

Cultivating Hearts In An Information Age

Proverbs 3:1-6

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What do you want out of life?

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- What are you pursuing, saving for, scheming for?
- What desires are you trying to satisfy?
- What do you easily spend your time, talents and money on?
- What do you say yes to easily and no to easily?

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- “Trust in the Lord with all your heart” is about more than receiving Jesus into your heart at conversion. It means bringing every aspect of our life to Him:
 - Relationships (friends, spouse, kids, parents, co-worker, classmate, people you meet)
 - Goals, dreams, desires, schedules, finances, time, your stuff.
 - Your anger, bitterness, gossip, slander, unforgiveness

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- “Lean not on your own understanding” is a call not to trust in ourselves. The danger is we gain wisdom in one part of our life and believe we now have wisdom in all areas.
- Part of the wisdom from God teaches us how much we don’t know and still need God. Earthly wisdom says I now know it all. “I got this God.”
- Acknowledge Him- see, hear and know what He is up to in all those areas we bring. Then to live and speak in ways that reflect what God is doing.

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- The life Solomon describes- is not about wealth, power, control, comfort and pleasure. It is a picture of a life lived in harmonious, godly, good, and loving relationship with God and those around us. It speaks to someone who's character and heart are being transformed by God.
- It is the ability to say at the end of a day "That was a life worth living".

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- Foundations laid down by the Enlightenment and Rational Age:
 - I think therefore I am. My decision and who I am comes from what I know.
 - Good decisions and obedience are the result of having the right and accurate information.
 - Problems, poor decisions and disobedience are the result of lack of the right information
 - More information will fix us and our world.

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- The digital/information age has amplified the previous message.
 - The internet has put the world's knowledge out there.
 - AI can access the world's information in second.
 - AI can help us make the right decision.
- Some are already putting their trust in the information of AI.

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- Faith largely revolved around same thinking- it was about giving people Biblical information. If they had enough they would make the right decisions.
- Maturity was measure in how much information we knew about God, how many verses we memorized, how long we attended church, and Bible studies attended.

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- Information doesn't make disciples or followers of Jesus.
 - The Pharisee and other religious leader were experts on the Old Testament.
 - The devil knew the Bible and quoted it
 - Neither lined up to follow Jesus.
- We know what Jesus says we should do and daily don't follow Him.

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- “We are what we love. We worship what we love. We may not love what we think we love.” Justin Smith
- Many of us don’t know what we truly love.
- We love a lot of things and people, even God, in our head but not in our hearts.
- When we choose something that is opposite of what we know in our heads it is a sign we love something else.

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- “Wanting God to be God is not the same as wanting God to help me.” Dallas Willard.
- Do we want God to be God and change everything about us?
- Do we just want God to be our helper?

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- When our hearts disagree with our heads. When we do not love what we think we love.
- These are gifts from God to us to:
 - Slow down and examine our hearts.
 - To invite God in to reveal our misplaced loves and distrust of Him and His ways.
 - To ask Him to change our desires and loves.

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- What blocks heart change?
 - Busy schedules
 - Hurts and wounds we haven't healed from
 - The cost is too great- we love the life we have built
 - Unaware how our habits and what we see and hear shapes our hearts
 - We do faith in isolation.
 - Believe the lie we just need to "try harder"

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- Are we becoming Disciples of Jesus or spiritual AI's
 - Has faith simply been about amassing a head full of Bible knowledge?
 - Do you talk about what God has done in the past or what he's doing in other people's lives but not your own currently?
 - Do you measure maturity by how long you have attended church, number of Bible studies you have been a part of or led.
 - Do you want God to be God in your life (and change everything) or do you simply love the God who helps you.
 - Do you really love what you think you love?

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- How do we cultivate our hearts?
 - Recognize God alone changes hearts. Ask Him the change your desires, your loves, your heart daily. Even when you don't love what you should ask Him to change it.
 - Find people to walk with you and give them permission to ask hard questions, good questions in love.
 - Seek out wiser and more mature believers.
 - Give real time to God, the Word, listening in prayer, and doing good daily.
 - Live at the pace of faith. Create time to examine your day and heart- did you live a worthwhile life?