Heart Maintenance

Our hearts, souls, minds, and lives must be continually attended to. We are responsible for the condition of our hearts, which scripture says are deceitfully wicked (see Jeremiah 17:9). Scripture likens our hearts to ground that must be cultivated. When this ground is left unattended, we end up with things that are vain and worthless. Stones and brambles are metaphorically used by Jesus to describe roadblocks to growth and victory. Without the cultivation of prayer, the ground of our hearts will become hard and unable to receive or produce anything good. When we study God's Word and pray, what results are we hoping for? What do we want the Living Word to accomplish? According to Jesus, it depends upon the condition of our hearts

Important decisions we make can be affected by whether or not we possess wisdom, which can be defined as the ability to discern between what is true and false. It is easy for the enemy to deceive those who have neglected their hearts. We must be guarded from wickedness because out of our hearts "flow the issues of life." But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be arrogant, and [as a result] be in defiance of the truth. This [superficial] wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly (secular), natural (unspiritual), even demonic" (James

Jealousy is a sign that a heart has been neglected and left to the devices of the enemy. Prayer will break up the fallow ground of any stony heart, enabling there to be love and compassion, which will produce good fruit. When we pray, the work of the Spirit will create a "clean heart" within us. The Word will help us remove the stones that prevent the seed of faith from taking root. Consistent prayer will root out fear, worry, and bitterness. Daily prayer will allow peace to be the fertilizer that allows faith-based plants to grow, multiply, and produce after their own kind.

We must be able to produce something good in our own hearts before we can hope to see something good produced in others. This is why prayer is so important to every aspect of ministry. To be connected to the True Vine and to see the miraculous requires prayer. If we are to have the love of God shed abroad in our hearts, we must pray. Throughout scripture, we are reminded of the importance of maintaining our hearts and the rebuke to those who don't. And as a result, have hardened their hearts. "And He said, He who has ears to hear, let him hear and heed My words" (Mark

Beth Marie Evans
WNOP Prayer Requests Coordinator
Apostolic Author
Associate Minister
International Christian Fellowship
Brookfield, Illinois