

Synchronizing the Heart for Effective Labor

Sunday Morning, September 3, 2017

As many of you know, five years ago, this summer, I suffered from 3 major heart attacks that left only 50% of my heart. The damage to my heart left my heart unable to synchronize the blood pumping process. I now have a permanent uncoordinated heartbeat known as ventricular fibrillation. Also, five years ago on this Labor Day weekend I preached my first message after the Doctor had implanted a cardio re-stabilization therapy defibrillator (CRT-D) that can shock my heart back into a normal rhythm, and synchronize it and slow the pace of it, to allow it not to overwork. As a result of the permanent damage to my heart, my physical heart does not allow for much effective physical labor. Although, it would be great to have an undamaged heart that allowed me to labor more easily physically, I am much more concerned with keeping my spiritual heart healthy and laboring for the Lord. All of us need to take time to ask ourselves some questions that will help us to synchronize our own hearts for effective labor for the Lord.

There are 4 questions that we can ask ourselves to help with the evaluation process.

The first one is: Is our heart open to obeying the Word of God?

Let's turn to our first passage of scripture in **(James 1: 22 – 25)**

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror;

24 for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was.

25 But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

The second one is: Is our heart generating good works?

Now look over at our next passage of scripture in **(James 2: 14 – 23)**

14 What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food,

16 and one of you says to them, “Depart in peace, be warmed and filled,” but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit?

17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

18 But someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

19 You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe & tremble!

20 But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar?

22 Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?

23 And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” And he was called the friend of God.

The third one is: Is our heart laboring for the Lord with all its strength?

Remember the command of the Lord given to the Israelites in **(Deuteronomy 6: 4-5)**?

4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!

5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Jesus taught this same command in **(Matthew 22: 35-38)**

35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying,

36 “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?”

37 Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

38 This is the first and great commandment. **2 of 3**

The 4th & final question we can ask is: **Is our heart laboring for the Lord in joy?**

Turn to **(Matthew 13: 44 – 46)**

44 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls,

46 who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

As our spiritual hearts help our physical bodies to labor in a synchronized and well-paced fashion, I want to remind you of something Paul said in **(II Thessalonians 3:13)**
But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.

If we will focus on our love relationship with God, we will not grow weary in doing good. Our hearts will be able to easily obey His Word, and do good works with all our strength. We will have joy in our labor efforts for the Lord.