

AND THE MEDITATIONS OF MY HEART



***Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.***

Psalm 19

Every miracle that God performs upon us, to change us into what he wants us to be, begins in the heart. The outside of our lives, the external things will take care of themselves, absolutely ... when the heart, the inner man, the inner woman is filled with God's presence and ruled by God's nature.

***Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,***

Psalm 24:3

***Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts:
and in the secret part thou shalt make me to know wisdom....***

***Create me a clean heart.
O God and renew a right spirit within me.***

Psalm 51:6&10

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Matthew 5:8

While he was speaking, a Pharisee asked him to dine with him; so he went in and sat at table. The Pharisee was astonished to see that he did not first wash before dinner. And the Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of extortion and wickedness. You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also? But give for alms those things which are within; and behold, everything is clean for you.

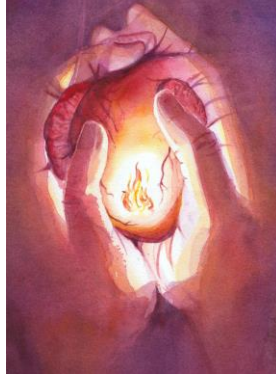
Luke 11

We've also observed that if this change is to take place inside... the one who has to do it is God.

God has to give us a new heart.

God has to come in there and pull out the heart of stone and give us a heart of flesh.

God has to teach us inwardly to know him.



And he does this in two ways.

First, by means of a sudden inward change. A new beginning.

We get to a place in our lives where we begin to realize that so much of our so-called religion is nothing but an external trapping over us. And while we say all the right things and do such lovely things, our inside is rotten. We can be mouthing all the religious platitudes and even doing all kinds of good deeds and have rotten hearts.

One day we wake up and we see how this is the case with us and we cry out to God for help. And the minute that we really do that, God answers our cry and he says your sins are forgiven. Be clean.

And suddenly God's presence comes inside us like we have never experienced before, we're filled inside with light that makes all the difference in the world.

And if you have never experienced this, you can experience it today.

You can be filled with light, today.

God can give you a new beginning, today.

You can experience him in such a way that you know he's come, today

There's no reason why anyone can't be relieved from the weight of rotten hearts, today.

Many of us are too full of self. We're self-conscious, self-centered, self-defensive, self-assertive, self-righteous, and self-aggrandizing So full of self. And then suddenly God reaches in and touches these things in our hearts and 20 tons is lifted out of our heart and we walk like we're walking on cloud 9 because the weight has come out of our hearts, the rock has been lifted, and we have peace.

And God will do this today, for anybody who has not experienced it.

But this sudden inner change is only half the story.

The other half is that God now has to daily work inside that heart



Day after day, after day, after day we allow him to work in our hearts teaching us to think new thoughts, how to walk with him, how to talk with him, and how to practice his presence....all the time.

There has to be an inner teaching of the Spirit of God going on all the time in our hearts and in our minds. Because many of us who have experienced that sudden inner change also find that our hearts and our minds begin drifting into a thought world that is anything but edifying for us, and anything but pleasing for God.

We get up in the morning and we start saying our prayers and before we know it, our thoughts have sunk away from the throne and now they're down here latching onto some regret that we haven't been able to throw out of our minds maybe for days or even years.

Or we're walking down the street and before we know it, we're thinking about that person, who may be causing our life to be miserable. Then the next thing that happens is that we find ourselves picturing all kinds of juicy possibilities, ways in which their disturbing presence might just be removed.

Or we're at work and our eyes light on one thing and suddenly our mind is rolling down a track of lust. Or we find ourselves suspecting everybody's motives, paranoid about the boss or our best friend.

And while we're brushing our teeth, we're scheming a new plan for our own glory, some new thing we're going to do, some new program, something we can impose on everybody around us, starting with perhaps our own family.

Or maybe we discover that about 70%, maybe even 90%, of the people that we meet we find ourselves highly critical of, especially brothers and sisters.

Here we've been given a new start and yet time and time again our hearts just slip off track. We know that if we're going to live in God's presence we have to have a clean heart. We know this!

Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God

If we're going to walk up into the hill of God, we have to have that heart that has been cleansed by him. But how will it be?

***Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight.
Oh Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.***

Psalm 19:14



And when we pray for this, we're not praying for something morbid, but something absolutely glorious.

So that in this heart instead of all these lies, *there is truth.*

So that instead of constant restlessness and anxiety, *there is peace.*

So that instead of vanity after vanity, *there is burning life.*

And this God will do on a day in and day out basis in any of our lives provided we will do three things.

Pray for Clean Hearts



The first thing that has to happen if we're going to have God teaching us from within is that we pray for a clean heart. Constantly pray for a clean heart.

By praying for a clean heart, we're acknowledging that our problem is something that God has to solve. And we're also beginning to see that when we pray for a clean heart that God will verily do it.

Just as surely as he gives us air to breathe and water to drink, he will come in and he will renew us constantly in our hearts, and he will teach us from within.

When you pray for a clean heart, you're also acknowledging that it's not your external that is the problem, but it's the internal, the inside.

Notice that the Sermon on the Mount begins with the Beatitudes, the seven ingredients of a life of faith. Every one of these ingredients has to do with the inside.

Blessed are the poor in spirit (where is one poor in spirit but inside)?

Blessed are they that mourn (an inner thing).

Blessed are the meek.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

Blessed are the merciful.

Blessed are the peacemakers.

Blessed are the pure in heart.

All of these are internal, inward things.

When I'm asking God to give me a clean heart, I'm asking God to take the beatitudes and make them real in my life.

