

Whole-hearted Pursuit of God Defined

Transcript of Sermon by Sean Morris

Praise God. Good afternoon brethren. The title of this message is “**Wholehearted – W-H-O-L-E-H-E-A-R-T-E-D Pursuit of God Defined**”. Will you all please pray with me?

Introductory Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, we come before You in the name of Your Son Jesus Christ, the undying Lamb of God, which is our atonement, which is our hope, that He was bruised for our iniquities, that He was wounded for our transgressions, that by the stripes, the opening up of His fleshly body by wounds that the life, that is within Him which was His blood would be poured out for humanity. By His stripes oh Father is our hope to be healed, is our hope oh LORD God that You would bind us up from our wounds, stripes, sin festering wounds of iniquity LORD God which remain before You unkenpt, unnullified, and unbound up whereby Satan would seek to drain the life, kill our souls, accuse us before You with stained garments, spotted unworthy loathes. Father in heaven we come before you LORD God asking for wisdom from heaven to be granted us in the name of Jesus Christ. We come before You oh God remembering the greatness of Your Name stating LORD God that we are not worthy to receive the least of the mercies which You have shown towards us. We are not worthy Father for even ten min of experiencing the greatness of Your mercy and Your grace in Christ. We are not worthy Father that ever our alienated hearted were illuminated by the shining face of Jesus Christ. We are unworthy Father to ever experience for one moment of time a sincere confession that Christ is LORD which can only be done through Your living Person and Spirit speaking through our mortal bodies. We are unworthy Father to be led by the hand of Your Spirit to search out the depths of the riches of who You are and Your personality which is deeper than the ocean, more mysterious than those dark taverns of which no man can search out on earth. Oh Father we stand before Thee desiring to be objects, creatures, human beings which You have made that are not a grief to Thee. And with desire Father to be empowered by the greatness of Your mercy which is our only hope, the greatness of what Christ did upon the cross, the greatness of what it is for Your immortal and undying Son to die for us that we might live in Him, this great transaction of wrath absolving mercy and unfathomable grace that it would save us to the uttermost by what He has done in the heavens. Oh Father that we would not be deceived that You would give us wisdom as weapons and armor as the heathen systematically plan attacks and organize every effort and power of human intelligence and human invention to strike and succeed at war. Oh Father so much the more oh God we need Thee. We need Thine eyes oh God. We need You as our Captain we need You as our life blood. We ask of Thee Father for wisdom that You would be valiant for us through us that You would be zealous for Your bride to rescue her through us in us LORD God and in saving us that You would beautify Your great Name by which we are called oh Father because we are the work of Thy hands. We are the children that Thou hast made. We are a lampstand that represents the purity of the virginity and life of the covenant that You bought and purchased and bled for in the 1st century. And oh God we desire that that light would shine without hindrance, without distortion from our vile bodies of death interrupting the greatness of its virginity, shining upon this fallen world. So we desire oh God to be worthy for the greatness of Your Name and the calling wherewith You have called us oh Father. And I ask of You oh Father God that You would empower us with wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of You, that Your WORD would be opened up to us now Father, that You would teach us and take us by the hand and counsel us now in the things of which You have put on my heart that You would guide them and move them and

organize them and apply them into the heart of Your people and search them in the depths of their being and quicken them Father and organize all their thoughts and refuse the blasphemies of Satan which would hinder us from our progress to be conformed more to the image of Christ. Help us Father God today Father. Fight for us today. Help us take back the mountain of Zion from the heathen that have defied it and abused it and ruled over it when on Thy great mountain and hill. Help us Father to fight for Thee. Help us to be strong and courageous. Help us oh God that the two-edged WORD in our hand would be cleaving to our hands. Help us oh Father God to understand the calling wherewith You have called us, the wisdom LORD God that saves us. Help us LORD to understand. Father help us follow You LORD without unGodly simplicity without LORD God, without preparation for the days ahead, without doing all that needs to be done to stand as Eph 6 says. Help us Father to learn Your ways to seek Your justice and judgments, to do it that we might eat the good of the land. Help us Father. Humble us before the greatness of Your presence. Give us a childlike heart of opening hearts wide before Thee. Bow us down before the greatness of Your Name and salvation of the greatness of Your enthroned presence in our midst right now at this present time. Oh Father bow us down LORD God; bow us down before Your great feet. Bow us down LORD God as if we stood LORD in Thy court room in heaven, as if at Thy feet as dead men. Oh Father help us realize and understand the greatness of Your power and name and the greatness of what it would be for you to extend Your hand of witness, the Messianic proclamation of your Son's Kingdom now on earth to shake the very foundations of this unGodly world. Oh God help us Father gird ourselves and quit ourselves as men. Father we call upon You LORD God and we fear Thee and we love You. Help us to love You more and to be delivered from this backslidden and unGodly generation LORD God.

God help us Father that our lamps would be ready full of oil LORD that we might face the last trials ahead.

In Jesus the Christ's name we pray Father,

Amen

The title of this sermon is “**Wholehearted-W-H-O-L-E-dash-H-E-A-R-T-E-D Pursuit of God Defined**” and in this sermon I have 4 main points that I desire to get across.

1. **A Caution to be Careful to not have an UnGodly Simplicity.** The Scripture says the simple believeth every WORD but those that are wise look well to their goings. Not an unGodly simplicity but wisdom
2. **A Charge to Earnestly Contend for the Faith**
3. **Wholeheartedness in our Pursuit of God Defined**
4. **A Word of Hope to those who are Fainting**

1. **A Caution to be Careful, a Caution not to have unGodly Simplicity**

Turn with me to John 15. Now brethren we live in a day in which we are not struggling with the Judaizers or the unconverted Jews in the first century. We are not struggling with this great manipulation of the ceremonial law, maybe some are. It is called the Hebrew Roots movement; it is alive today. But that is not the predominant attack upon the faith of Jesus Christ as the book of Jude would says “*Earnestly contend for these things*” “*these things*”, that is, those things in which when a man

believes them they are saved. And therefore Satan would desire to attack that in all of his subtlety and deception so that the next generation would arise and not know the LORD and think that they know the LORD. So the attack today is not with the ceremonial law predominantly. It is not with the Gnostics, but it is with modern versions of these same subtle ways of heresy deceiving the masses of people and I know none of this is new. And I know that you are saved today because you came to be aware of this great chasm of difference between what this modern generation calls Christianity and to what Scripture witness calls Christianity. That is how you got saved. But I want to speak to you today in this first point about certain principles of study in the Scripture of which will help you in the days to come not to be confused by the attacks which we will undergo. And if I could summarize what I want to get across to you right now it would be what I call the greatest rule of interpretation in Scripture. **The greatest rule I know of is that we would let the Scripture define itself.** That is the greatest rule of interpretation. Those of you who have been involved much with the world of academia both in the secular arena or the world of academia in the “Christian world”; it is another form of idolatry, the idolatry of human intelligence of sounding good, complicated, smart, and lofty. This is another idol which is a modern one deceiving the masses of people making them feel like they are doing something for God because they are compartmentalizing intelligent thoughts about God instead of knowing God and it is a great deception and it is deceiving some of our brothers and sisters all across this country now. A great majority are deceived by this idolatrous idea of intelligence and theological concepts, theological systems made by man which in turn make void the commandments of God. And so we have great need to acquaint ourselves with these modern attacks upon our faith, the faith of Jesus Christ, the ancient Scriptural faith by making ourselves aware of the modern day Gnostics or so to speak the modern day Judaizers or antinomians or whatever you want to call it or title you want to call it or whatever generation of the past centuries you want to identify with to call it out in this generation. It is not going to come by necessarily making ourselves aware of all these things as an introduction. It is going to come by you just knowing God and obeying Him and studying Scriptures. Anyone who has been in the gold business knows that you know gold by looking upon and handling the real thing. You know a true dollar bill by looking upon and handling the real thing and beyond your cognizant thought you become so aware of that object that when a counterfeit comes into your hands you can recognize it. That is how you can discern between true gold and fool’s gold and that secular principle can be applied in the Spiritual realm. **If men in simplicity and in Godly sincerity would just study the Scriptures in the context of a local church in which we have been raised up and anointed by the Spirit of God which is a Biblical church and that context and obeying God and conflicting the reactions of heathen and the demonic world and going from glory to glory God will invest in you the principles which will persevere you which you could call the faith. And it is the things which only Christ can show a man and if Christ is going to teach you something about a rule of interpretation it is: let the Scripture interpret itself. Remove yourself from your relative definitions and what you think and feel and your experience and revere the WORD of God and approach it to seek its definition of the WORDs it uses.**

For example if you look at John 15:7. *“If ye abide in Me, and My WORDs abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples.”* I remember reading these passages many years ago when I was new to the faith, a newborn into the kingdom of God to where almost every WORD and phrase I had never known or heard it before and I remember when I got to this passage here I was very affected by this passage

because I wanted to bear much fruit to God. I wanted to glorify God but Christ said that the way to do that is to abide in Him and that His WORDS would abide in me and at this moment in time I could have just imagined in my heart what He meant by those two phrases. Think about circumstances in my life and past or secular dictionaries or whatever I could do to try to find out the meanings of these phrases but if I understood that the Bible is written in such a format so that fishermen can learn the mysteries of God and that the Scriptures is the entire revelation of God towards man of faith and practice and the only grounds of absolute, infallible, protected knowledge and nothing else is. **When you go out everywhere else you are going to be very confused and subtly deceived away from understanding that Scripture defines itself and this is a very terrifying thing.**

I had a religion degree in Baylor University. I sat under doctors and scholars and men who knew what higher learning would show you so to speak. The wisdom of the wise at which God is laying a net at the feet of those who are idolatrously intelligent and damning them through their craftiness. It is a sovereign appointment of damnation to men who think they are wise and have never sought God; wisdom His way. And the way you become wise is firstly and foremost fearing God and when you are fearing God you would fear His WORD and when you fear you are humiliated before it. There is a luster of mystery, carefulness, and caution as you approach it, desiring not to manipulate or change it, desiring that you would discover from it what it means that His WORDS would abide in; you do not just loosely define it. You do not hasten yourself upon the promise land so to speak. You do not hasten yourself without knowing, loosely handling the most infallible precious thing given to man as an object that he can hold in his hand as the very vessels of gold of which those wicked kings of Babylon drank from in their own drunken estate the very vessels holy things of God's temple. In our flesh is that very same temptation to handle loosely without reverence, carefulness, wisdom, understanding, hallowedness. A trembling of soul, fervency of spirit, initiative, an elongated vision to study and establish yourselves in these truths. Knowing that if you do you will have that confession of Ps 18:1-2 that God is my fortress, my high tower, this unconquerable fortress of protection, salvation, grace which removes you far away from any fear of threat, danger, or damnation. So that is what God will teach you,...to think much of Himself and His WORD and little of yourself, fearing your own carnal ideas manipulating the truth of God's WORD. So I remember praying to God what does it mean LORD for Your WORDs to abide in me. I had a good idea of what it means to abide in Him but I wanted to know what it meant for His WORDs to abide in me. I remember this was one of the very first principles that God taught me. What does it mean LORD for Your WORD to abide in me and I would think about ideas in my own reasoning and knowledge. I kept searching; there must be some secret sure way to find out what this means. If it says it right here then we are surely supposed to know that it is. Certainly absolutely know what that is.

