

Devotional: Day 4: Starting Over

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Proverbs 22: 26 (NASB): "Give Me your heart, My son (daughter), and let your eyes delight in My ways."

The giving away of one's heart is universal. We all do it in varying degrees. We give away our hearts to someone dear or something precious. Yet, our hearts are not made to be given away to any other created being or thing, but to its Creator, Jesus. Our hearts belong exclusively and only to Jesus. Any less than this moves us into the area of idolatry. And if we are honest with ourselves, we, as fallen human beings, although redeemed, have a tendency towards idolatry. Of course we don't ever mean to, but we easily slip into this base position.

It is ironic that the Creator has to even ask for our hearts. But He does ask; and not for Himself, but for **our sake**, wellbeing and sanity. It is the way He has created us; it is His master design for our hearts to be His alone - that is, if He is the Sovereign Lord to us. Notice too, that our eyes will follow the direction of our hearts.

In Revelation 2:4, the Risen Jesus says: *"But I have this against you, that you have left your first love."* How easily this happens. We are such fickle creatures. Our hearts get caught up with things, even good things; and before we know it, worries and anxious thoughts become like millstones around our hearts. It all but stifles and even chokes the life of the Spirit within us. And the scripture is fulfilled, where it says, *"For the mouth speaks (or cannot speak) out of that which fills the heart."* (Matt 12 vs. 34b). My speech, or lack of it, can be a good indicator as to what is filling my heart.

How easy it is to attempt singing or praying (there cannot be a **genuine** worship encounter without the active engagement of the heart with its Lover!), while the heart is far away from Him.

Can we afford to become ruthless in regard to our own hearts, as we understand its propensity to stray from the Lover of our souls and Bridegroom of our hearts? I think it's a matter of life and death.

"I will serve no foreign god
nor any other treasure
You alone are my heart's desire
Your Spirit without measure."

Let us give back our hearts to Him - may Jesus set it ablaze with His glory!