Prepare the Way in our Hearts to Receive Him



The second thing I have to do if I want God to teach me within... I have to prepare the way so the meditations of my heart might be acceptable in his sight. Every day I have to prepare the way.

When people marry, they must prepare a way in their hearts for their mates. But what's happened in many marriages is that a place, a way isn't continuously prepared every day. A place has to be made for their mate in the heart every day. If a way isn't continuously prepared then the marriage gets dull and dry.

How much more is it the case now with Jesus himself? We have to prepare the way in our hearts to receive him not just once, but on a continuous basis.

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, he did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" And he answered, "No." They said to him then, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

John 1:19-23

And just as the wilderness of the Jordan at the eastern border of Israel was the place where our Lord began his ministry and that ministry began by John the Baptist (the Elijah prophet), shouting "*Make Straight the way of the Lord*".

So in our hearts there is an externalization of that reality. Inside each of our hearts, there is a kind of an eastern border that opens out onto the spirit realm. And from that direction God will come, or Satan will come.

And if that eastern border of our life, where there is a cry, "*make straight the way of the Lord*" is not uncluttered, and straightened, and prepared... there is no way that we're going to have Jesus coming into our hearts all the time. Daily there has to be a preparing. We have to clear the boulders and the rocks, we have to fill in the valleys, and knock down the mountain and prepare the way for the king to come in. Every day.

If I know there is a thing in me that the Spirit of God is putting his finger on, if there is a habit of thought in my mind, that is destroying me and preventing my Lord from taking dominion over my heart and coming in with blessing, with life... I get rid of that thing. If there's a habit of speech, if there's a critical attitude, I get rid of it!

I have to prepare the way all the time, I have to make straight the way so that the Lord can come in. It's not worth it to have all these things we've been clinging to in our hearts and losing out on having the Lord coming in and taking dominion ...every day. This must be a continuous thing.

Give for Alms Things that are Within- Offer God's Mercy

Finally, If we are going to have a meditation going on in our heart, a continuous atmosphere of the presence of God going on inside, it means that we're going to have to *give alms of that which is within*, an offering to others.



Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of extortion and wickedness. You fools! Did not he who made the outside make the inside also?

But give for alms those things which are within; and behold, everything is clean for you.

And what alms do I have to give? There is only one thing that I have in my heart that I can ever give, God's mercy. What else do I have? His mercy came to me as a gift and now I give it. And just as surely as I have received that mercy, I give it out every day.

And I begin first of all, to give forth that mercy... in my prayers.

If I'm not praying mercy on my brother, I'm not going to do him any good. If I if I go up and say "you're forgiven for that terrible thing you did to me", but he's never in my prayers, It's hardly likely that I've really forgiven him in my heart. I begin by praying for him.

And really meaning this and asking God's blessing on him. Then I begin to also conform my mouth to that which I have in my heart, that mercy... and I begin to speak in such a way that I do not defame him, undercut him, slander him, misconstrue his motives, get people thinking bad things about him or her. And then I begin to serve him with my hands.

When I get to that place where I begin to give forth from my heart mercy as generously as I was giving forth criticism, and hardness, and bitterness... when I get to that place, my heart will be clean and the meditations of my heart will be acceptable in God's sight.

We are what goes on in our hearts. That's what we are.

Not what we look like, not even the things we may say at certain times. Although what comes out of our mouth will ultimately show what's in our hearts.

We are what goes on in our hearts.

And the same God who will give us a fresh start this day, to any who need it, will also make it possible for each one of us to live in his presence and have a heart that's just filled with his life, that's cleansed continuously by his peace....



If we will pray for it, ask him, constantly.

If we will prepare the way for him, continuously.

If we will give for alms such things as are within, showing forth his mercy as he pours it into us, every day.

Let's pray.

Lord God, you're requiring things of us and showing things in us that we have not seen before and what blessings have come as you show us these things.

We're asking that you help us in this area of our lives today and into the future, that we will no longer be slovenly about the meditation of our heart and no longer so easy on ourselves concerning what goes on in our hearts, especially while we're so hard on everybody else.

Help us Lord God to come to that place where our heart becomes truly a house of prayer, a place of praise, and a fountainhead of mercy for ourselves and for our families, for our brothers and sisters and for all people with whom we have to do.

We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Message and prayer: REB 1976. Transcribed and edited for print 2022 by Maranatha Mirror

[Audio Version:](#)

Featured Art: Signe Flink at [deviantart.com/signeflinkart](https://www.deviantart.com/signeflinkart)

Prayer: Oh Lord you know how weak we are, how we fail you in this area. You know the meditations of our hearts and the words of our lips are not worthy of the mercy you have poured into us, not worthy of who you are. Help us Lord. Give us new hearts, hearts of flesh. Help us to get rid of the corruption, the rottenness in our hearts...because it separates us from you, from truly knowing you. Lord help us, help us from straying from your throne, help us to stop slipping back into filth. Cleanse us, make our thoughts acceptable, our hearts pure.... without your help this is impossible for us. Help us to truly prepare a way in our hearts to receive you, to willingly open our hearts to you.... continuously Lord, continuously. Help us to stop clinging to anything that has dominion over us, yes, to get rid of it. And Lord, help us to pour forth mercy in our hearts and in our prayers. Guard our lips from slanderous thoughts and words. Only with your help can mercy, kindness, and hope be poured out in place of criticism, hardness, and bitterness. Oh Lord truly, truly make the meditations of our hearts and the words of our lips be acceptable in your sight. Amen.

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THE LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN