

Unite Our Hearts (subtitle: Make Our Hearts One with Yours)

Psalm 86:11 (New American Standard Bible)

*Teach me Your way, Lord;
I will walk in Your truth;
Unite my heart to fear Your name.*

Introduction

I hope my sermon title this morning will not mislead you. If you desire the united hearts among us regarding disaffiliation issue, you are correct. If you pray for one mind in our congregation on the same topic, I hear you and I encourage all of you to join me in prayer that the Lord would grant us one mind and one heart for His Kingdom not necessarily what we want. We must **pray that our hearts to be one with the heart of God**. Keep fervently praying for His will to be done. That's what I am going to talk about this morning. Our hearts to be united with the heart of God.

Content

United we stand, divided we fall. Sounds familiar? You heard that expression before. Thanks to our politicians. In fact, in the US history, many a time, beginning with Patrick Henry, people used it for their political purposes.

Did you know that Jesus also talked about 'united' and 'divided,' long before politicians, except this time, it was not political but spiritual? *Jesus said, every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and no city or house divided against itself will stand* (Matthew 12:25). Without using the word 'united,' Jesus points out the danger of any city, house, kingdom divided against itself. They will not stand. May I add 'heart' to the list? No city, no house, no kingdom, and no heart divided against itself will stand.

Of course, I am not talking about the physical heart that pumps blood out. Rather, I am talking about the heart that houses our emotions, will, and intelligence. I am going to talk about the danger of heart that is divided. 'Divided heart' is a spiritual condition where our heart and loyalty is not fully dedicated or given to the Lord. The opposite of the heart divided is the 'whole' heart or the heart 'united.'

Make Our Hearts One with Yours

Let me take you back to the days of King David. 3,000 years ago. He reigned over Israel for 40 years. He knew he was getting close to death. One thing he always wanted to do was to build the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem. For this task, he prepared the materials he needed as much as he could; masons, stones, carpenters, smiths, gold, silver, and so forth. However, that's not what the Lord wanted. *Your son Solomon will do it, the*

Lord said. So, one day David made Solomon the next king of Israel and gave him his blessings and fatherly advice for the upcoming task as follows. *As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him **wholeheartedly** and with a willing mind; for the Lord searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever* (1 Chronicles 28:9).

The expression of “wholeheartedly” or “with all heart” appears in the Scripture scores of times. Here’s one example. In Psalm 138:1, the same David prayed to the Lord, *I will give You thanks **with all my heart***. In Deuteronomy, the LORD God commands His people as this: *And you shall love the Lord your God **with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength*** (Deuteronomy 6:5). If we search for the Lord **with all our heart** and **all our soul**, we will find Him (Deuteronomy 4:29). The same Lord commands us to carefully perform His statutes and ordinances **with all our heart** and **with all our soul** (Deuteronomy 26:16).

Even Jesus said: *“You shall love the Lord your God **with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind**; and your neighbor as yourself”* (Luke 10:27). So we now understand that to worship and serve the Lord we need our heart—all of it, not in part. 100% in, not just 10%. The Bible calls such heart ‘all,’ ‘whole,’ or ‘united.’ So, please keep that in mind. The heart ‘united’ means the heart that is ‘all in.’ It is the heart condition where we put our 100% affection and devotion, time, and energy, to the Lord. That’s the heart ‘united.’ That’s what King David prayed for in today’s text. We ought to pray for the same. *Unite my heart to fear Your name, Lord.*

By the way, the Hebrew meaning for ‘united’ in today’s verse (yahad) is to **concentrate**. The heart undivided means the heart that concentrates its affections and efforts to the Lord so as to fear His name. The heart ‘concentrated,’ the heart ‘fixed,’ and the heart ‘undivided.’ The heart ‘wholly devoted’ to do God’s will. The heart that **becomes one** with that of God. David had such a heart that has become one with God’s own heart. Listen to God who testified and said, *‘I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man **after My heart**, who will do all My will.’* (Acts 13:22). We can have such a heart too. Listen to God’s promise in Jeremiah: *and **I will give them one heart** and one way, so that they will fear Me always, for their own good and for the good of their children after them* (Jeremiah 32:39).