It is like when people read 2 Pet 1:4-12 and they read about what it is about what to walk the narrow way and progressively be sanctified ⁴*And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;*⁶*And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience Godliness*⁷*And to Godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.*⁸*For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* **That is what it says but the problem with the faith today is that those things are not certainly defined nor understood so there is no certain accountability about what it means to make your election sure before a holy God before the judgment seat of which we are all to be preparing for**

because there is no carefulness. When Peter wrote that in second Pet 1:4-12 he was meaning a very certain expression of a very certain behavior of which was clearly identifiable and common knowledge among the people. So it was not just WORDS, it was his dying burden. As George Whitefield preached his sermon and died, this was Peter's last sermon the candle of his life burning out. He knew what it meant and the local church, the community of accountability where the Spirit of God moved and worked and encouraged and sharpened and built one another up to strength to strength and faith to faith so that these principles of the sermon matured. It was not an educational classroom of professors, supposed doctors of divinity surrounded by people you do not know. It is a group of people God calls His people, a way of footsteps God calls His commandments and in His commandments pursuing overwhelming promises where they pursue you they overcome you they overtake you not you them. After studying the book of John for some time the LORD eventually led me to John 5 and I remember reading it for the first time and gasping with happiness and gladness. John 5 Jesus Christ is preaching to the wicked Pharisees or unconverted doctors scribes lawyers of His day ³⁷ *And the Father Himself, which hath sent Me, hath borne witness of Me. Ye have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His shape.* ³⁸ *And ye have not His WORD abiding in you: for whom He hath sent, Him ye believe not.* ³⁹ *Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me.* ⁴⁰ *And ye will not come to Me, that ye might have life.* ⁴¹ *I receive not honour from men.* ⁴² *But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.* ⁴³ *I am come in My Father's name, and ye receive Me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.* ⁴⁴ *How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?"* In verse 38 Jesus Christ says that ye have not His WORD abiding in you for whom He hath sent Him ye believe not. And I have this mark in my Bible. The Bible just interpreted itself I know for surety by infallible Scripture what Jesus Christ means when He says that the WORD of God abides in you is that you are believing it at the present time and so I knew that If I want His WORD abiding in me I must not merely know the logic of Scripture or have ideas compartmentalized in my mind but I need to believe in the Scripture and when the WORD of God is mixed with faith then the power of God comes. It seems very simple. It seems very childlike of a rule of interpretation, but brethren if you get this you will feel as though you are the wealthiest man on earth because God is not meaning to confuse you. He is not meaning to give you things that you cannot understand. He is right here and through His Spirit helping and guiding you through the context of a local church He can lead you so that His WORD is unlocked before you so that in one instantaneous moment of time it is as if you are thrust into a higher ground of heavenly glory that you have never seen before and it is in one moment of God opening the Scripture simple things just like this vast all throughout the pages of Scripture, all throughout the idea of faith and practice He will build and establish you in the very truth that you need to know and it is through this right here: the Bible interpreting itself. So that when something attacks your faith or someone attacks it with a doctrine whether it be a heresy or not you are going to have that same reactionary confession as Jesus Christ your LORD who said it is written because that is where you learned what faith is. That is why you believe in what you believe. **That is what you came to know what you know and what you do because it is written and if that is what you believe and do and how you behave you are going to have a Scripture to back it up because this world and flesh and backsliding brethren and false prophets time spend a lifetime dismantling you from the nucleus of life saving truth and so you are going to need to constantly and continually acquaint yourselves with these truths and you will never tire of it because upon believing them and being convinced of them you experience the living God. So in studying the Scripture brethren God is desiring to cause us to understand that the wealth of the**

Wisdom and revelation of the knowledge of Him can be found right here as He unlocks it before us through His Spirit, Scripture interpreting itself.

And some of you as new converts it may seem like a mountain that you cannot even bear to look upon and you're fainting before the ten feet ahead of you. I was there many years ago. I just thought I just want to know God I just want to understand and serve God and here I had 66 books, thousands of pages and I was overwhelmed. Where do I begin, what do I do, where do I go? And there were temporary times of where I would just elapse into this depressed state because I wanted to know God so badly but I felt discouraged by this vast amount of materials that is before me. I want to know the book of John; should I read 5 chapters at a time, 1, 10? How do I know God? And you see you can develop philosophies about studying the Bible which can hinder you or discourage you from going on with God. Well brethren if you are a Christian you just start getting on your knees. That is how you got saved. God put you on your knees. God pressed you into just a crushing experience and revelation of your sin. And then from that place somehow through His irresistible grace and through the Spirit of God seizing your depraved being you made some kind of confession or surrender or just a thrust of faith. And God has been with you ever since. Well brethren you are going to go on with God the same way. God is He is alive He is your salvation. He is in your heart. He walks with me. He talks with me. He tells me I am His own. Brethren I have been saved for 10 years; I can't even remember all the ways He has told me I am His own there are too many too many. Wisdom beyond I can utter over 66 books of the Bible over all the thousands of years, centuries, decades of men that lived and died, blood that was shed, crosses that were borne witnesses in the clouds because God in the Bible speaks to me brethren. That is faith. And that is the great simplifier of seeking God; that is the great simplifier of studying the scriptures is that when God is illuminating something follow it. When something has been heated with some luster of heavenly virtue in thinking about it and meditating upon it in, learning about it, and memorizing it and searching for it, if you are experiencing power to believe God, virtue to love God, obedience overflowing over your heart you know brethren you're following Him. It is not a dead work or dead faith or dead philosophy or dead man searching the Scriptures for in them they think they have life. You're following the living God. How do you study the Bible? Follow God. Yes there are certain principles and grounds to protect you from heresy, misinterpretation, etc. That is what a local church is for.

Brother and sister if you follow God He will never lead you wrong. He gave you your conscience. He is the ability to discern between right and wrong. He is the author of your faith. He is writing it down. The only reason you live is because He wrote your name in the book of life and the only reason you are going to make it into that celestial city of glory is because He is finishing you. He is finishing your faith literally. What He authored that He says He will finish. So faith cannot be deduced to a dogma. It is a Person. It cannot be deduced to the study of Scripture. It is a Person. It cannot be deduced to imputed righteousness. It is a Person. It cannot be deduced to a courtroom affair of legalizing or condemning. It is a Person who decides, who walks, who talks, who lives? And when you are hearing His voice and you are saved you know it so follow Him. Somehow in the midst of it all with a childlike heart you will be wiser than the ancients because His WORD is your meditation. You will have more understanding than all of your teachers because you keep His commandments. Jesus Christ says in John 7:16-17 *My Doctrine is not Mine but His that sent Me and if any man will do His will He shall know the Doctrine whether it be of God or whether I speak of Myself.* Willingness to do His will is one of those unlocking secrets of receiving greater knowledge of who He is. John 8:37

I know that you are Abraham's seed but you seek to kill Me because My WORD hath no place in you. John 8:43
Why do ye not understand My Speech even because ye cannot hear My WORD. John 8:47 *He that is of God*
heareth God's WORDs ye therefore hear them not because ye are not of God. See brethren it is very apparent
 that Jesus Christ understood hearing God, seeing God, the knowledge of God, the reception of His
 doctrine to be entirely on the basis of if you are having an experiential relationship with the living
 Person of God. It begins by birth which continues by obedience to whom you were born into. It is
 only by faith in God's grace. John 6:63 Jesus Christ said *it is the Spirit that quickeneth. The flesh profiteth*
nothing the WORDS that I speak unto you they are Spirit and they are life. And this is a conclusive statement
 that He is making in the most offensive sermon arguably that He ever preached and that shows us
 that the WORD of God will either save us because we are understanding that it is not flesh and
 blood or some carnal mechanism, but it is Spirit and therefore it needs to be quickened and made
 alive to us. Or we are going to understand it with some kind of philosophy of man or worldly
 wisdom and it is going to be a stumbling stone over which we trip and fall and it will be our
 damnation. It does not matter who you are, where you are, if you are born again, or not born again
 you are either going to be saved by God's WORD or offended by God's WORD and stumble over
 God's WORD and you are going to be saved by the preaching of God's WORD, God-willing by an
 actual Christian preaching to you or you are going to stumble over that preaching and over that
 person and over that people and that work of God or work of grace in some generation. And you
 are going to hear the world instead of God. By this we judge the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of
 error the apostle John said. So these are the principles of obtaining the knowledge of God and there
 are more principles given throughout the Scripture of which ensure its reception its progress but
 that is not the purpose of this sermon. That is just a caution for us that we would remember that
 this is the beginning of our faith and our experience and our practice and anything and any way it is
 going to continue it is by those same means. And when people do not learn about God or about
 God or the doctrine and ways of God through this way then they butcher the Scriptures without
 even knowing it--with a clean conscience because they are sincerely deceived.

And so we get to passages like Phil 1:9-11 The apostle Paul says *and this I pray that your love may*
abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment that ye may prove things that are excellent that you may
be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ . That means on Judgment Day you are going to stand
 without offense before Almighty God. Verse 11 he continues to express what that means: being
 filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ unto the glory and praise of God.
 Now brethren if you read most commentators on this passage right here vs. 9-11 they are not doing
 this actually to know or explain to you what this actually means or Greek lexicons or some study
 about the city of Philippi and the culture of Philippi or whatever you want to call it or whatever you
 want to name it or whatever attribute about that society you want to look upon. **If you do not**
understand that Phil 1:9-11 is interpreted by the book of Phil and by the Bible itself and in
the Bible there are secrets of revelation and opening of eyes which can unlock the depths of
this burden right here that he has prayed so that you can actually know of truth and
certainly that you understand what he means when he said that., then you are going to be
left to the decisions of this world of deception if you do not know that. People are literally
employed by Satan with their entire life learning how to skillfully deceive everyone and
make them feel like they are sincerely serving God. In studying the Scripture you will see as it
 says in 1:9 there is a principle of abounding more and more both in knowledge and also as it says in
 vs 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness, and as you study this throughout the whole New
 Testament you will see that those principles are repeatedly expressed, defined, and applied to the

