

# DO NOT LOSE HEART

Teaching, Dan Townson, SCCF 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2011

## INTRODUCTION

Today, as the word is coming to you, I ask you to be sincere and real about what is actually in your heart.

### Receive the word with sincerity

I have two encouragements and they are to not lose heart, and to cleanse your heart. It is interesting that to not lose heart, you have to have your heart cleansed. As the word is coming to you, if something convicts you, take courage, receive it and your heart will be cleansed.

### Cleansed to have a pure heart

We are not to be continually going round in circles, trying to do better. As we receive the cleansing blood of Christ, we can begin to live with a pure heart. This is the purpose of the blood - to cleanse us and to give us a pure heart to worship the Lord.

Proverbs 4:23 says, 'Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life'. This gets very practical!

What makes you lose heart? When trials come along, relationships are difficult, your inner turmoil begins, do you say with the psalmist in Psalm 42:11, 'Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me?' You can hear the heart of the psalmist - knowing there is turmoil, he has lost heart. 'Why is it, my soul that you are in despair?'

### You can be free

Today, if your heart is in despair, what is it? Allow the Lord to minister to you and free you from that. You don't have to base your life around a hurt or something that continually binds you.

I want to encourage you, for we all need to endure, and to persevere in the many difficulties that will come upon us in our daily lives. In Galatians 6:9 it says, 'Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.'

### Sow, and in time you will reap

Let's apply this to the present word of the Lord to us regarding evangelism. Do not lose heart in evangelising - continue to sow the seed for in time you *will* reap. Don't lose heart when things

go wrong or when you don't feel motivated. Rather, continually give yourselves to doing good.

### Be renewed day by day

We can also withdraw or lose heart when we experience the sufferings that Christ Himself is calling us to join. Our heart can easily condemn us if we get caught up with our faults. 2Corinthians 4:16 says, 'Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day'. Verse 17 says, 'For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.'

The whole purpose of joining the sufferings of Christ, is that this will produce an eternal weight of glory within us, if we will endure, if we do not lose heart.

### Victory if we endure

Today, if you are suffering, will you take hold of this word in faith and say, 'This is for me' - even if you don't understand why it is that the Lord brings a particular suffering to you. Can you cleave to Him, wrestle it through with Him, and begin to receive the power of the blood of Christ to be your life, and know a true victory? We can know a victory if we endure!

### Do not lose heart in relationship

I want to encourage you particularly to not lose heart in relationship. In reality, we all lose heart at some stage, but this doesn't qualify or disqualify us. However, if we continually lose heart we can't move forward, so we need to acknowledge our failures, acknowledge where we've come against our brothers and sisters, then move past our hurt or offense, otherwise the blood of Christ will not be active in our lives.

We need to be continually on guard relationally. John, in his first epistle, puts it very clearly, saying, 'If you hate your brother, you abide in death.' That is simple - the word 'hate' there can mean 'detest' or 'love less'. If you love your brother less, or if you hate your brother, then you abide in death.<sup>1</sup> That's a very serious matter. However, if we receive the word today, we can know the blood of Christ cleansing us, and know a setting

<sup>11</sup> John 3:15

free relationally. The power is in the word - all we have to do is receive it, walk on, and *endure* the sufferings that will come.

### **Power to walk forward**

The blood of Christ is available to each one who will receive a 'cut' – a cut has to come. You have to humble yourself and say, 'That is for me'. When you acknowledge the fallen state of your heart, the power of Christ can touch you and you can begin to walk forward.

### **The cross at work in your life**

We can die to those things – we can 'put off' all those things that hinder us from true fellowship. This is what is meant by the 'outer man dying'.<sup>2</sup> Our outer man is decaying, but the inner man is being renewed. When it feels as if your outer man is dying, when you are going through a suffering and you see the falleness of your own heart and the pressures that come to tempt you to revert to your fallen way – then thank the Lord, because that is the old, familiar way *dying* in your mortal flesh! That is the evidence of the cross at work in your life, even though it may be painful, or hard. So, today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your heart. The word is coming to sprinkle our hearts clean but also to equip us to be ministers of the blood.

