SET THE EXAMPLE

(Acts 24:16), "And herein do I exercise myself, to have always **A CONSCIENCE VOID OF OFFENSE** toward God, and toward men."

#1. FILL YOUR HEART WITH **GOD'S WORD**

#2. **CONFESS** THE SINS OF YOUR HEART

#3. GIVE ALL THE ROOMS IN YOUR HEART TO GOD

(Mat 22:37), "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with **ALL** thy heart, and with **ALL** thy soul, and with **ALL** thy mind."

(Prov 3:5), "Trust in the LORD with **ALL** thine heart; . . ."

S **PICTURE A HEART** in your mind. Draw a picture of a valentine heart. Divide that particular heart into several rooms. God wants to be Lord over every room in that heart, regardless of how many room there might be. **TOO OFTEN** we try to keep a few rooms reserved for ourselves and from God. **A HEART** with some rooms given to God, and some rooms kept for self, is called **A DIVIDED HEART** (Hosea 10:2). A divided heart is always a source of sorrow and trouble.

S **CONSIDER THREE ROOMS** that can often be found in a **DIVIDED HEART:**

[#1]. THE EYE ROOM

JOB MADE A COVENANT WITH HIS EYES

(Job 31:1), "I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?"

(Prov 4:25), "Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee."

S **WE OUGHT TO GIVE OUR "EYE ROOM" TO GOD**
BECAUSE

(Mat 6:22-23), "The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. {23} But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!"

S **KING DAVID'S FALL** WAS MUCH THE RESULT OF HIS EYES

(2 Sam 11:2), "And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof **HE SAW** a woman washing herself; and the woman was very **BEAUTIFUL TO LOOK UPON.**"

S **BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR EYES**

T.V. - WHAT WE WATCH

Would a sane parent allow **TWO STRANGERS** to come into their home and make love in front of their children? They would not! Why would any godly parent allow their children to watch it on T.V.? Why would any godly parent watch it themselves?

BOOKS - WHAT WE READ

(Rom 13:14), "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and **MAKE NOT PROVISION** for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof."

[#1]. THE EYE ROOM

[#2]. THE CONVERSATION ROOM (VOCABULARY)

(Phil 1:27), "Only let your **CONVERSATION** be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: . . ."

(Col 3:17), "And whatsoever ye do in **WORD** or **DEED**, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, . . ."

(Col 4:6), "Let **YOUR SPEECH** be always with grace, seasoned with salt, . . ."

S **THAT SAYS SOMETHING ABOUT:**

- THE **STORIES** we TELL and LISTEN TO
- THE **MUSIC** we listen to
- THE **FRIENDS** we keep.

S **(Eph 5:3-4)**, "But fornication, and all uncleanness, or

covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; {4} **NEITHER FILTHINESS**, nor **FOOLISH TALKING**, nor **JESTING**, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks."

GEORGE BEVERLY SHEA

George Beverly Shea has been called America's beloved Gospel singer. For years he has traveled with the Billy Graham crusade team. He wrote the famous song, "**I'D RATHER HAVE JESUS.**"

When George Beverly Shea was **27 YEARS OLD**, he was working for a **MEDICAL SECRETARY** for **MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY**. He was also a singer with great ability to sing. In particular he loved to sing for the Lord.

There came a time when George Beverly Shea was able to audition for **THE LYNN MURRAY SINGERS**. They were very famous in their time and they were on a **nationwide** radio hookup. George Beverly Shea went to audition and he learned if he were hired, it would automatically **double his salary** right away. Just like that, he would make twice as much money. He would have nation wide exposure. George Beverly Shea sang for them and they liked him. They gave him a piece of music to take home and learn. They told him, "We will call you tomorrow." He went home and looked at that piece of music to learn it. In the music was just one little phrase that pricked his heart. The phrase was, "**TO HELL WITH BURGUNDY.**" This sensitive Christian man looked at that and thought, "Now what would my preacher daddy think of me singing words like that having given my voice to God? His father was a Wesleyan Methodist preacher. He mulled it over. This is what George Beverly Shea said to the Lord, "Lord, maybe You are trying to test me, but I cannot believe this is the way you would have me to serve You."

The next day, when the phone rang, they said, "**CONGRATULATIONS**, Mr. Shea, you are now one of the Lynn Murray Singers. You have been chosen." George Beverly Shea said, "I thank you very much for this honor, but I cannot accept it. Would you tell Mr. Murray that I thank him for his kindness, but I cannot take the job?"

Some folks would laugh at such sensitivity today. They would say, "You mean just because one little phrase and he turned down a salary that was doubled?"

For George Beverly Shea it was a decision between "all for God," or "all for self." It is not a coincidence that God's hand has been on George Beverly Shea for years. George Beverly Shea was permitted to see many things from God that others were not able to see.

[#1]. THE **EYE ROOM**

[#2]. THE **CONVERSATION ROOM**

[#3]. THE FRIEND ROOM

(1 Cor 15:33), "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."

(NIV), "Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

A COUNTRY TRANSLATION,

"Birds of a feather flock together."

S **BE CAREFUL** of your friends! **YOU WILL** become like them! **SHOW ME YOUR FRIENDS**, and I will tell you about your

heart!

S GOD SAYS:

(Psa 1:1), "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful."

- #1. FILL YOUR HEART WITH **GOD'S WORD**
- #2. **CONFESS** THE SINS OF YOUR HEART
- #3. GIVE ALL THE **ROOMS** IN YOUR HEART TO GOD

#4. LET THE FEAR OF GOD TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN YOUR HEART

(Prov 16:6), "... **BY THE FEAR OF THE LORD** men depart from evil."