people of God as an expression of saving faith and so you will see and you can understand because of that that he is burdened about their progression in saving faith--present continuous sanctification or salvation whatever you want to call it that is what he is burdened about: the overflow of saving faith will equal this: abounding fruitfulness and so in Phil he is going to address the evil fruits of wickedness. He is going to redefine what righteousness is in replacing that wickedness and so he is opening up in a prayer because he wants them to understand what he is about to preach. And so people do this for their whole lives and they do not pray or think or speak like that and they do not know what Phil 1:9-11 is or the entire burden of the New Testament. They have never thought one time in their life possibly: what does it mean to be under the offense of God standing before the judgment seat on the day of Christ which is the heartbeat of this burden? This is another small example brethren of how if you do not learn the knowledge of God God's way by the Scripture through simplicity and Godly sincerity of one text to the next one book to the next exhaustively, you will be deceived. It is written. It is written again Jesus Christ says. There is enough written that means for us to know what the truth is. To see sin and wickedness and blaspheme and heresy refuted. Phil 1:10 speaks of a sincerity and a standing before God legally as being without offense at judgment which is repeatedly preached upon, defined, applied all throughout the epistles of the New Testament. Sincerity is the great thing that you will gain at salvation. Christ says worshipping Him in Spirit and in truth or lose at backsliding. 1 Cor 5 says by the leaven of wickedness, malice, and insincerity. Sincerity before God, a conscience void of offense before God; the end of commandment which is a pure heart, a good conscience, and faith unfeigned. Brethren many years ago I stumbled upon these passages I sought every source of reputable teaching that I knew of. No one even addressed it except for maybe some quick phrase, "this is what it means". And I was unsatisfied literally for years just remembering in my mind every so often what does it mean what does offense mean? What does blamelessness mean? What does it mean to be without fault? How does somebody discover this: what actual fruits can identify this state before God? What does this even mean? And I would just get on my knees and say "Oh God what does Your WORD mean? I do not understand; nobody is telling me what Your WORD means. I do not talk think speak preach like You. I have never prayed like this in my life because I do not know what it means." God will show a man, He will show you brethren if you seek Him that way because He knows what it means. He will show you. If someone does not know what that means they do not have the burden of Jesus Christ for is last days church because He was burdened in Rev 2-3 about those things of which are evidences of apostasy in regenerated people's lives. He was burdened about the brethren. He is the risen, ascended, glorified King of your salvation and that was His whole burden for all the churches of the province of Asia. So I have got a message for you. God forbid that we would live our lives and not know such a burden. Well brethren once you have seen that the principles of God of just simply obtaining knowledge as we went over firstly with the WORD of God abiding in you and those other passages in John or principles about the warnings of God are preparations for judgment Day you will see that in seeking God God's way He will show you these things and it is going to be by studying the Scriptures carefully with diligence with hours, as much as you can, as much as God gives you ability because you know in it is the Truth and is the full expression of the Godhead. His name in the book of Revelations is the WORD of God. And there is great hopefulness and riches in that. But this same kind of thing is done towards the promises of God.

Turn to Eph 3: the promises of God both of salvation, of its freeness, of its liberty, of its empowering nature, of all the angles of what you would call salvation to be but also of its consummating expression. What I mean by that is the glory of God that the promises would

perform if we obtain them by God's ways. Leonard Ravenhill once wrote a book "Revival God's Way" He wrote another book "Why Revival Tarries" and another "Revival Praying" that is the burden of God, a rekindling of mankind alive again of the longstanding desolations of the promises of God which have not been obtained. That was His burden. He was one man standing in a generation, a world of iniquity against him. He was not in your situation. You were in his. But now you are standing on his shoulders and He is not calling you to walk in the grace that he had or the Puritans. He is not calling you to copycat what happened in Wales through that young man. **He is calling us brethren to learn what the faith is, what the promises are, and to see their performance of being rightly related to Him right now.** Eph 3:14-21 is one of the well known and famous prayers of the apostle Paul. It is much like his prayer in Col 1 and Eph 1. In this prayer you will see his desire that there would be a revelation given to the people of God, the unsearchableness of what His love is. That is in vs 17-18. You know the Scripture: to be grounded in love, to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and the length and the depths and the height to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge. You know what this means according to the WORDS of it; you know the phrases; you have heard them before. But what Paul is talking about here is not something that he is easily quickly seen, easily understood, quickly understood. He is speaking right here in Eph 3 the entire burden of which causes him to continually bow his knees before the Father that the Ephesians would see this. The Ephesians who have been sitting under his preaching for years at a time, the Ephesians who have seen him going about from house to house weeping and preaching for three years straight. And brethren he bowed his knees every day; he bowed his knees before the Father unsatisfied at what the people see and know about this unsearchable expanse of God's love. Why? Why? Because he was just really loving? Because he was utterly obsessed with the glory of God and he knew as John 15 says that if they abide in His love they will keep His commandments; He knew that. And the result of knowing His love is abiding in His love. And the result of abiding in His love according to the apostle Paul is vs 19: the last phrase there is being filled with all the fulness of God. To be complete and to fully perform the purpose of which you have been bought by His blood before the eyes of a fallen world That is why you are here. You are the light of the world. You are the salt of the earth. You are His body. He is going to move; He is going to move through you. You are His ambassadors, messengers, priests, and heralds. You are the living, moving, Spiritual, biological, mechanism by which He is going to seek after and save this generation. And for you to even begin to attempt to do anything that is worthy of the grace of which you have been apprehended with it is going to be seeing something of God's glory something of the end result of you walking with God in Godly sincerity, something of the endless result of God having His way in your life. Satisfying His own desires to glorify His name and the name of His Son. And that is what the end of the prayer is about. **When you see God's love and when you use His unsearchable things that he is eloquently describing because he is under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost when you see this, it will happen to you beyond all you can ask, think, understand, imagine. It will happen according to this power of God which lives inside of you in the Person of God who has made His abode in you and He will perform it before your eyes.** That is what He is saying. You are going to spend the rest of your lives smiting your knee being ashamed at how you have limited the holy One of Israel and how He is succeeding beyond what you could have ever imagined and what a wretch you are. And with a thousand vows you say I will never doubt Him again. Weeping before your children and grandchildren telling them of the strong arm of the right hand of the LORD revealed to your generation. That He has been faithful to you. To Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that is working in us. But to Him be glory in the

church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages a world without end. He saw something brethren. He saw something: a living, breathing, moving God. And by respirating it, breathing it in, and exhaling it back to God; this was his prayer. It was not words. It was not words. It was something he saw. This was not the unGodly pursuit of knowledge. This was the pursuit of God. So brethren as a conclusion to the first point, if we do not allow the Scripture to define itself we will be satisfied with and deceived within something that is not God, Jesus Christ, Christianity, His vision, His work, His will. And there is no hope except vital reality with the living Jesus Christ who lives inside of you who is your hope. In regards to all these things brethren, through the conclusion of which we should resolve amongst ourselves among all the people of God scattered on the hills right now throughout this nation and world on those things which pertain to salvation let us agree on those; let us agree on those. And that is point number 2.

2. Earnestly Contend for the Faith which was Once Delivered unto the Saints

Turn to the book of Jude, the last book before Revelation. That is the burden of Jude, vs 3-4 he expresses it. He said *beloved when I gave all diligence to write unto you the common salvation it was needful for me to write unto you and to exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares who were before of old ordained to this condemnation unGodly men turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness and denying the only LORD God and our LORD Jesus Christ.* So the burden of Jude is simply this: to write of what it is he calls the common salvation in vs 3. And he felt a need to exhort them to be responsible over earnestly fighting for or contending for “the faith” not another faith, not the faith of devils as James 2 describes, not the wisdom that is of the world which is earthly, sensual, and devilish which Jam 3 describes. Heavenly wisdom and God’s faith; that is what he is describing: the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. Paul speaks of these things over and over again. He spoke of it in Phil 3. Phil 3:1-3 says *finally my brethren rejoice in the LORD. To write the same things to you to me indeed is not grievous but for you it is safe. Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision, for we are the circumcision which worship God in Spirit and rejoice in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh.* He calls the legalizers, the Judaizers: dogs. Beware of them. He cannot even close the letter without pouring out his heart on this matter on men who are making the faith of God into a heresy.

Rom 16, Paul writes to the Romans, Rom 16:17-18: *Now I beseech you brethren mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned and avoid them for they that are such serve not our LORD Jesus Christ but their own belly and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.* Good words, fair speeches. The bottom line question that we need to ask ourselves is the charge of earnestly contending for the faith is “by what terms do we recognize salvation?” That is the great question if I were to ask you “By what terms do you recognize the secret of fruitfulness?” You would say “abiding in love”. You should say and His WORD abiding in me and me abiding in me. You should say everything that you have learned from Scripture. It is written. It is written. It is written. This is the secret of fruitfulness. This is the doctrine of how to obtain fruit. This is the doctrine that I have received from Him who is as the wind, this indiscernible force from which it comes or whither it comes I know not but I have seen Him. God the Kingdom of God which is without carnal sight. The question is “By what terms do we recognize salvation?” I was meeting with a man who is a renowned reputable man in the Calvinistic circles today and he was preaching to me about many questions and one he asked me was “How do you describe the work of atonement?” And I was fumbling in my thoughts because how I would describe it is by quoting all the Scriptures

I know about it but I knew that his question to me would not be satisfied unless I expressed those thoughts in some kind of theological terms which he is familiar with otherwise he would be inclined to rashly respond against me as some kind of strange long-speeched, long-winded, confused, confounded, “much learning hast made thee mad” kind of man “beside thyself” because that is simply the nature of the politics of Christianity today. If you can dot your eyes and cross your tees with this catechism then Rick Warren and Mark Driscoll are men of God because their doctrine is perfect as John Piper says. It is an abomination to God. That man is murdering people’s souls. It is an abomination to God. Whatever John Piper thinks of doctrine it is not John 7:11-12 doctrine brethren he has some other heretical idea of doctrine that is not what the Bible calls doctrine. That is not the doctrine which Rom 6 describes. That which you receive from your heart which makes you holy with fruitfulness which makes you a slave to righteousness. It is not that doctrine. That is statement of fact what Rom 6 and the John 7:9-11 describe doctrine. Do you see brethren? What is doctrine? By what terms do you recognize salvation? Biblical terms. So I stumbled for a little while and he eventually started preaching to me how he described it. I preached to him how I would describe it and he seemed to be generally satisfied with it. I am just trying to become all things to him and he was having charity for me so he asked a lot of questions and he was wondering what I meant by what I said. So then he started preaching to me on what he believes it is and he started using all kinds of terms and one of them was that “I believe someone is forensically justified” I did not even know what that was. Is that how you understand how salvation is, that you are forensically justified? Now brethren I am not just making an issue out of words. You can use forensically justified. You can use all these other words but the foundational problem of which I and God are grieved about is that through these fair speeches people are deceived from the most foundational principles of what it means to know God and receive His Doctrines and the evidence and fruits of those things so that Rick Warren is a man of God and so is Mark Driscoll and so are all these other flagrant sinners in the pulpits of what can be called a circle of the remnant. Something’s very wrong to bring some of the highest speakers that own the respect of the remnant for them to make these kinds of judgments and hardly anybody is making a cry about it. I am telling you brethren this most foundational principle: they have not learned God through God’s way in Scriptures and so they have been desensitized to what Christianity is and this is simply not a point which they can by conviction stand up against because they are not understanding the burden of the WORD of God. They have been seduced by the harlot systems speaking peace, blood stain walls, the cry of injustice going up and our doctrine says it is okay. What doctrine? So I am not just making a contention about WORDS. On what terms do we recognize salvation? A beloved brother, an anointed man of God once said this:

“There has never been one moment when we have loved God with all our heart mind soul and strength. There has been a moment that Jesus didn’t. There has never been a moment when my motives were entirely pure. There was never a moment when Jesus didn’t have entirely pure motives.”

