

Follow Your Heart.

By Curtis Pugh

Often the advice is given, “follow your heart.” And a great many people are doing just that. In doing this people only achieve a touch of fleeting happiness. What is worse they never arrive at lasting joy and peace with God. The Bible has much to say about the human heart. None of it good. For instance the Bible says, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 179). It also says, “Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness,” (Proverbs 14:13).

A person who follows their heart only heaps trouble to himself. The Lord Jesus said: “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies,” (Matthew 15:19). In addition to displeasing God, evil thoughts of all sorts produce sorrow to others and to self. Murders bring joy neither to the victim, his family nor to the murderer and his family. Adulteries and other sexual sins often ruin marriages, result in diseases, consume savings, break up families and do harm to children. Stealing, lying and blaspheming God only bring sorrow to all affected by these things. So why do people continue following their hearts? The answer is found in Jeremiah 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.” People cannot stop doing these sinful things! They go on following their own deceitful and desperately wicked hearts. All this brings more sorrow to them while here on earth – and stores up judgment in the world to come.

“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me,” - this was the prayer of the Psalmist, (Psalm 51:10). God is able to give sinners a new heart as He said in Ezekiel 36:26: “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.” Such a supernatural work must be accomplished by God. Men cannot change their hearts. They are in bondage to them. Obedience to wicked hearts only produces fleeting pleasure followed by emptiness and sorrow. The only solution is to be “born again.” This new birth is necessary for salvation. It includes receiving the new heart mentioned above. The Lord Jesus said, “Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again,” (John 3:7). Only God can do this. Your will cannot bring it to pass. The Bible makes that clear in John 1:13 where we read: “Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” Stop trusting in yourself, in religion, in your works or in your attempts to be obedient to the Bible. Only God can birth you into His family. You are shut up to that fact.



Today is May 05, 2024

Sovereign Grace

Missionary Baptist Church

*"Where the Truths of God's Word Have Been Taught
for Sixty-Two Years" Since October 21, 1961*

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"Our Prayer List"

"Pray without ceasing." 1 Thess. 5:17

Sister Zee Mink Fuller and Family, Her son's Bryan Armstrong and Hunter Hackie, Daughter Shannon, Johnnie Stephens, Alecia Stephens, and children, Frank & Sonya Trusty, Frank & Dawana Reigel, Diane & Smoke, Andrew Preston, Larry & Martha Mollette and Her Family Juanita her daughter, Lana Paul, Larry Mollette II & Family, Kerry Adcock, Kim Reich, Tyler Castle, Danny Mollette, Joshua Kidd, Ronnie and Sarah Henderson, Ricky Henderson and Family, James and Luann Reynolds, Timothy Fails, Jerry Hughes, Shirley King - Son David - and family, Little Cam Works, Sister Ann McSwain, Brother Justin Bookout and family, Little Weslynn McClelland, Adrienne Lavina, Pastor Nathan Hille and Sister Cassie and his family, Baby Titus Massey, Shane and Brook Sims, Ricky Bennett, Nick, Madison, and Baby Emory Patty, and Russell York, Brother Medic, Sister Mhalyn Lavina and children, Brother Jerry Dodson, Brother Gary and Sister White, Brother David and Sister Jevonna O'Neal, Sister Rebecca Sidders.

"Pray For Our Church Supported Mission Works"

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8

Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan in Thailand, Elder Raul and the Printing work Romania, and the Berea Baptist Banner Mantachie, Ms.

"A Message from Pastor Johnson"

"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof..." 1st Peter 5:2

"Does your heart cry because of sin?"

Psalms 51:5 "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

We are sinners, we cannot help being sinners because it is how we were born. It was not just David that was born in sin, it was every human ever born except for Jesus who as the Christ. When you are born something, you cannot change what you are, male is male, and female is female, and a sinner is a sinner. A born sinner is never anything else, just as an apple tree bares apples and an orange tree bares oranges a sinner can only sin. Because of our father Adam who sinned God condemned the entire human race under him. God said *"For as in Adam all die..."* 1Co 15:22 and this is why we are born sinners and cannot change who we truly are. Since we were *"shapen in iniquity"* it is *"in sin did my mother conceive me."* Because mama and daddy were both born in sin and sinners then their children were born sinners. Even if one or even both were born again believers in Jesus Christ, I was still born a sinner. No one is born a Christian all Christians were born again a second time which we were born of God. Our sinful nature is something we never leave behind not even in salvation or in our new birth from God. Unfortunately, we were born with sinful natures, and we will die with sinful natures, and it is only after this death our human natures will leave us. God said, *"Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof."* Romans 6:12 This is not a choice for a lost soul, and if God does not supply us with enough grace, it is not a choice for a Christian. Our human nature will always make us desire sin because it gets its strength through sin. The war within the Christian is the battle of two natures, one sinful and the other holy, and this battle within us will be until we die. God said, *"Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God..."* Rom. 6:13. This is the very reason the Psalmist David prayed, *"Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight..."* Ps 51:4. He was begging God to cleanse him from His sin and to make him walk in a righteous path of life. The Psalmist went on to pray these words, *"Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit."* Psalm 51:12 David was miserable as a person because as long as he was on this earth he was a sinner. If a Christian is left alone, they will always choose sin over righteousness, it is only within God's blessed grace we will choose righteousness over sin.

Pastor Johnson. Continued

The Psalmist knew he was still a sinner, but he prayed constantly two things, (1) that God would forgive his sin and (2) that God would lead him away from sin. God warned us, *"not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think;"* because *"For I say, through the grace given unto me"* therefore we are only as strong as, *"according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."* This is why we sing, *"I am weak but Thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;"* therefore David wrote these words *"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."* Ps 51:10. Our hearts as Christians need to cry unto God this same prayer, we need to realize and never forget that we are sinners, we need to pray for the grace of God to overcome our sinful desires of our fleshly nature. And let us all pray as David prayed, *"Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness."* Ps 143:10. Beloved, grace is not what we needed just to be saved, oh no, grace is something we need every hour of every day. As the song so truly says, *I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord; No tender voice like Thine can peace afford. I need Thee every hour, stay Thou nearby; Temptations lose their pow'r when Thou art nigh. I need Thee every hour, in joy or pain; Come quickly and abide, or life is vain. I need Thee every hour; teach me Thy will; And Thy rich promises in me fulfill. I need Thee every hour, most Holy One; Oh, make me Thine indeed, Thou blessed Son."* **Please dear Lord, forgive my iniquity and keep me for sin!** Oh Lord, *"Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me."* Ps. 51:11

Church Information and Happenings.

1. We are looking forward to our upcoming Bible Conference here in Texarkana on September 13 – 14. Please make plans to join us, details coming soon.
2. Pastor Johnson will be speaking at Grace Bible Baptist Church in Denham Springs, La at their Bible Conference on May 24 – 26. **He will be here at our church on the 26th.**

2 Timothy 2:11

"It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him:"