(Prov 9:10), "**THE FEAR OF THE LORD** is the beginning of wisdom . . . "

(Prov 23:17), "... **BE THOU IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD** all the day long."

(Deu 31:12-13), "Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and **FEAR THE LORD YOUR GOD**, and observe to do all the words of this law: {13} And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and **LEARN TO FEAR THE LORD YOUR GOD**, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it."

S WE WILL FEAR SOMETHING. If we fear the wrong thing, we will invite a thousand other fears into your life.

S A MAJOR PROBLEM IN AMERICA is we fear all the wrong things. The **CONSEQUENCES ARE TRAGIC.** We are like **KING SAUL** who feared David instead of God. That fear became a major source of his downfall.

S SHADRACH, MESHACH & ABEDNEGO demonstrated what it meant to put the fear of God in the right place.

- #1. FILL YOUR HEART WITH **GOD'S WORD**
- #2. **CONFESS** THE SINS OF YOUR HEART
- #3. GIVE ALL THE **ROOMS** IN YOUR HEART TO GOD
- #4. INVITE THE **FEAR** OF GOD INTO YOUR HEART

#5. PERMIT ETERNITY TO IMPACT YOUR HEART

(Mat 6:19-21), "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: {20} But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: {21} For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

(2 Pet 3:11,14), "**SEEING THEN** that all these things shall be dissolved, **WHAT MANNER OF PERSONS OUGHT YE TO BE** in all holy conversation and godliness, . . . {14} . . . Seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, **WITHOUT SPOT**, and **BLAMELESS.**"

- #1. FILL YOUR HEART WITH **GOD'S WORD**
- #2. **CONFESS** THE SINS OF YOUR HEART
- #3. GIVE ALL THE **ROOMS** IN YOUR HEART TO GOD
- #4. INVITE THE **FEAR** OF GOD INTO YOUR HEART

#6. DON'T QUIT JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE FAILED

(1 John 1:10), "If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

S **THE LIST OF GOD'S SERVANTS WHO HAVE FAILED HIM IS LONG:**

- **NOAH FAILED**
- **ABRAHAM FAILED**
- **MOSES FAILED**
- **DAVID FAILED**
- **PETER FAILED**
- **PAUL FAILED**

S **DON'T GIVE UP!** CONFESS it and get back to serving God.

S **LEROY GAINES SINGS**

"Don't give up, someone really loves you.
Keep the faith, someone really cares."

BIG TOM,

Years ago I heard a story that was attributed to a preacher by the name of **PETER PHILPOT**. Peter Philpot was **evangelist** and **Methodist minister**. He told a story about **AN OLD BLACKSMITH** whose life led to his own conversion to Jesus Christ.

In his community the blacksmith was known as **BIG TOM**. Big Tom was known as the meanest, roughest character in the community. On most afternoons after work, he stopped in the bar and got drunk. Every weekend he got drunk and would go home and beat his wife and family. He was mean and rough.

One morning Tom came to work and announced to the men who worked in the shop, "Men, I was converted over at the meeting last night and from this day on I'm gonna seek to be a Christian man.

The men didn't know what to do. Some began to snicker, but they quit when they looked at Tom. They didn't know what to do. Some of them got out behind the shop and took bets about how long it would last. Most were sure it wouldn't last past Friday night. They believed there was no way that Tom could pass up the tavern come Friday. Friday night came and Tom went straight home. Sunday morning arrived and Tom got up and walked with his family to church. The next week the same thing happened. The same came with the 3rd, 4th and 6th weeks. The shop was amazed as they watched the man whose life was transformed by the power of God. He was different. His language was different. His conduct was different.

After about six weeks, Tom was working at the anvil with a piece of hot iron and the hammer slipped, hitting his finger and mashing it. Just like an eruption there came out of his lips that terrible language that was there before meeting Christ. He cursed. He blasphemed. There came a deadly stillness over the shop. Everyone had stopped working and stood looking toward Tom. Then they went back to work lest they should embarrass Tom and he turns on them in rage as in days past. But to their amazement, Big Tom did something that was totally unexpected.

That big hulk of a man, that blacksmith, slipped down on his knees beside the anvil, buried his face in his grimy hands and began to sob. The tears ran down his hands. They heard Big Tom as he said to God, "God, I just did a terrible thing. I promised you I would never talk like that again. I just used your name in vain and cursed. God, could you forgive me some way."

He got up and looked at the men and said, "Men, you heard me. I've

asked God to forgive me. Would you forgive me?"

How did we come to know the events that took place in that blacksmith shop that day? There was a young 12 or 13-year-old boy standing in the edge of the crowd listening that day. His name was Peter Philpot. Peter Philpot said that what Tom did that day was like an arrow in his own heart. He said that he knew that Big Tom truly knew God. He also said that he realized that he needed to know God like that, too."

IN CLOSING _____

#1. RECEIVE THE GIFT OF A PURE HEART

(1 John 1:7), "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and **THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST HIS SON CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN.**"

#2. DECIDE TO LIVE YOUR LIFE WITHOUT GUILF

(Dan 1:8), "But Daniel **PURPOSED IN HIS HEART** that he would not defile himself . . ."

S **GIVE THE STEERING WHEEL OF YOUR LIFE TO GOD and REFUSE TO BE A BACK SEAT DRIVER!**

S **(Mat 6:24)**, "**NO MAN CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS**: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

#3. DON'T MISS THE THINGS GOD WANTS TO SHOW THE PERSON WHOSE HEART IS WITHOUT GUILF

(1 Cor 2:9), ". . . 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."

(John 14:21), "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."