He said something else very similar in another quote,

“the greatest command is to love the LORD your God with all your heart soul mind and strength. You’ve never done that. And neither have I, but Christ always did that. Think about that.”

Now brethren somebody who rose up in the faith and is anointed by God and taught by God by the means of which I have spent the beginning of this sermon is describing this to me. When you hear a statement like this is it alarming because you have learned what the Bible means when it states something like loving God with all your heart. You have learned that that Biblical phrase is not talking about something that is unattainable. It is not talking about something that is sinlessly perfect. It is not talking about something that Paul is making it seem to be. What he is trying to get across and communicate is true, right, and Godly, but it is not Biblical and Scriptural with the phrases that those phrases are in the Scripture. And this is why all of this gets really confusing. Because he could be preaching something that is right and true and good in another sense but just not in the Biblical sense of what the Bible actually means by that phrase right there evidenced by this verse, this verse, this verse... Do you see how that could be confusing? This is why this great flamboyant fair speech of many Biblical phrases with seemingly good ideas applied just rigorously like a butcher flinging the SWORD around people can be deceived? And so it happens. It will happen. It does happen. But it should not happen to a damnable degree to where people are believing they are saved when they are not. **And if we had an Acts 15 situation where the elders of the faith of the American nation could come together and we could establish some kind of ground of unity and an understanding of what a Biblical church is and what Biblical unity is and what standard God is expecting us to obtain as the people of God in the earth right now and we spoke about such things and agreed upon them and the means by which we obtained that and understand how to do that and implement them in the churches and stay together as elders and understand damnable and nondamnable heresies and the Biblical terms of what they are, God would come and He would pour out all the unfathomable and glorious grace from heaven of which people have been groping in darkness now and written thousands of books giving answers of things they do not know what it is.**

So in the Scripture what does it mean to love God with all your heart? Paul Washer has that understanding and the way this gets even more confusing is by men of God of history who have disagreed with themselves renamed things, re-categorized things, formed systems of theology. John Wesley is a man of God brethren and so is Paul Washer. But John Wesley once wrote a book called "A Plain Account of Christian Perfection" and it is terrible. I read through most of it this week. And I just wanted to familiar myself with these terms so that I can be confident that I can have a conversation with these men because I did not learn the doctrines of God the way they did so I am just trying to familiarize myself with all the different various terms that are being used. By God's grace I am not behind in knowledge of the Scripture but this is a whole nother beast and it is grieving. And the Wesley book on the plain account of Christian perfection grieved me no differently than men of God, Andrew Murray and James Stewart, about the second blessing doctrine of the baptism of the Spirit if you know what that is. It is essentially the same thing. They have very similar burdens, but they are just butchering the Scriptures. It is extremely confusing, extremely confusing. That is if you have a Biblical understanding of what these passages mean and why they mean that exhaustive answers grounded and established by the centuries of the written WORD of God preparing it and adding to it so that you can be without a doubt that this is what the phrase means, if you have it fixed in your heart grounded and settled so you are not shifted with every wind of doctrine to even keep up in a conversation or address a two page excerpt of what Wesley calls Perfection or the doctrine of what James Stuart called Second Blessing or Charles Leiter or whoever you want to talk about it is a very daunting task because then you are going to have to go to each verse where it was quoted, the surrounding context, and how that verse cohesively fits together with

the entire expanse of the entire revelation of God and every other phrase similar over the centuries confirming that and leading me to believe that and it all cohesively comes together. What is it? It is the Bible. It is written brethren. It is written that you can know, remember, and understand it. But these men do not know the Scriptures like that because His WORD is not their meditation all day long like Ps 119 says.

Face it brethren it is not some other theological concept or philosophy or whatever. It is not the Scripture. And I know that because I have been there brethren. And the end result is this great chasm one regenerated brother set against another, with each one, just difficult to find your hands. Where do you even begin? And it may seem inconsequential when you look at a non-damnable offense of this attack of Satan upon the faith but when very serious truths are being compromised the result is damnation of an innumerable amount of people brethren. The result is that if the New Testament apostles lived today they would be writing books on it: to Grace Community Church, to the Churches of Austin, and they would be refuting it and weeping over it and praying night and day against it and they would be categorizing it and calling out names of men who divisively stand against it. If this one thing is happening brethren: people are being damned by it, not necessarily by initially believing it, but the long term effect. So this is the situation brethren that we are in. We are in the last days when knowledge will increase. Here we stand brethren; we have got to learn to fight. So when I think of this situation that we are in I am thinking about this small example: the Baptism of the Spirit and Wesley's account of Christian Perfection. It is very confusing.

3. Wholeheartedness in our Pursuit of God Defined

So let us look now at what a Biblical definition of loving God with all your heart is. Biblical definition of loving God with all of your heart. Turn to the book of Deuteronomy. There is something that is agreed upon in the Scripture: the promises of God are given to those who love God. That is agreed upon with everybody. The promises of God are given to those who love God. You can find that in Ex 20:6, James 1:12, 2:5, 1 Cor 8:3, 1 John 5:3-4, Rom 8:28, Rev 2:4-5. Everyone is agreed upon that generally speaking in the circles of the remnant. But in Matt 22:37 Jesus Christ said that the greatest commandment is to love the LORD your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength and that is also found in Deut 6:5. And we will read from vs 4-5. *Here oh Israel the LORD our God is one LORD. And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.* That is the commandment and Paul Washer is under the understanding that that cannot be obeyed nor ever has been obeyed by any man except for Christ. And if that verse means sinless perfection he is right. But that is not what that verse is talking about. Brethren the grief in my heart is that people come to be so emotionally attached to a way of thinking to even introduce or conflict against it people will behave so rashly and if I were to speak to somebody today and tell them that you can love God with all your heart in the circle of Calvinism under the shepherding influence of Paul Washer people would be yelling at me calling me a heretic accusing me of sinless perfection all kinds of things and if I would have just preached boldly what the Scriptures actually teaches and then title a sermon with that and boldly establish what the truth is as the Scripture would teach me to do and not allow anybody to despise what the truth is concerning that you can imagine what would happen when people are deeply attached emotionally to the idea that you can never love God with all your heart and not only that but have experience some manifestation of grace when they meditated upon it and so they have come to the conclusion that that is the proof of that philosophy. The Spirit was edifying them because what they were thinking

about in its essence is true but that does not mean that that is the Scriptural definition. And you will see the pertinence of the things I am talking about later in the sermon.

The Scripture speaks of loving the LORD your God with all your heart. It speaks of that in Deut 6:5, but it also speaks of it in Deut ch 30:6 *And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart and the heart of thy seed to love the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul that thou mayest live.* He will circumcise thine heart and what is the result of that operation.? I am not using operation because it sounds fancy but because Col 2 describes this as an operation. That is what it says. An operation is something that God is doing, operating upon a man. It is a Spiritual experience. And the result of the operation of circumcision according to Col 2 is New Testament salvation. That is circumcision of the heart. Turn to Col 2 vs 9-13 this is the New Testament interpretation of what Spiritual circumcision is and it is equivalent to salvation. Col 2:9-13 *For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily and ye are kept in Him which is the Head of all principality and power in whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands in putting of the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ buried with Him in baptism wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God who hath raised Him from the dead and you being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh hath He quickened together with Him having forgiven you all trespasses.* So you see here: the apostle Paul was taking occasion against the Judaizers who were infecting the minds of the Colossian Christians and he was preaching how circumcision is fulfilled in Christ. That shadow is a reality in Christ so he calls this a circumcision of Christ and that means it is regeneration and he describes that in doctrinal terms. It is the operation of God. Phil 3 mentions this in just those former verses that I read earlier 3:3 For we are the circumcision which worship God in the Spirit and rejoice in Christ Jesus having no confidence in the flesh. Paul speaks of it again because the Judaizers were attacking them and he says it in Gal 6:15 for in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth anything not uncircumcision but a new creature and as many as walk according to this will peace be upon. He understood Spiritual circumcision to be the operation of God of being identified with His death, burial, and resurrection, the forgiveness of sins; that is salvation. According to Galatians it is the operation that made you a new creature in Christ; that is salvation. According to Phil 3:3, it is the operation that makes you worship God in Spirit and Truth; that is salvation. Spiritual circumcision: the very same Holy Spirit of God was quoting, interpreting, and applying Deut 30:6 to us today right now so he used that phrase right now and know what it means so that the result is that you love God with all of your heart and there are many wonderfully mysteries connected with that principle. One: a clear a conscience void of offence, a peace. an overshadowing feeling that you are and do love Him with all that in you is. That is how God wants to you to feel though you do not love Him how you should. Nor have you ever loved Him how you should in comparison to what He deserves. You have not sinlessly obeyed His entire commandment which is the expression of love and that is what Paul Washer was emphasizing but doctrinally speaking, **to love God with all of your heart is the experience of salvation. It is not speaking of sinless perfection or obedience and the overflow of love, but a clear conscience and pure heart standing before Almighty God feeling that you would exert your strength and life without any doubt, wavering, or halting between two opinions as Lot's wife looking back no matter what the cost, what suffering, what travail, what you have to do need to do...it seems like nothing. Strength, soul, mind, might just melting away for God.**

That is really what it is seeking to emphasize, the operation of God, the experience of a clear conscience before God and faith unfeigned. Give me this mountain Caleb said. You can find more

verses in the New Testament interpretation of that in Rom 2:25-29. You can find more OT verses in Deut 10:16, Jer 4:4. Now that is just on the matter of circumcision and it is easily identifiable that loving God with all your heart is a result of Spiritual circumcision which is a result of New Testament salvation. That is easy to discover. This verse Deut 30:6 is an experience that we are supposed to have and that every saved man has had. And if you know the chapter of Deut itself it is one that is quoted in Rom 10, one of the favorite chapters of false prophets some of the most glorious attributes of saving faith are in that chapter. **But the reason that this is a matter of importance brethren is that if someone believes and shrinks back and has that scowling interpretation towards loving God with all your heart than every other place of that idea rephrased in a slightly different manner it is going to be hidden from your eyes you see and the long term result of that is a vast misinterpretation and blindness of Christian experiential realities.** And I want to address that. Loving God with all your heart is the very same thing Biblically speaking as following God fully or wholly.

