



## Part 10: The Lord is your Life

### Deuteronomy 30:1-6, 19-20b

*God calls us to love Him from the very core of our being, flowing out to every part of our lives because “the Lord is your life.”*

#### **Rewiring of the heart – *levav/lev***

- Deuteronomy 30:1-2, Context: Moses is expecting that the Israelites will break the covenant relationship with God and the curses (Deuteronomy 28) will come upon them and they will be dispersed to the nations. But thankfully this is not the end of the Israelite’s story. God is not done with them because in His love and compassion He will gather them again and restore them back to the land and in relationship with Him.
- Heart – 25x in Deuteronomy – heart (*levav*) is the very core of a person, representing the center of the mind, body, feelings, and desires.
- Deuteronomy 30:6, “circumcise your hearts” 4x in scripture: 2x in Deuteronomy, 1x in Jeremiah, 1x in Romans. Circumcision was a physical sign of Israel’s relational covenant with God; therefore, circumcision of the heart would indicate Israel being set apart to love God from the core of their being, inside and out.
- Deuteronomy 10:15-16, “circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer.” The difference between Deuteronomy 10 and 30 is that in chapter 10, the command is for the people to align their inward attitude in outward obedience in allegiance to God. In Deuteronomy 30, it is God who will circumcise their hearts and align their inward attitude into allegiance to God.
- A new heart – echoed in the prophetic hope of Ezekiel 36:24-27.

#### **How do we live from a new heart?**

“There are two ways to live the Christian life. You can live it either for the heart of Christ or from the heart of Christ. You can live for the smile of God or from it. For a new identity as a son or daughter of God or from it. For your union with Christ or from it. The battle of

the Christian life is to bring your own heart into alignment with Christ's." –*Gentle and Lowly* by Dane Ortlund

### Rhythm of Works vs. Rhythm of Grace



#### Rhythm of Work (not of God)

- The slippery slope of humanity as seen in many ideologies and many different religions is to earn our way by what we do.
- Fruitfulness – we start with what we do.
- Significance – from what we do we find our sense of value and worth.
- Sustenance – and this is what feeds our soul. How does your soul respond when you have been let go or a project does not come through?
- Acceptance – and leads us to acceptance with God.

#### Rhythm of Grace (God's way of life)

- Acceptance – starts with the heart of God. God refers to the Israelites as His treasured possessions, even His inheritance. He says He did not choose them because they were more numerous or more righteous, He chose them because He loved them, Deuteronomy 7:7-8, 30:3; 1 John 4:19.

“He isn’t like you. Even the most intense of human love is but the faintest echo of heaven’s cascading abundance. His heartfelt thoughts for you outstrip what you can conceive. He intends to restore you into the radiant resplendence for which you were created. And that is dependent not on you keeping yourself clean but on you taking your mess to him. He doesn’t limit himself to working with the unspoiled parts of us that remain after a lifetime of sinning. His power runs so deep that he is able to redeem the very worst parts of our past into the most radiant parts of our future.”

–*Gentle and Lowly* by Dane Ortlund

- Sustenance – just as food gives you strength and nourishment, God’s acceptance and love gives you strength and nourishment. It is God’s acceptance and sustenance that sustains you, holds you, and gives you life.
- Significance – and from God’s love and acceptance, His sustaining presence, we find significance, our sense of value and worth. It is important to note that our significance comes not from what we do but from God’s love and what He has done for us. God still desires for us to be obedient to Him because that is the very best for us and as one who is loved.
- Fruitfulness – And from acceptance and love, sustained by Him, finding our significance in Him, we then are fruitful. God want us

to bear fruit. John 15:5, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

### **Discussion Questions**

- How did God give you a new heart? Was it instantaneous or a process? Did God use certain people in your life?
- Do you find it difficult to live from a new heart?
- As you reflect on a Rhythm of Works vs. a Rhythm of Grace, what stands out to you? What helps you live from a Rhythm of Grace?