Heart Dividers: I am going to talk about heart dividers that cause us to turn aside from following the Lord; that result in our own bad and the bad of our children (Jeremiah 32:39); that divert our attention from the Lord to lust, greed, and fleshly desires; that take away our devotion from God to others. I will identify three heart dividers. *Fear. Doubt. Anxiety.* They persistently march into our heart unless we are on guard. Some of us end up yielding them a foothold in our heart that they stay forever in our heart and bring forth prolonged detrimental effects on us, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. We become fearful, doubtful, and worrisome.

1. **Fear** (Matthew 14:25-31). Remember Peter who walked on waters? One night the disciples of Jesus were sailing in the Sea of Galilee. Jesus wasn't with them. In the middle of the night, He came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ *When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in **fear**.* ²⁷ *But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."* ²⁸ *Peter responded and said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."* ²⁹ *And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water, and came toward Jesus.* ³⁰ *But seeing the wind, he became **frightened**, and when he began to sink, he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!"* ³¹ *Immediately Jesus reached out with His hand and took hold of him, and **said** to him, "You of little faith, why did you **doubt**?"* Note Peter began to sink after he got frightened by the wind. That's what fear does to us. Sink us! We all have this problem—the problem of fear. How to handle our fears? With faith. By fixing our eyes on Jesus.
2. **Doubt** (James 1:5-8). One area we can work on in our prayer life is doubt, isn't it? We ask but we are not sure whether we will get it or not. Listen to God's Word about that: *when you ask anything from the Lord, do it in faith without doubting.* ⁶ *... for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.* ⁷ *For that person ought **not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord,*** ⁸ ***being a double-minded man**, unstable in all his ways.* Doubt causes the double-mindedness. It is the antonym of faith. Once again know the inverse relation between doubt and faith. When doubts assail our hearts, we lose faith. When faith grows, doubts disappear. The best way to take care of doubts is faith. Trust in the Lord that He will keep His promises for you, He will be with you, protect you and provide your needs.
3. **Worries** (Matthew 6:25-34). You don't need any more explanation on worries. Some of us are quite good at this 'worrying businesses' for years. We are champions! Please beware, though, how detrimental your worries are to your well-being. First, they will raise your blood pressure. Next, they will hinder you from bearing fruits in your life (I talked about it last Sunday). Third, they are evil. No wonder Jesus commands us to stop worrying about tomorrow, because each day has enough trouble of its own (Matthew 6:34). We are not created to bear more than one day's worries. An unguarded heart allows worries to march in unchecked, stay, grow, and choke your faith and trust in the Lord. Pull out all the weeds of worries in your heart. Do not allow them to stay in your heart.

How to Have a Whole Heart?

Action Points: By doing the following, you will be able to keep your heart wholly devoted to the Lord and His kingdom.

First, *consider what the Lord has done for you*. Keep reflecting on what great things God has done for you (1 Samuel 12:24). Consider how well the Lord has been treating you and your family (Psalm 119:65). The faithful God has kept His promise of peace and prosperity.

Next, *remove all idols from your heart*. Whether we admit or not, we have lots of idols in our hearts (money, fame, status, children, work, hobbies,...). It is the direct violation of the first Commandment. It is time that we removed them all from our hearts and see how God will deliver us from our troubles. Samuel the Prophet once talked to the house of Israel, saying, “If you are returning to the Lord **with all your heart**, then remove the foreign gods and the Ashtaroth from among you, and direct **your hearts** to the Lord and serve Him alone; and He will save you from the hand of the Philistines.” (1 Samuel 7:3).

Thirdly, *turn to the Lord*. In the past 40 years, many a Christian in America turned aside from following the Lord. Consider this: church attendance and evil in our society are in an inverse relationship. When the attendance is down, people of God less hear the Word of God proclaimed, consequently, more people turn aside from following God’s instructions. Our society suffers from more evils thereafter. Vice versa. Turn your heart back to the Father is God’s constant call to His people.

Conclusion

Not long ago, I spoke about the fear of the Lord is a good thing for us, for our families, and for our nation. Such good fear begins and ends with our heart. As King David prayed, let us pray to the Lord, *Unite my heart to fear Your name*. Give us a heart that is one with Yours. Amen.