Turn to Num 14:24. Now this is following God. What phrases do you identify salvation with? One of them should be loving God with all your heart. Another should be Spiritual circumcision. Another should be following God fully. Num 14:24. *But my servant Caleb because he had another spirit with him and hath followed me fully him will I bring into the land whereunto he went and his seed shall possess it.* Deut 1:36 God says *Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh he shall see it and to him will I give the land that he hath trodden upon and to his children because he hath wholly followed the LORD.* Now if God is saying this brethren that means that we are supposed to understand what wholly following God is as opposed to not wholly following Him, fully following as opposed to partially following. We are supposed to understand the meaning behind that. It is important. Loving God with all your heart can be identified with following God fully, so it is with seeking God with all of your heart, searching for God, turning to God, returning to God, believing God, and obeying and walking with God. Every one of those phrases I just used are identified with the very same phrase all your heart or fully or wholly. I want you to look at some of these and you know above most people that Caleb and Joshua are two of the reprobated generation which is used as a NT example of those who have fallen from saving grace and so what set them apart from all of their brothers sisters who were damned is that they followed God fully and those others did not. Jer 3:10 and we are going to look at these quickly Jer 3:10 *And yet for all of this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto Me with her whole heart but feignedly saith the LORD.* Jer 24 That is an example of damnation: turning to God without a whole heart. Jer 24:7 and *I will give them an heart to know Me that I am the LORD and they shall be My people and I will be their God and they shall return unto Me with their whole heart.* All their heart so to speak. Deut 4: 29-31 You should be looking at these Scriptures with great anticipation brethren asking yourselves the question “Do I follow God with all my heart?” Deut 4:19-31 *But if from this thou shalt seek the LORD thy God and shall find Him if thou seek Him with all thy heart and with all thy soul. When thou art in tribulation and all these things come upon you even in the latter days thou turn to the LORD thy God and shall be obedient unto His voice for the LORD thy God is a merciful God He will not forsake Thee neither destroy Thee not forget the covenant of thy fathers which He sware unto thee.* This is spoken of to the children of that reprobate generation from Num 14 who went into the promise land under the leadership of Joshua and who eventually through disobedience through many generations scattered in the Babylonian captivity and God is saying if you seek Him with all of your heart He will fetch you from the ends of the earth and stablish you in His salvation. Very similar verses are in other portions of Scripture. Deut 30:10 *If thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to keep His commandments and his statutes which are written in this book of the law, and if thou turn unto the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul.* You see that. Jesus Christ

was undoubtedly quoting the Scriptures when He spoke Matt 22:37 about loving God knowing that obedience is the life of the faith and the life of love. 1 Kings 8:47-50 Brethren if you familiarize yourself with the doctrines of God spoken consistently increasingly with greater and greater confirmation in every generation you won't be shaken by the false prophets of this generation. You won't; that is why God wrote us the Bible so we would not be shaken.

1 Kings 8:47-47 *Yet if they shall bethink themselves in the land whither they were carried captives, and repent, and make supplication unto Thee in the land of them that carried them captives, saying, We have sinned, and have done perversely, we have committed wickedness;*48 *And so return unto Thee with all their heart, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, which led them away captive, and pray unto Thee toward their land, which Thou gavest unto their fathers, the city which Thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name;*49 *Then hear Thou their prayer and their supplication in heaven Thy dwelling place, and maintain their cause;*50 *And forgive Thy people that have sinned against Thee, and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against Thee, and give them compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them:* 2 Chronicles 6:37-39 The very same portion recorded in another historical book. Starting in verse 38 *"If they return to Thee with all their heart and with all their soul"* 2 Chron 22:9 *And He sought Ahaziah and they caught him for he was hidden in Samaria and brought him to Jehu and when they had slain him they buried him because said they he is the son of Jehoshaphat who sought the LORD with all his heart.* The heart of Ahaziah had no power to keep still the kingdom. Jehoshaphat, one of the few saved kings was known to seek God with all of his heart. 2 Chron 31:21 speaking of Hezekiah, one of the most exemplary and Godly kings *and every work that he began in the service of the house of God and in the law and in the commandments to seek His God he did it with all his heart and he prospered.* Do you want a clear conscience brethren? Seek and serve God with all your heart. Joel 2:12 Call of repentance, the wrath brooding overhead, a call to weep between the porch and the altar before the ministers of the house of God. 2:12 opens up *"Therefore also now saith the LORD turn ye even to Me with all your heart and with fasting and with weeping and with mourning.* God says all your heart. He says it's Mine.

Turn into the NT Acts 8:37 We can find that in New Testament evangelists, pastors, and apostles understood that believing in God with all of your heart was saving faith. Acts 8:37 and Philip said *if thou believedst with all thine heart thou mayest and he answered and said "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Brethren, believing God with all your heart will overflow with loving God and following God and searching for seeking God and turning to God and returning to God and obeying God with all your heart.*

Deut 30:2 speaks of obedience with all of your heart and there is something that you need to know about a Biblical synonym of obedience: walking. A Biblical synonym for obedience to God is walking with God. Deut 30:2 *You shall return unto the LORD thy God and shall obey His voice according you to all that I command you this day thou and thy children with all thy heart and with all thy soul.* Obedience is the life of faith James argues. Not only believe with all your heart but the life of that is to obey with all your heart. 1 Kings 2:4 David's charge to Solomon he said *the LORD may continue His work which He spake concerning me saying if thy children take heed to their way to walk before Me in Truth with all their heart and with all their soul there shall not fail thee one man on the throne of Israel.* All the promises of God will be fulfilled. Finally 2 Kings 23:3 *And the king stood by a pillar and made a covenant before the LORD to walk after the LORD and to keep His commandments and His testimonies and His statutes with all their heart and all their soul to perform the WORDS of this covenant that were written in this book and all the people stood to the covenant.* Walking in disobedience: that is where Paul is

quoting from in Eph 5 I believe vs 14 where it says *walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh*. That is why Enoch is one of the elders of the faith who is saved because he walked with God. That is why at the end of the book of Gal 5:25-26 he says *if we live by the Spirit walk by the Spirit*. That is why Eph 5 says *for ye were sometimes darkness but now are ye light in the LORD; walk as children of light*. See he is quoting this same Spiritual principle of which he has seen in the OT about how walking is believing, loving, following, seeking, searching, obeying with all of your heart. And he understood that to be the life of saving faith. That is why you study the context surrounding those passages I quotes in the NT. That is their understanding of that WORD “Walk with God” that is the surrounding context. It has everything to do with their eternal standing before God. It is consistent. It is confirmed again. **Walking before God does not mean what you think or feel or want it to mean. It means what God says it means and as He defines it to me. The Bible interprets itself brethren. With all this in mind brethren the question that is put to us by the Scriptures is done in this very emphatic way “Do you love God with all your heart?” Do you search for God, seek after God, walk before God, obey God continually, turn to God with all of your heart? If there was a book written by God in heaven concerning all the names of those who were saved He could say beside your name that not only Jehoshaphat, Hezekiah, Josiah, but you walked before God, served God, sought after God with all your heart. He could say that about you. Your name is graven upon His hands His thoughts towards you are more than the sands of the sea. What is He thinking about you right now? You better believe brother. He wants you to know that you know that you know what it means to walk before God with all of your heart. He wants you to know that. He does not want you to shrink before it and explain it away as unattainable possibility and no matter how admirable that it. It is not Scriptural.**

The bottom line is brethren. Some of the most precious things I have ever seen about salvation are gloriously connected to this Spiritual principle of serving and seeking after God with all of your heart. Some of the most glorious things I have ever seen unlocked before me in the Scriptures are by that single phrase and that is why it is alarming when I hear that. It alarmed me. That is wrong. And I felt like the people of God were being robbed from all the treasures I have seen by misunderstanding that single phrase. It is serious. God has written believe it or not, brother and sisters, Calvinist, whoever is hearing my voice, God has spent centuries seeking to define to us what it is to seek God and to know God and to walk before God with all of our heart. He has written an entire Psalm completely dedicated to that phrase.

Ps 119. If you turn there brethren. I believe that Ps 119 was written as a dedication so that no one would ever be confused about what it Scripturally means to seek God or as the title is to wholeheartedly pursue God. No one will ever be confused to what that is. That is why it is written. And the reason I believe that is because that is what the Psalmist says that he is doing. And therefore the experiences that he describes that he is having is an explanation about what you will experience if you seek God with all your heart. Do you hear that? **This Psalm is an explanation of what you will certainly experience if you seek God with all of your heart and you have experienced it if you have sought God with all your heart. So this Psalm is either going to condemn you as the savor, the smell, of the knowledge of God of death to death as Paul says in 2 Cor or it is going to be a smell, a savour, of the knowledge of God from life to life because it is going to confirm you are in the faith the Bible contends to establish. You are in this faith the world**

with devils filled wants to undo. Ps 119 is dedicated to define wholeness of heart because of these verses.

Ps 119:2 The Psalmist says which is probably David “*Blessed are they that keep His testimonies and that seek Him with the whole heart?*” and just like in the Psalms as it is in Luke 6 and the Sermon on the Mount there are those who are blessed and those who are under the woes of God or Deut 26 describes those who are blessed and those who are cursed. This is an important term Biblically speaking; it is salvation or damnation just like wisdom and foolishness or being a wise man or a fool. It is an expression of a saved man or a lost man Biblically speaking. So Ps 119:2 it says *blessed are they that seek Him with the whole heart*. Vs 3 and it goes on describing what it is like. Vs 10 *With my whole heart have I sought Thee oh let me not wander from Thy commandments*. That is his cry. Prov 2 says *lift up thy voice for understanding if thou cryest for knowledge liftest up thy voice for understanding*. He is doing that. *Thou shalt understand the knowledge of God and obtain the fear of God*. Ps 119:58-60 *I entreated Thy favour with my whole heart be merciful unto me according to Thy WORD*. Can you say that with a clear conscience before God right now? Answer God? Could you say that I entreat Your favor LORD with all my heart, with my whole heart? Can you say that? Vs 59 *I thought on my ways and turned my feet unto Thy testimonies I made hast and delayed not to keep Thy commandments*. Vs 69 *The proud have forged a lie against me but I will keep Thy precepts with my whole heart*. Look at that confidence that whole confidence that all the Eliabs of this nation would call pride. Ps 119:111 *Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage forever for they are the rejoicing of my heart. I have inclined my heart to perform Thy statutes always even unto the end*. Can you pray that to God? Are you double-hearted, double-minded? Are you wavering like waves of the sea? James 1 says such a man ought not to think he should receive anything from the LORD being a double minded man unstable in all of his ways. That is not what this man is. Ps 119:145-148 This is the closing passages on where he uses the word whole heart or where he addresses his heart. He says *I cried with my whole heart hear me oh LORD I will keep Thy statutes*. With his whole heart brethren he is bowing himself before the presence of Almighty God being very conscious of those enemies and those proud destroyers of the faith and he is counting, setting himself adversely against their destructive venom and he is saying *LORD I will keep Thy statutes*. He has got a cost to pay brethren. He is counting it. 146 *I cried unto Thee, save me and I shall keep thy testimonies. I presented the dawning of the morning and cried. I hoped in thy WORD. Mine eyes prevented the night watches that I might meditate in Thy WORD*.

