

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

Psalms 86:11 (New American Standard Bible 1995)

Teach me Your way, O Lord;

I will walk in Your truth;

Unite my heart to fear Your name.

Introduction

We often hear the phrase, “United we stand, divided we fall.” Jesus said something similar: “Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste” (Matthew 12:25). And I would add: No divided heart will stand.

King David understood this. That is why he prayed: “Unite my heart to fear Your name.” That prayer is not only David’s prayer. It also must become ours.

Content

I. The Problem: A Divided Heart

Before we talk about a united heart, we must understand the danger of a divided one. A divided heart is a heart pulled in two directions. It wants God — but it also wants control. It wants heaven — but it also wants the world. James says a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways.

A divided heart is unstable. E.g., The Civil War Within. The image a **Rowing Team**. Imagine a boat where four rowers are trying to go East toward God, but three rowers are trying to go West toward their own comfort. The boat doesn't go anywhere; it just spins in circles and exhausts the crew. You see, a divided heart isn't just slow; it's exhausted. Many of you feel a deep fatigue that a vacation can't fix. That is because your fatigue isn't coming from a busy schedule; it's coming from a divided soul. You are tired because you are fighting yourself.

Many believers today are not rebellious — but their hearts are divided. They love God, but they also cling to idols. They trust God, but they also trust themselves.

Remember: a divided heart will eventually collapse under pressure. That is why David does not pray, “Strengthen my heart.” He prays instead, “**Unite my heart.**”

II. The Prayer: Unite My Heart

The Hebrew word for 'to unite' (*yahad*) here carries the idea of concentration, focus, and wholeness. So, David is saying: "Lord, gather the scattered pieces of my heart. Bring them together. Make heart united with Yours. Your heart and mine are one."

A united heart is: Focused, Undivided, and Fixed on God. A scattered heart drifts. A united heart has power. E.g., **The Magnifying Glass**. If you hold a magnifying glass over a pile of dry leaves on a sunny day, nothing happens if you keep moving it around. But the moment you unite those scattered rays into one single, unmoving point of light, you create a fire. Think of it this way: A laser can cut through steel not because it has 'more' light than a lightbulb, but because all its light is *yahad*—united in one direction. God doesn't need you to have a 'bigger' heart; He needs your heart to be a laser. A united heart can cut through any trial.

David was described as: "A man after My heart" (Acts 13:22), not a perfect man — but a whole-hearted man. And God promises in Jeremiah: "I will give them **one heart** and one way" (Jeremiah 32:39). God desires united hearts. Our hearts united with His own. One heart with God.

But how does that happen?

III. The Power That Unites the Heart: The Fear of the Lord

David connects the two: "Unite my heart **to fear Your name**." The fear of the Lord is not paralyzing terror. It is worshipful submission. It is loving surrender. It is reverent awe. E.g., **The Mountain Climber**. Imagine a climber on a sheer cliff face. He has a "fear" of the heights, but it's not a fear that makes him let go; it's a "reverent awe" for the gravity and the height that makes him **cling tighter** to the rope.

This is a great mystery: *The fear of the Lord is the death of all other fears*. It isn't a fear that makes us run *from* God; it's the awe that makes us grab onto Him as our only safety and security. When God is the biggest thing in your life, the cliff in your life doesn't look so scary. When we do not fear the Lord, we fear everything else. If we do not stand in awe of God, we stand in awe of: People, Circumstances, Opinions, Money, and the Future.

Deuteronomy 10:12 defines the fear of the Lord this way: "*To fear the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, to love Him, to serve Him with all your heart and soul.*"

Notice — fear and love are not opposites. They are partners. When we fear the Lord rightly, our hearts align with His. We will walk in His ways. We will love the Lord and serve Him willingly.

The fear of the Lord is a good thing, because it steadies the heart. Remember: you are a child of God. You are holding your loving heavenly Father's hand. You will not panic at every noise, will you?

IV. The Dividers of the Heart

If the fear of the Lord unites the heart, what divides it? I identified in the Bible three common dividers of the heart: fear, doubt, and anxiety. These dividers — fear, doubt, worry — all share one root: **Misplaced trust**. Let's talk about them one by one.

1. Fear

Remember Peter walking on the water (Matthew 14:28-33)?²⁸ *Peter 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 beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"*³¹ *Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and *said to him, "You of little faith, why did you **doubt**?"*³² *When they got into the boat, the wind stopped.*³³ *And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, "You are certainly God's Son!"*

Note here: Peter walked — as long as his eyes were on Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he became frightened— and he sank. Fear shifts our eyes from Jesus to the storm. When we stare at the wind, we too sink. But when we fix our eyes on Christ, we experience God's miracles.

2. Doubt

James says the doubter is like a wave tossed by the wind (James 1:6). He will not receive anything from the Lord, because he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. Doubt divides our heart. Faith unites it.

Doubt says: "Will God really come through?" Faith says: "He has before. He will again." The cure for doubt is not self-confidence —it is confidence and trust in God's character.

3. Worry

Worries are like cracks in a mirror. E.g., **The Cracked Mirror**. A mirror is meant to reflect the sun (God is our Sun—Psalm 84:11). But when the mirror is shattered into dozens of tiny pieces, the image becomes distorted. You can't see the sun clearly anymore; you just see jagged edges. Worry distorts our theology. We stop seeing a sovereign, loving God. Instead, we start seeing a thousand jagged problems. Worry doesn't change the sun; it just breaks your ability to see it.

Worry also chokes our faith. By worrying, we imagine a future without God in it. It divides our hearts between trust and self-control. Many a time, we crush our spirits by carrying tomorrow's load for a prolonged time. Remember what Jesus said: "Do not worry about tomorrow" (Matthew 6:34).

V. How Do We Keep a United Heart?

We pray for a united heart. But God expects us to do our part. To bring our own discipline for the heart that drifts naturally. So, how do we keep it whole? E.g., **The Pruning Shears**. Let's say we struggle with "idols" in our hearts. An idol is like a "sucker branch" on a tomato plant. It looks like part of the plant, it drinks the water and takes the nutrients, but it never produces fruit. It just drains the main vine. Using the 'pruning shears' to remove idols isn't a harsh punishment; it is life-giving maintenance. It's about helping the 'plant' of your soul to thrive. We cut so that we can grow.

That brings us to the following three simple practices:

1. Remove Idols

You cannot unite your heart if it is chained to idols. Prophet Samuel said: "*If you are returning to the Lord with all your heart, remove the foreign gods*" (1 Samuel 7:3). Idols are not only statues. They are anything that competes with God for first place: Money, Reputation, Children, Spouse, Career, Comfort, and Approval.

Like weeds, idols must be uprooted — not trimmed.

2. Remember God's Faithfulness

Samuel also said: "*Consider what great things He has done for you*" (1 Samuel 12:24). Gratitude unites the heart. When you rehearse God's faithfulness, fear shrinks. Faith and trust rise.

So, think back: your prayers God answered, the doors He opened, the dangers He spared you from, the provisions He supplied.

Looking back strengthens looking forward. A grateful heart is a united heart. It is a trusting heart as well.

3. Honor the Lord Daily

Proverbs 3:9 says: “Honor the Lord from your wealth.” Honor Him with your time, your speech, your decisions, your wealth, and your obedience.

A united heart shows up in daily choices. Not dramatic moments only — but daily faithfulness.

Conclusion

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.

Let’s pray: Teach us Your way, O Lord. We will walk in Your truth. Unite our hearts to fear Your name. Lord, gather our scattered hearts. We will remove our idols. Replace our fears. Strengthen our faith. Make our hearts one with Yours. In Christ’s name.

Amen.