

From the Desk of

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Do you have a heart condition? Many of you will immediately and thankfully answer no. Yet, I ask you to probe a little deeper, so to say. To the very essence of your heart. Who you are. The Bible tells us, For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks. Matt 12:34.

What have you been speaking? Do your words and actions line up together? This is a good place to begin our heart checkup. Jesus, the Almighty Physician is on hand to assist you and heal you of you heart trouble, seen and unseen.

In the book of Zechariah chapter 7 the people were put in check by God through the prophet. They had been mourning and fasting two months a year for seventy years! They wanted to seek the Lord to see if they had to continue this. The Lord answers, it really for me that you fasted? And when you were eating and drinking, were you not just feasting for yourselves? The Lord then gives them instruction: Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the alien or the poor. In your hearts do not think evil of each other. Zechariah 7: 9. You see, so many times we do things out of ritual and habit not taking the time to even remember why we do them. They then become heartless and meaningless. Which brings me to the next part of your heart checkup. When you go to church, worship, pray, or even help others, including those in your own home; are you doing it out of habit, repetition, others expectancy of you, or even for selfish gain? Ouch, that hurts!

God wants us to put Him first in all things, and his ways. Through the Word of God he gave us instructions how to live. Including how to treat others, yourself, and how to even be physically healthy, (but that is for another time).

Do not get me wrong, I believe in fasting, prayer, worship, going to church, and fellowship. I just want all of us to check and see if what we are doing is being done with the right heart attitude and not out of ritual. Do not get stuck in a rut. Do not let your heart become clogged, calloused and hardened. All of which impede the flow of God's Holy Spirit.

So maybe you are not doing so good at this heart checkup. I know a way to improve and change that. Jesus is the answer. He can help you heal a broken heart, a heart with wrong attitudes, desires and motives. He waits for us daily to come to him, fellowship with him and lay it all down at his feet. What he did for us at the cross is all useless if we don't go to him, surrender our hearts to him, and allow him to be our healer. He can and will heal us of everything we have hung onto or allowed to control us that has not truly been for God. Let his blood flow through you to cleanse and heal you.

I encourage you at this time to go through a heart check with our Lord Jesus. He already knows our hearts, so do not be embarrassed. He is waiting to lift every burden and every diseased area from you. He has given us his Word if you are not sure where to begin. You may even want to begin with these scriptures:

**Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting.**

Psalm 139:23-24

**Create in me a pure heart, O God,
And renew a steadfast spirit within me.**

Psalm 51:10

Lord, we thank you for your word, and the ability you have given us to say, run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free. Psalm 119:32.