In an examination brethren of what wholeness of heart is I want you to turn to this Psalm and as I have examined it I have separated it into different categories of what a lifestyle is which seeks God and serves God with wholeness of heart so that you can identify that the finger of God is pointing towards you and saying this man served me with all of his heart. It looks like this. It is the infallible expression. This is the no counterfeit dollar bill. This is true gold tried in the fire made given by Christ the hidden manna. This is everlasting life and a lifestyle. So we are going to look at this as he describes his soul, his heart, his love, as he described his longings, his panting, as he describes what his mouth is doing, his tongue, his declarations, what his determinations are, his confidence, his oaths, what his feet are doing, how he is running, and what his ways, his fear, his zeal towards those things he teaches, and the disciplines by which he mediates on those things. His fervent zeal, anguish, grief, his weeping, his horror, his awe, his peace, his testimonies, his sweetness, his rejoicing, his inward feelings of prosperity, that he is the richest man in the world. His utter and unexplainable satisfaction in Christ and that is what that means. No covetousness.

I have no want literally, Ps 23:1 and last of all brethren, his discipline, what he does during the day what he does during the night, what he does in the morning, what he does all day; it is all in this Psalm so I am going to ask you again in the name of the LORD Jesus Christ the king of our salvation who purchased you by His blood “Do you wholeheartedly pursue God?” Examine yourself.

1. His soul, heart, love

* Vs 20 *He says my soul breaketh for the longing that it has unto Thy judgments at all times.* My soul breaketh for longing he says. That is an evidence of love.

* Vs 25 *my soul cleaveth unto the dust. Quicken Thou me according to Thy WORD.* A lifestyle of wholehearted pursuit of God. That is going to happen over and over again, more and more and more.

* V 28 *my soul melteth for heaviness strengthen Thou me according to Thy WORD.*

* Vs 81 *my soul fainteth for Thy salvation but I hope in Thy WORD.* Are you doing that? The LORD never said it was without conflict. He never said your salvation is without enemies. He never said your salvation is without narrowness or straightness and without the need of preparation or armor.

* Vs 36 *he prays incline my heart unto Thy testimonies and not to covetousness.*

* Vs 32 *I will run in the way of Thy commandments when Thou shalt enlarge my heart.*

Vs 37 *and I will delight myself in Ty commandments which I have loved.*

Vs 167 *my soul hath kept Thy testimonies and I love them exceedingly.*

Vs 174 *I have longed for Thy salvation oh LORD Thy law is my delight.* That is his heart language when he feels well when he is down. That is his respirating prayer life to God his soul his heart his love.

2. In Conflict, in Difficulty, in Seeking after God. Look at his longing and panting. I addressed a few of these verses already.

* Vs 40 *behold I have longed after Thy precepts quicken me in Thy righteousness.* You see he is very convicted over sin. He is very aware of what righteousness is. He is very careful about his conscience as a man of God once said. As a man of God once said to love your conscience more than your standing. He is utterly obsessed with the dictations of his conscience because on that grounds he freely approaches God or is shamefully accused by Satan or the WORD of God.

* Vs 131 *I opened mine mouth and panted for I longed for Thy commandments.* This is not poetry. Do not deceive yourself God is not trying to tickle your ears. He means what He means literally. He is panting, he does pant, he will continue to pant after God. His soul language to God is as the deer panting for water. It is his life and he feels that without that precious cup of salvation overflowing he will die. Do you have that? Is it real? Is it real?

3. **His Eyes.** Look at the eyes, what the eyes of this man of God are doing.

* Vs 18 *open Thou mine eyes that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law.* He knows that God is the source of knowledge, growth, learning, doctrine. It is not philosophies of man, the idols of intelligence, the world of academia, classroom Christianity. God is like chemistry mentality. He says *open Thou mine eyes.* He is not talking about his carnal eyes. Spiritual eyes. Spiritual light, water, manna, riches, prosperity, Spiritual battles, enemies, Spiritual feelings in a Spiritual ecosystems, in a Spiritual world of life and death, cause and consequence, vision and goals, a living God to walk with and stay near to. So open Thou mine eyes, is that your cry? If you're seeking God with all your heart it will be your cry, your respiration, your breathing to God.

* Vs 82 *Mine eyes fail for Thy WORD saying when wilt Thou comfort me.* He is not going to something else. He is not going to eat and drink and rise up to play. He is not satisfied with the dazzling entertainment of this carnal finite world. He is not replacing the joy of the Holy Spirit with entertainment as Ravenhill once said.

* Vs. 30 *I have chosen the way of Truth; Thy judgments have I laid before me.* Praise God. It is right before his eyes: the WORD of God. In it doth he meditate day and night and he is like a tree planted by the streams of water whose fruit never fails. You see that. Christian when your coworkers ask what you do on this weekend. I was in the outer space undiscoverable alien treasures of heaven in my Bible with the living God brooding upon my finite chest. Is that what you think about the Bible? It is laid before his eyes. **You will never get tired of looking into it, this window into eternity, this mirror that reflects the image of God. This description, this living light, this WORD, this lamp to your feet that guides your pathways in darkness, this hope, this refuge that you run into, that you hide in, that hides you from the strife of tongues. The WORD of God. It is laid before their eyes brethren. It is laid before their eyes.**

* Vs 37: and this is his cry: *Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity quicken Thou me in Thy way.*

4. **His Mouth, Tongue, and Declarations**

* Vs 13: *With my lips have I declared all the judgments of Thy mouth.* The Scripture says the righteous are bold as lion.

* Vs 171-172 *My lips shall utter praise when Thou hast taught me Thy statutes. My tongue shall speak of Thy WORDS for all of Thy commandments are righteousness.* You see he just is endlessly enjoying confessing the name of God. He is endlessly enjoying praising God. He is being satisfied by the fruit from his own lips. His belly is being filled. His bones are filled with marrow and navel full of life. Why? Because the river of water of life that is coming from his inner most belly which is controlling that unruly member the tongue and his religion is pure and undefiled in His sight. Rivers of living Water. It is alive. It is alive. It is as staggering and amazing as seeing a dead rock that is 16 ft tall and 20 ft wide crack in half and burst open with this enormous flood of water in a desert wilderness making rivers causing all of Israel to skip happily in its waters and feed their flocks and give satisfaction to the people. That is Christianity. The wealth of an unending spring, springing up into eternal life continually. Ho every one that thirsty come ye to the waters. Come ye to the waters. Come buy and drink. So his mouth is desiring, overwhelmed by, amazed over true Spirit-filled Holy Ghost inspired

confession and praises to God. It is not dead religion. 1 Cor 12 says no man can say Jesus is LORD but by the Holy Ghost and that means in Truth brethren. He is *my* LORD. Spirit of faith come down and witness with the blood. God has to do it and when God is confessing it through you brethren it is the most otherworldly and satisfying experience. The WORD of faith which is nigh to thee on thy tongue coming out of thy tongue giving life to you and your hearers. You will never grow tired of it. Never. With all the ages of eternity. This is what his lips are doing. This is what his mouth is obsessed with doing.

* Vs 57: *Thou art my portion ob LORD I have said I will keep Thy WORDS* By vows even he is just utterly devoted to God. He has burned every bridge. There is not one doubtful disputation in his mind about this thing or that thing. He is just completely fixed upon the high way of God. He burned all the bridges. I have said LORD “give me this undying wealth”. I have said it. And you know it was true. Brethren if you would just pray this way God would hear your prayers if you pray it in truth you would be the richest man in the world.

* Vs 26: *I have declared my ways and Thou heardest me. Teach me Thy statutes.*

* Vs 43: *Take not the WORD of Truth utterly out of my mouth for I have hoped in Thy judgments* You see. It is not a dead religion it is not a study of creeds. It is not some 325 confession that you study. This is a living vital reality with Jesus Christ and he knows God can take it out of his mouth when God puts it in there .What is your mouth doing all day every day?

* Vs 27::*Make me to understand the way of Thy precepts so shall I talk of Thy wondrous works.*

* Vs 46: *I will speak of Thy testimonies also before kings and will not be ashamed.* You know what it means even if it would cost me my life; kings have the power to kill. They don’t like the WORD of God usually. I will not be ashamed; that is what he says. I will not love my life unto death; that is what he is saying. What is his determinations, confidence. his oaths.

* Vs 44: *So shall I keep Thy law continually forever and ever.*

* Vs 33: *teach me ob LORD the way of Thy statutes and I shall keep it until the end.*

Vs 34: *Give me understanding and I shall keep Thy law yea I shall observe it with my whole heart.* Can you say that?

* vs 8 *I will keep Thy statutes* you can hear his cry. *Forsake me not utterly* is his cry. It is not some monotonous monotone; he is burdened, loves God, is fighting.

* Vs 30: *I have chosen Thy way of Truth Thy judgments I have before me.*

* Vs 94: *I am Thine save me for I have sought Thy precepts.*

* Vs 106 *I have sworn I will perform it that I will keep Thy righteous judgments.*

5. **His Feet, Running, and Ways.** What are his feet doing? How is he running? What are his ways?

* Vs 32 *I will run in the way of His commandments.* It is not poetry. It means he is going to exert and utterly expend the energy of his life in the commandments of God. It means it is the primary direction of all of his life. It is a life style.

* Vs 3 *They also do no iniquity. They shall walk in His ways.*

* Vs 5 *Oh that mine ways were directed to keep Thy statutes.* He is not proud. He knows it is of God through God to God.

* Vs 123 with great confidence and with great oaths and yet with great humility and baseness he confesses: *Mine eyes fail for Thy salvation for the WORD of Thy righteousness.*

* Vs 101 *I have refrained my feet from every evil way that I might keep Thy WORD.*

* Vs 105 *Thy WORD is a lamp unto my feet and a Light unto my path.*

* Vs 133 *Order my steps in Thy WORD and let not iniquity have dominion over me*

* Vs 168 *I have kept Thy precepts and Thy testimonies for all my ways are before Thee.*

6. **His Meditations.** What kind of meditations does he have? What kind of means is he taking so that he would never forget this lifestyle of wholehearted seeking after God.

* Vs 16: *I will delight myself in Thy statutes. I will not forget Thy WORD.* How can he say that? Brethren he has familiarized himself with the ways of God and in that way is a refuge of safety and confidence. This is Holy Spirit inspired boldness before God that can only be granted to quicken you if you have learned His ways.

* Vs 48: *My hands also will I lift up unto Thy commandments which I have loved. I will meditate on Thy statutes.* Meditate upon them thinking continually about them.

* Vs 93: *I will never forget Thy precepts for with them Thou hast quickened me.* Those things which God has made alive to you never forget. Make journals going over it, write it, add to it, and preach it to everyone under the sun. You will never forget it. If you do not do that you will remember the world. You will start looking back and you will disdain Christ as if He is some light manna before your eyes. It will happen.

*Vs 153 *consider mine affliction and deliver me for I do not forget Thy law.*

7. **His Emotional Experiences.** Finally brethren his emotional experiences in a lifestyle of wholeheartedly seeking after God.