### **The field is white for harvest – go out**

Referring again to the call to evangelism, be a minister of the blood of Christ and do not lose heart if things don't go the way that you expect. Just get on and proclaim the gospel as you know it, because the Holy Spirit will quicken the hearers. I believe very much that the field is white for harvest, but we have to go out there, and evangelise. Don't lose heart when the pressures come against you.

### **Present you blameless before the Father**

We need to keep our hearts and to draw near so that our hearts can be sprinkled clean from dead works. Hebrews 10:22 says, 'Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.' When the blood is effective in our lives, it addresses so much more than the evil thoughts that we have or the bad things that we do. The cleansing power of the blood changes us, to present us holy and blameless before the Father,

without reproach, with a pure heart. This is the effect of the blood!

### **Nothing is hidden from His sight**

Hebrews 4:12 says, 'For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart'. Nothing is hidden from His sight. As the word comes to us, everything is laid bare before the Father. It goes on to say in Hebrews 4:13, 'And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.'

### **The Father knows your heart**

If you are one who keeps spiraling down in the same track and you think that no-one else understands your pain, (actually, no-one does) – take courage for the Father Himself knows your pain and as the word comes and pierces directly into your heart, the Father is wanting to see you recovered from that hurt, or from that which would hinder you.

### **Receive the cut**

The whole purpose of the word is to cut to the heart. We must not harden our heart, but receive the cut, and be sincere and say, 'Yes, I have fallen', then obey His call to move forward. If there is something that continually hinders you, or binds you to a familiar way, can you simply stop presenting yourself to that thing? This will be painful, for your flesh will continue to desire it, but if you will take heart and endure those sufferings, there is an eternal weight of glory that the Lord has for you.

The Lord does not often simply take these things away from us. We have to wrestle through these issues with the Lord.

### **Through suffering we are cleansed**

If we continue to expect that the Lord will just somehow take these hindrances away from us with no participation, and no going through the pain of the cross, then that is 'escapism'. If we claim that the Lord has done this marvelous work in our lives, but soon find ourselves returning to the same downward path, we haven't actually grasped what it means to process the matter through the cross. That is the culture of escapism, where we don't actually want to suffer for we don't realise that it is through the sufferings that we can be cleansed.

## **Exactly what you need**

Hebrews 4:15 says, 'For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things, as we are, yet without sin.' So the Lord completely knows, and understands! Although many of us do not understand each other's circumstances, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit know exactly what each one needs, which is why They bring a particular word to each one of us every day, so that you and I can change and be cleansed from our sin and live our lives with a pure heart. This is the mercy of the Father to us.

No-one else knows your heart. Proverbs 14:10 says, 'The heart knows its own bitterness [or pain] and a stranger does not share its joy.' So there will be a particular issue within your heart that only the Father knows. The word comes and it divides between soul and spirit, and has the capacity to deal with the issues of our heart - no matter how big or difficult we may think they are - the Father is toward us, His mercy is toward us to deal with these issues so that we can be fully cleansed and recovered.

Let us move forward together, being recovered and cleansed, so that the Lord would see a pure heart of offering and a desire to fellowship.

## **Free to be a son**

Jesus says, in Matthew 5:8, 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.' Proverbs 20:9 says, 'Who can say, "I have cleansed my heart, I am pure from my sin?"' We can know the reality and life of this when the power of the blood of Christ comes to our lives. Then we can begin to say, 'I've died to that sin - I am no longer bound to that and I am knowing the freedom of what it means to be a son'.

## **Draw near and participate**

James 4:7 says, 'Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts'. Let us draw near and participate, and as we do this, we are able to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth,<sup>3</sup> giving worth to all that God is doing, participating in the sufferings of Christ, and knowing a cleansing.

## **Walk in the light in fellowship**

1 John 1:7 says, 'But if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.' This is the key - we need to walk in the light together so that the blood is active amongst us, and, as Hebrews 10:35 and 36 says, 'Do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.'

<sup>3</sup>Joh 4:24