

## UPWARD RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

What does our heart look like in four key relationships? How can we find meaning and purpose in and through these relationships?

- 1) Upward – My relationship with God
- 2) Inward – My relationship with myself
- 3) Outward – My relationship with others
- 4) Downward – My relationship with creation

Do I desire a relationship with God (upward)?

If I don't desire a relationship with God (on His terms) where do I start?

What can I do to promote an increasing desire to walk with God?

Are there others who can help me do this?

What is our Heart? – seat of our intellect, emotions, desires/attractions

Upward relationship – My relationship with God - Mark 12:29-30 – 29 *Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'*

What does the Bible say about our hearts?

Jeremiah 17:9-10 - *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? 10 "I the Lord search the heart 'and test the mind to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds."*

Do we sometimes have divided hearts? Are my thoughts, emotions and desires in sync? Psalm 86:11-12 - *Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.*

What is the answer to a wicked heart? Prov 4:23 – *Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.*

How do you guard your heart? Repentance – Psalm 51:10-12 –

*"Create in me a <sup>v</sup>clean heart, O God,  
and <sup>w</sup>renew a right spirit within me.  
11 <sup>y</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,*

*and take not <sup>z</sup>your Holy Spirit from me.  
12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit.*

Prov 23:26 - *My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.*

Can I seek God? If so, How do I seek Him?

Psalm 139:23-24 - *Search me, O God, and know my heart! <sup>i</sup>Try me and know my thoughts!  
24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in <sup>l</sup>the way everlasting!*

Rom 12:2 - *Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by <sup>h</sup>the renewal of your mind, that  
by testing you may <sup>i</sup>discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Psalm 119:9-11 - *How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your  
word. 10 With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!  
11 I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*

Prov 8:17 – *I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.*

Luke 11:9-10 – *And I tell you ask, and <sup>p</sup>it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it  
will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one  
who knocks it will be opened.*

Matt 6:33 - *But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added  
to you.*

What does this look like practically? How do you study God's word? What tools do you recommend?

How do you meditate on God's word? How do you pray? Music? Liturgy?

1 Thess 5:16-18 – *16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances;  
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

Where and When do I do this? What does seeking God look like?

Psalm 46: vs 1 and vs 10 – vs 1 - *God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.-  
vs 10 -Be still, and know that I am God.*

Mark 1:35 – *And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went  
out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.*

Luke 6:12-13 - *In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in  
prayer to God. 13 And when day came he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he  
named apostles:*