His fear.

* Vs 38 *stablish Thy WORDS to Thy servant who is devoted to Thy fear.*

* Vs 120: *my flesh trembleth for fear of Thee. I am afraid of Thy judgments.* Can you say that?

His horror.

* Vs 53 *Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake Thy law.*

His weeping.

* Vs 136 *Rivers of water run down mine eyes because they keep not Thy law.*

His zeal.

* Vs 139 *My zeal hath consumed me because mine enemies have forgotten Thy WORDS.*

His anguish.

* Vs 143 *Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me yet Thy commandments are my delight.*

His grief.

* Vs 158 *I beheld the transgressors and was grieved because they kept not Thy WORD.* Brethren if you walk with God you are going to pray. And prayer is going to be life. These emotions drive you to pray to God, to meet with God, to seek God, to desire God, to obey God. This what He does to your soul as you wholeheartedly seek after Him. His grief at the transgressors.

His awe.

* Vs 161. *Princes have persecuted me without a cause but my heart standeth in awe about Thy WORD.* There is no rivaling influence or comparable royalty or decree of any government of any earthly significance that can compare to the grip of the darling affection that you have standing in awe of the heavenly courtroom of your great King. It is His law you love. You fear, you obey, as seeing Him who is invisible. It is real brethren. It humiliates, disdains, makes your royalty as the dung of the earth. It is real; that is what it does to your heart. My heart standeth in awe of Thy WORD even when every king of the earth goes hand in hand against me and against Christ.

His peace.

* Vs 165 *Great peace he says have they which love Thy law and nothing shall offend them. Nothing.* God giveth God taketh away. Blessed be the Name of the LORD.

His Sweetness

* Vs 103: *the sweetness of God How sweet are Thy WORDS unto my taste. Yea sweeter than honey to my mouth.* Brethren this was not a generation where there were factories flooding this world with chocolates,

candy bars, and sodas, everything you could imagine that to you tastes better than honey. Brethren in those day there was nothing better than honey. There was nothing sweeter than honey. And if you had some honey you were rejoicing. It is an unforgettable experience to a poor man. It was something that dazzled your taste buds like nothing else. That is what he is talking about. He is saying there is nothing greater sweeter than Your WORD that makes my face shine that makes me happier. Sweetness of God's WORD.

The riches of God's WORD.

* Vs 119:72 *the law of Thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.*

* Vs 111: *Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage forever for they are the rejoicing of mine heart.*

* Vs 127-128 *Therefore I love Thy commandments above gold yea more than fine gold. Therefore I esteem all Thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.*

* Vs 62: *I rejoiced at Thy WORD as one that findeth great spoils.* Brethren the heathen do continually mind and seek after riches and when they have it they are rejoicing with a kind of praise that can't be compared to much in the whole earth as an emotional expression, what they do when they have a lot of money. God says this man says about his experience with God as if it is greater than all. It cannot be compared. Above gold, above when a heathen man find great spoil, above much gold and silver. He says though the whole world of nature mine it were a gift too small to give back to God. It is nothing. It is done. *What things were gain to me those I counted loss for Christ doubtless I count all things but lost compared to the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my LORD for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and do count them but dung that I may win Christ.*

8. His Discipline. Finally brethren his discipline: his time spent, what he does in the morning, what he does all day.

* Vs 147 *He says I prevented the dawning of the morning and cried I hoped in Thy WORD.* That is what he says. Before dawn he was crying out. He was hoping in God's WORD.

* Vs 97 *What did he do during the day? oh how I love Thy law; it is my meditation all the day.*

* Vs 164 *seven times a day do I praise Thee because of Thy righteous judgments.* What does he do in the nights?

* Vs 55 *I have remembered Thy name oh LORD in the nights and have kept Thy law.*

* Vs 62 *At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto The because of Thy righteous judgments.*

* Vs 148 *Mine eyes prevent the night watches that I might meditate on Thy WORD.*

Brethren what this should mean to you the lifestyle of seeking God with all of your heart, that means that if you comprehend what it means to be abounding in fruit, to be experientially walking in the salvation of God ,evidenced by fruits, knowing what those are, you would find yourself in a daily conflict with the world with your vile body of death with false prophets with satanic forces of evil

which are called the powers and the principalities or the air and in your endeavor to keep the commandments of God, you will be pressed with the same kind of emotional surges, disciplinary actions, and rising up at nights. You would be speaking His judgments declaring them praising God about them 7 times and it is not because you are keeping some kind of rule or law but the vital reality that you have with God is causing your life to overflow in this expression. It means you cannot help but praise God and be grieved over transgressors forsaking His law and be horrified over all the lost souls and it will drive you to pray for your kids even though they are lost and just cry out for sinners. It causes you to seek after God that the general tenor of your whole life would be identified with the real Biblical representation of men that wholeheartedly pursue after God.

To me it kept me alive when I was scattered on the hills brethren; these things kept me alive. I said I do not know about that guy, about his Christianity, or what God he is serving. I know what this man is talking about! And I am going to stay with him. So the question that I presented before you brethren, before we studied Ps 119 is “by what terms do you recognize salvation?” And after reading that Psalm one could ask you “by what lifestyle do you recognize salvation?” The reason this is important brethren is because the theological system of Calvinism has caused people to be confident of their salvation in an unGodly way to where they fail to even see the need to study what salvation is and its identifiable fruits as a regenerated man. **They know the aspect of regeneration very well and what I mean by that is the straight gate, initial conversion, but they don't know the narrow way. And they don't know the narrow way and they don't know the fruits of the lifestyle of those who are keeping saving faith and how to identify them and what Scriptures are revealing them and so there is a general breakdown of accountability of the prayer of Phil 1:9-11, the burden of Jesus Christ in Rev 2-3 so there is a slow but subtle redefinition of all the experience of regenerated Christianity so that you are being conformed to worldly wisdom instead of God's faith, devilish faith instead of God's faith, sensual and earthly devilish wisdom instead of God's wisdom, and the result of that is that the most beloved apple of God's eyes, the pure and spotless bride of Jesus Christ, who has been espoused by God the Father, the most valuable Spiritual organism that exists in all of the earth, is being ravaged, destroyed, allured into an adulteress relationship with the world. And there is no crime being named.** And so not only is this a message brethren about a need for us to keep ourselves accountable but this a message of which we should acquaint ourselves and prepare ourselves against the time to come when we approach a conflict with the brethren who think that they do not need to hear about any of this.

John Wesley was not a Calvinist and he wrote something in a sermon titled “The Great Privilege of Christians” The great privilege of those who are born of God and in that sermon he described the process by which regenerated individuals go from saving grace to sin. That idea right there people have no idea generally speaking. The Calvinistic remnant knows very well what it is to go from sin to grace at conversion but to go from grace to sin, that process and progress of that experience they do not know. They do not have any Biblical concept of the idea. Though it is the vast majority burden of the pastoral work of every minister of God in the Scriptures. I want to read this to you. It is so edifying. His eyes were opened up to it because he believed that this can happen to him. That is why he with diligence sought it out. That is why he examined himself in these regards. That is why he was burdened about writing, about preaching about it. Now later in his theological maturity you could say which is into heresy later he got into issues of sinless perfection. It was not really sinless perfection. He redefined sin. It is very confusing the way he does it. I do not

want to get into all of that but this sermon is not addressing that. Now it may be the groundwork of him eventually going to some conclusions, certain ideas in this sermon, but that is only important to you if you are aware of this situation with John Wesley. It is pure and true, Godly, and I want to read it to you because you need to consider this. What does it look like? What does it feel like to go from grace to sin? He uses 2 examples David and Peter.

8. To explain this by a particular instance: David was born of God, and saw God by faith. He loved God in sincerity. He could truly say, "Whom have I in heaven but thee and there is none upon earth," neither person nor thing, "that I desire in comparison of thee." But still there remained in his heart that corruption of nature, which is the seed of all evil.

"He was walking upon the roof of his house," (2 Sam. 11:2,) probably praising the God whom his soul loved, when he looked down, and saw Bathsheba. He felt a temptation; a thought which tended to evil. The Spirit of God did not fail to convince him of this. He doubtless heard and knew the warning voice; but he yielded in some measure to the thought, and the temptation began to prevail over him. Hereby his spirit was sullied; he saw God still; but it was more dimly than before. He loved God still; but not in the same degree; not with the same strength and ardor of affection. Yet God checked him again, though his spirit was grieved; and his voice, though fainter and fainter, still whispered, "Sin lieth at the door; look unto me, and be thou saved." But he would not hear: He looked again, not unto God, but unto the forbidden object, till nature was superior to grace, and kindled lust in his soul.

The eye of his mind was now closed again, and God vanished out of his sight. Faith, the divine, supernatural intercourse with God, and the love of God, ceased together: He then rushed on as a horse into the battle, and knowingly committed the outward sin.

9. You see the unquestionable progress from grace to sin: Thus it goes on, from step to step. (1.) The divine seed of loving, conquering faith, remains in him that is born of God. "He keepeth himself," by the grace of God, and "cannot commit sin." (2.) A temptation arises; whether from the world, the flesh, or the devil, it matters not. (3.) The Spirit of God gives him warning that sin is near, and bids him more abundantly watch unto prayer. (4.) He gives way, in some degree, to the temptation, which now begins to grow pleasing to him. (5.) The Holy Spirit is grieved; his faith is weakened; and his love of God grows cold. (6.) The Spirit reproves him more sharply, and saith, "This is the way; walk thou in it." (7.) He turns away from the painful voice of God, and listens to the pleasing voice of the tempter. (8.) Evil desire begins and spreads in his soul, till faith and love vanish away: He is then capable of committing outward sin, the power of the Lord being departed from him.

10. To explain this by another instance: The Apostle Peter was full of faith and of the Holy Ghost; and hereby keeping himself, he had a conscience void of offence toward God and toward man.

Walking thus in simplicity and Godly sincerity, "before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles," knowing that what God had cleansed was not common or unclean.

But "when they were come," a temptation arose in his heart, "to fear those of the circumcision," (the Jewish converts, who were zealous for circumcision and the other rites of the Mosaic law,) and regard the favour and praise of these men, more than the praise of God.

He was warned by the Spirit that sin was near: Nevertheless, he yielded to it in some degree, even to sinful fear of man, and his faith and love were proportionally weakened.

God reproved him again for giving place to the devil. Yet he would not hearken to the voice of his Shepherd; but gave himself up to that slavish fear, and thereby quenched the Spirit.

Then God disappeared, and, faith and love being extinct, he committed the outward sin. Walking not uprightly, not "according to the truth of the gospel," he "separated himself" from his Christian brethren, and by his evil example, if not advice also, "compelled even the Gentiles to live after the manner of the Jews;" to entangle themselves again with that "yoke of bondage," from which "Christ had set them free."

