

Heart 4 God

by Ferry Dharmawan

Aim:

To encourage ppl that God only looks at our heart (not our action)

Introduction:

Praise God that today I can share my testimony for what God has done in my life. Currently, I am a PhD student in an engineering field. In the church I'm also part of the leadership team for a student group, Jabez 1, yeah!!!

As I reflect about what God has taught me, I'd like to share about having a heart for God. I've discovered that God is interested in our heart more than our action, though both of them should come hand in hand.

My problem (the situation):

I've been a Christian for about 10 years already and since the experience with God personally, I was motivated to serve God. I started to participate in whatever areas I can or needed. At that time, my motivation to serve God was more because of my nature who like to be active. I am a person who like to be involved, participate in a team. I enjoy being with a team. In the beginning of my Christian life, I already aimed to be a leader. But, it's more about for my personal growth, the title than serving God.

Sometime, when serving God, often things don't happen according to what I want it to be. Just like many other things in life. I experience the time when my ministry seem didn't produce results. In this case, I usually felt discouraged about myself, self pity or even sometime self condemnation. When this happens, I always ask question to myself about my motive in serving God. I ask, "Why am I doing this, what for?" I questioned myself many times. At that time, I also had a perception that my failure in achieving results because it's not God's will. For examples when my disciples didn't grow spiritually, when the life of CG members weren't transformed as quickly, when the no. of the CG members stay the same, didn't increase, when ppl didn't understand my sharing or teaching.

Due to my immature perception, I concluded that it's not God's will for me to be the leader or in that particular ministry. But, God is good. He always help me to go through that period in my life, He is so faithful, therefore I am still here today continually serving Him and I'd like to continue to serve

Him until the end of my life. He helped me either through encouragement from bro & sis, my leader, shepherd (spiritual mentor), Word of God or during worship.

How God intervene to bring deliverance for the problem:

One day, I came across with Ps 139:23-24

Search me O God, and know my heart, Test me and know my
anxious thoughts

See if there is any offensive way in me, And lead me in the way
everlasting

I was encouraged by how David asked God to search the motive of his heart and showed him the right way in following Him. He was honest with God & he was genuinely want to follow God. Therefore, In the Bible, David was described as a man after God's heart & blameless man though he also had sins. In fact, David was one on my hero in the Bible, because I also want to be a man after God's heart. I want to follow Him in my life.

From the verse, I learned that it's good to ask God to search my heart continually. So, I put it to practice during my personal prayer time. I usually ask God to search my heart first before I ask God for whatever I need or direction in my life to check my motivation.

The results (God's blessing) after God's intervention:

This verse really helped me too during the time of discouragement. I felt less condemned, self pity. Whenever I was discouraged, I came to God & apply this verse by asking God to search my heart. As I am honest with God, He helped me by assuring His love for me and help me to have a true motive in my heart. As I continually ask God to search my heart, I realise that I really love God and the reasons I serve Him is because I love Him. It's more than because I want to be active, participate or grow spiritually. It doesn't mean I'm perfect now, because sometime I still fall into temptation or prefer to stay in the comfort zone rather than go extra mile for Him.

Asking God to search my heart also help me to feel confident whenever I approach Him, because I know that I don't have any hidden motive. Also, since God answer prayer, He always let me know whether I really have a true motive or not. Therefore, it helps me to be genuine with God & not being hypocrite to God and others. It also enable me to quickly repent and be transformed.

Conclusion:

I'd like to close by encouraging all of you that God looks at our heart. He knows our true motives. Therefore, let it be no more condemnation or self pity in your Christian life in all situations, instead continually ask God to search your heart and help you to follow His ways in all things in your life, just like David did in Ps 139:23-24. Let year 2007 be the year of growing for all of us. Happy new year!!!!

G B U & thank u!!!!