

jan 12

"keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life." prov 4:23 the bible speaks so much about the heart and making sure that we carefully guard it.

when we speak of "the heart of the matter", we are essentially saying "the most central and important part of a situation". when we say "do not lose heart" we really mean "means to grow weary, to give in to evil, to turn coward".

the heart is not only an organ, it is the very essences of our being. brain activity may cease and yet life continue. it is only when the heart ceases to function that life departs from a person.

does the evil that enters our minds come forth from our heart? what are the things we cherish most in our hearts? the bible says, "that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." eph 3:17-19

do you desire to be filled with all the fullness of God? only if we keep the Spirit of Christ preeminent in our hearts will it drive out those temptations and evil thoughts the enemy would flood us with. the Spirit of Christ is the very essence of God. "he who does not love does not know God, for God is love." 1

john 4:8

so God is love. we know paul gives us the definition of love in 1 cor 13. "though i give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

to put on love is to put on God. that means the essence of our heart must be love; not of self but of others. i have heard it said the only question that might be asked of us in the hereafter is, "did you learn to love". love does not deny the truth but exalts it. it does not excuse the sin but covers it. it does not seek to tear down but lifts up.

our God is not willing that any should perish. however, perish they will if the love that fills their heart is of evil and not of good. "men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."
john 3:19 "because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved." 2 thess 2:10

so it is really the thing you love instead of love itself. it is the difference between an unholy love and a holy love. "a good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things."
matt 12:35

i ask again, what is the essence of your heart? will you let the petty things of life gradually build up in it. they will eventually push out the pure love of God. weeds are tenacious and will quickly choke out the fruitful things of our garden if we don't pluck them.

what did Jesus say was the first and greatest commandment? "'you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' this is the first and great commandment. and the second is like it: 'you shall love your neighbor as yourself.' on these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." matt 22:37-39

the christian walk is a walk towards crucifixion. "if anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me." luke 9:23 "for if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live." rom 8:13 so it is a death which leads to a resurrection which leads to eternal life. knowing this, guard your hearts.

linda