So John Wesley concludes you can see he has a very clear concept of how to keep saving faith in a real living experiential God who is grieved over and convicts of sin and who leads us into righteousness .He knew how to walk with God. So he says this concerning the means of grace which are greatly disdained. He says:

Let us learn, Lastly, to follow that direction of the great Apostle, "Be not high-minded, but fear." Let us fear sin, more than death or hell. Let us have a jealous (though not painful) fear, lest we should lean to our own deceitful hearts. "Let him that standeth take heed lest he fall." Even he who now standeth fast in the grace of God, in the faith that overcometh the world, may nevertheless fall into inward sin, and thereby "make shipwreck of his faith." And how easily then will outward sin regain its dominion over him! Thou, therefore, O man of God! watch always; that thou mayest always hear the voice of God! Watch, that thou mayest pray without ceasing, at all times, and in all places, pouring out thy heart before him! So shalt thou always believe, and always love, and never commit sin.

That is in the sense of apostasy, damnable sin, going from grace to sin in lifestyle. Brethren in the light of all of this, the burden of the hour for God's regenerated people scattered on the hills and deceived by heresies is that we need to agree on what salvation is. What it is at conversion to go from sin to grace what it is after conversion to go from grace to sin and then identifiable certain fruits of what it is for a man to keep the narrow way and a saving relationship with Jesus Christ, in other words, loving and seeking Him with all of your heart. Wholehearted pursuit of God looks like Ps 119 in lifestyle. That is the burden of the hour and it can be renamed and rephrased by thousands of Biblical phrases and expressions which are identifying the exact same thing, and exhaustive address of the exact same situation.

4. A Caution to be Careful, a Caution not to have ungodly Simplicity

And when your heart has acquainted itself with this standard of grace that the Scriptures put forth as the only expression of Christianity you are going to need encouragement because it going to take all that you have got to fight this fight and you are going to need everyone God has given you, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and all the brethren that are with and in Him. You are going to need

them with all of their gifts, all of their glowing flaming coals from the altar, exhortations, all of their prayers. You are going to need to confess your faults and get on your knees and hear what your brethren are learning of God and bask in the glory of His grace just hand-in-hand, shoulder-to-shoulder speaking about the things of the fear of God, having a deep sense that a book is being written in remembrance of it. You are going to think and feel that way and it will be the overflow of your heart. Biblical Christianity will not be a rule book; it will be a confirming voice saying “the Spirit and the blood are Thine” because it is in your heart; it is written in the tablet of your heart; it is your lifestyle and you are going to be able to defend yourself from the false prophets. No matter how fair a speech a man gives you are going to be able to defend yourselves saying that that is not the grace of God. And along the way brethren you are going to stagger. It says in Rom 4 that *Abraham staggered not in unbelief but was strong in faith giving glory to God* but when you study the book of Genesis brethren he staggered in various ways. He staggered in investing his hope in something that would fail him: Ishmael/Hagar, the work of the flesh. He staggered in believing that his imagination of what salvation would look like was taken. Some of the ways that we can stagger are that the devil will make us trust in our feelings instead of the WORD of God. He felt alone. He felt outnumbered. He literally called himself a wanderer. This is how it felt when the priest of Melchizedek came to him in the name of God. He did not feel that way then after he built those altars and the voice from heaven spoke to him and enlarged the Gospel of grace to him; he did not feel that way then. He did not feel that way when God came to him in an angel’s body most likely with two other angels and he washed his feet and fed him. He did not feel that way then. But brother sister. In between those times he struggled. He staggered many times. Sometimes his wife spoke up and God said “*hearken unto the voice of thy wife.*” Other times God spoke up and said “*from thine own bowels shall thy seed be*”. And other times he built altars and cried out to God because he needed to because he did not know what to do, where to go, how to go on, how to fulfill the promise of God. He did not feel strong enough to do it. He asked “how shall I do it?” God told him “God will tell you”. The end of the grace of God in their lives and the present renewing power of that grace is that he was non-staggering but in the process of walking with, God fleeing from sin, he staggered many times but none of his sin shall be mentioned. None of it is because a righteous man falleth seven times and getteth back up again and all those seven falls that he had are not mentioned in the courtroom of heaven. None of his sins or his iniquities are remembered any more as Heb 10 says. Abraham staggered but he is written of in Rom 4 as one who staggered not because brother sister God was his faith and God authored it and God finished it and God says look at him and says *look at Me I will finish your faith*. Cast not away your confidence brethren which hath great recompense of reward but gird up the loins of your mind. Be sober hoping to the end for the grace that shall be brought to you at the appearing of Jesus Christ. **Brother sister no one who has agreed upon this salvation has been free from exercise, fighting fears within and without, and troubles at times. No one who continues to seek after God and call upon God ever ceases to be amazed at the appearance of His empowering grace over your lives. Salvation did not begin continue or end with you. You did not author it. You cannot finish it. You cannot change it. But God can and He is the Master Surgeon, the softener of your heart. He is the one who follows you everywhere you go saying “follow Me”.**

Ps 31:15-24 is an expression of this amazing grace. That if you're going to make it to the end it is by amazing grace. Agree upon the standard of salvation yes but you are not going to meet that standard except by an amazing grace. And it will never stop amazing you brethren if you are attaining it. Amazing grace Ps 31:15-24 “*15 My times are in Thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine*

enemies, and from them that persecute me.16 Make Thy face to shine upon Thy servant: save me for Thy mercies' sake.17 Let me not be ashamed, O Lord; for I have called upon Thee: let the wicked be ashamed, and let them be silent in the grave.18 Let the lying lips be put to silence; which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous.19 Oh how great is Thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear Thee; which Thou hast wrought for them that trust in Thee before the sons of men!20 Thou shalt hide them in the secret of Thy presence from the pride of man: Thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.21 Blessed be the Lord: for He hath shewed me His marvellous kindness in a strong city. [Why?] 22 For I said in my haste, I am cut off from before Thine eyes: nevertheless Thou heardest the voice of my supplications when I cried unto Thee.23 O love the Lord, [as a result] all ye His saints: for the Lord preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.24 Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.”

Now brethren King David was another man that staggered not in faith. None of his sins are remembered. Jesus Christ Himself is called after His name. He is so beloved of God, is so esteemed. If you read the Psalms he is often feeling under the wrath of God and he is and he has been falling short of the standard of which the covenant is calling to of grace but brother sister he was a man that sought after God with all of his heart and it was not like he felt like he could save himself or that he could meet this standard or do something better than other men or anything of his imaginations, the thoughts of his mind, of the plans that he had which the arm of flesh was leading him to believe that he could confidently make it. **But brother sister he knew something about the amazing grace of God. He knew something that it was great enough, vast enough, rich enough, mysterious enough, to change him, persevere him, restore him, surprise him.** And he did say “*I am cut off from before Thee*” on more than one occasion but he said “*when I cried out to God He heard me*”. He heard me. Could you see him now standing before the Israelites in a great congregation in the city of Jerusalem going through the whole story. I said I was cut off and then I went out to this place in the night and I was there crying out to God and brother He heard me and He has shown me that he will hear you too. Be of great courage strengthen your heart all ye who hope in the LORD. Just call upon Him. He got so used to His senses being amazed by the appearance of grace in his life that he just started confidently declaring “*I shall take the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the LORD. Now know I that the LORD saveth His anointed. He shall save with the saving strength of His right arm.*” He did not know that. He learned it. He knew it once at salvation. He had to continually renew it and relearn it. Deeper and deeper I go with God into the blood of Christ brethren.

Deut 30 is that chapter which comprehensively addresses the doctrines of loving God with all your heart: Spiritual circumcision, obedience to God with all your heart, turning to God with all your heart, cleaving to God with all your heart. Obedience is in vs 2. Heart circumcision is in vs 6. Turning to God is in vs 10. Cleaving to God is in vs 20. It is all in Deut 30. All of your heart. Rom 10 quotes some passages from Deut 30. Brother sister do you want to obey God with all your heart, to turn to God with all your heart, to cleave to God with all your heart, to love God with all your heart? God has something to say about that. He tells us about it in Romans ch 10. In Romans ch 10 he quotes from Deut ch 30 and it is a very mysterious passage. Put your finger in Rom 10 and go to Deut 30. God would not command us to love, seek, turn to, walk with Him with all of our hearts without laying before us the doorway of grace that we might freely walk into. He would not do that. He says *come turn to Me all ye which labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest for your souls.* Deut 30:12-14 speaking of the commandment which is a summary he says “*12 It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go*

up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may bear it, and do it?13 Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may bear it, and do it?14 But the WORD is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.” Now that may appear very mysterious to you brethren. Turn to Rom 10. Paul opens up the chapter in vs 1 denouncing the zeal without knowledge of the unconverted Jews and then he leads the people unto a true experience of righteousness which is much more simple, mysterious, and free than anything that you could fathomable or imagine that some work can contrive. There is nothing you can do in other words; that is his argument. I have spent the majority of this sermon brethren putting before you the standard experience of saving grace which is obtained without works entirely by faith which is as simple as what a child could do which is as easy to do as looking. It is something that you could do without cognizant thought by hoping. Salvation so near so mysteriously easy that in Deut 30 he is arguing that you do not have to go anywhere. It is in you. That is what he is arguing and Rom 10 interprets that for us. Vs 1 *“Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.5 For Moses describes the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:.)7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)8 But what saith it? The WORD is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the WORD of faith, which we preach;”*

What he is saying is that *if thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus is LORD and shall believe in thy heart that God hath raised Him from the dead thou shalt be saved. With the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture saith whosoever believeth on Him should not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jews and the Greek for the same LORD over all is rich unto all who calls upon him. Whosoever shall call upon the name of the LORD shall be saved.* Brother sister that is the great liberty of a Christian, that God is near you, He is inside of you, all around you. So if all the holy angels and the infinite wealth of the riches of His wisdom, kingdom, the unending powers of the WORD of faith which he put inside of you, the seed which is an undying love, by which you might fervently love your brethren all your days, brethren, the entire investment of all blessings of heaven have been invested inside of you so that it is as simple, though we would be inclined to have an unrighteous reaction against the false prophets' statement of fact preaching to everyone whosoever calls upon the name of the LORD shall be saved statement of fact but brother sister, everything I preached today, the actual definition of salvation in truth, if you call upon the name of the LORD, you shall be saved. It is that easy. It is that easy. It is sure. That is the means of grace. Not now know I that the ye LORD saved another now know I that the LORD saveth you and you and me. Just as I am without one plea but that Thy God has died for me. That is what David was saying in Ps 31 That is why I read the passage it is an OT rendition of Deut 30 and Rom 10. **David's great amazing expression of how he was saved was that he called upon the LOD. He thought he was cut off and could not make it. He felt and experienced a lot of things but he called on the name of the LORD and he was saved. God heard him. Salvation is in you. It is a Person. It is on the edge of your tongue brother sister. Do not be deceived by the false prophets. Reconcile yourself with the standard of grace for salvation as the Bible defines it and then approach the throne of grace and He will help you. It is all free. It is all done. No work of mine.**