

Session 2 Seven Longings of the Human Heart

We are talking about the seven longings of the human heart. Of course in a short session like this, we can only cover an abbreviated overview of each longing. I have a book called *The Seven Longings of the Human Heart* where I go through each of these subjects. Instead of taking three minutes on each subject, you can get a chapter on each one. This book, *The Seven Longings of the Human Heart*, you can buy in the bookstore, or you can get it online as an e-book for free with all these notes on MikeBickle.org. Some people prefer the free e-book, but others say, “Hey, I want the book in my hand. I want to touch it, and bring it on the airplane; so you can get it there. But it is free on our website as well.”

INTRODUCTION: DESIGNED TO LIVE EXHILARATED IN GOD

Roman numeral I. John 17:26: “And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.” This is Jesus praying, and He said that He would declare the Father’s name. He said that the love with which He loves us would be released in His believers—in us.

What a statement! This is one of the high points in the kingdom of God. Jesus said that He was going to declare the Father’s name so that the love with which He loved us may be in us. God wants to awaken love in our heart. The very love the Father has for the Son is the same love that He is going to release in us. Of course, that is the most powerful human emotion. The most pleasurable human emotion is love. Nobody loves Jesus more than the Father. Can you imagine the Father’s love imparted into your spirit? So that is really what we are talking about.

God created the human spirit with seven longings. These longings draw us to Him. These longings reflect His glory throughout our lives. I have found that in my own life when I came to understand these longings, and I celebrate them instead of trying to repent of them, I am better able to cooperate with the way God designed my spirit. Then I am better able to understand how the Holy Spirit works with us. It is amazing how enjoyable our walk with God can be. Now, you could describe, or define, these longings in different ways, but here is how I am defining them.

THE SEVEN LONGINGS OF THE HUMAN HEART

Number one: the longing for the assurance that God enjoys us. We are going to look at each one of these for just two or three minutes. Again, there is more information on our website on this subject if you want to study a little bit more.

Let’s go through all seven longings of the human heart. Number two: the longing to be fascinated. Number three: the longing to be beautiful, or the longing to possess beauty. Number four: the longing to be great. Number five: the longing for intimacy with no shame in it at all. Number six: the longing for wholeheartedness, or the longing for the power to be wholehearted. Finally, there is the seventh longing: the longing for significance, or to make an impact that matters and lasts forever.

EACH LONGING IS GOD-GIVEN AND A REFLECTION OF HIS PERSONALITY

God created your spirit with those longings. You cannot repent of those longings because they are put in you by God and are a part of the image of God. They are part of the nature of God. We are created in His image. Now, we can repent of trying to fulfill these longings outside of the will of God, or outside of our relationship with Jesus, but you cannot get rid of the longing. We have to answer these longings.

If we do not know that God put these longings in our heart, we might automatically be tempted to assume that these longings are wrong when we feel them. Rather, the longings are not wrong; what is wrong is the desire to fulfill them outside of our relationship with God. Because we have these longings, we have a great appetite for pleasure. You have a mountain of desire on the inside; of course, you already know that. That is not an accident. There are volcanic desires that will be in you forever. I mean they will never go away.

YOU WERE DESIGNED WITH AN APPETITE FOR PLEASURE AND A GOD-SHAPED VACUUM

You were built. You were designed with a great appetite for pleasure. However, God wants us to fulfill these pleasures in the right way. As we seek to answer these longings in our relationship with Jesus, we experience what I refer to as the superior pleasures of the gospel. I want to repeat this point: As we identify these seven longings and seek to answer them, our hearts are touched by these longings. We experience what I call the superior pleasures of the gospel, which are in contrast to the inferior pleasures of sin.

In our next session, we will take a break in a few moments, and we are going to come back. We are going to talk about holiness according to the superior pleasures of the gospel instead of the inferior pleasures of sin—because if we get these ideas clear, our quest for holiness has a very different dynamic to it. But that is the next session, so I will wait until then.

LONGING NUMBER ONE: THE LONGING FOR THE ASSURANCE THAT GOD ENJOYS US

The first longing: we are going to look at each of these seven longings again for just a moment: the longing for the assurance that we are enjoyed by God. I do not mean that we are just loved by God in the legal sense. Some people have this idea that God loves us, but there is no real emotion in their mind when they think of it. They mostly think that God stamps their passport, and He just lets them enter into heaven. They have a wrong idea as if God is in a jam: they imagine that He is stuck and forced to forgive them. We imagine ourselves in the eternal city forever, and the Lord kind of appreciates us but only from a distance. That is not what is really going on. He actually enjoys us. I mean He actually enjoys you. He does not just enjoy you when you are in the resurrection and perfection. He actually enjoys you now! When we discover that God enjoys us even in our weakness, this revelation is profound. This revelation has a great impact in our inner man.

It is profound what that does to our approach to reading the Bible. When we understand this longing, instead of reading the Bible as kind of a dutiful activity, we thrive. Instead of thinking, “OK, I have got to read the Bible. I will grit my teeth and do this because I have committed to relate to God because He is so powerful, even though I think that He is a bit boring.” We must realize that God actually enjoys you us when we read the Bible, and then we can turn it into conversation with Him while we are reading it. It is a whole different dynamic when you think God is smiling at you instead of frowning at you.

EVERY PERSON HAS THE CRAVING TO BE PURSUED, DELIGHTED IN, AND ENJOYED

John 15:9: “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love.” Oh how I love this verse. It is Jesus speaking to the disciples at the Last Supper. This is remarkable. Can you imagine that the intensity that the Father feels for Jesus is the same intensity of how Jesus felt for those twelve disciples? Every one of them denied Him that night. He told them that they would deny Him. Jesus was not into some idealism. He knew that before the evening was over, the disciples would all flee from Him and deny Him—every one of them. So when Jesus said that He had the same intense love for us like the Father had for Him, He said these statement just moments before the disciples all denied Him.

Beloved, He understands us even in our weakness. This is a remarkable revelation of the way that God feels about us. Every person was created with this craving in his or her spirit to be delighted in by God. This craving in their spirit is to be enjoyed and delighted in. You long to be enjoyed, first by God, and then by others. God put this longing into our spirit. You cannot repent of that longing. Again, you can repent of trying to satisfy that longing in a wrong way; however, the longing to be delighted in and enjoyed was put into you when God created you and designed the human spirit.

I believe the most prevailing stronghold of the mind is lies. A stronghold in the mind is negative, as it is a demonic stronghold, or a mindset that is energized by lies. The most prevailing stronghold of the mind that every human being struggles with in some way or another is the fear of rejection and the trauma of shame. The entire human race for 6,000 years since Adam has experienced this. Every single human being knows this. Now, the enemy comes and says, “You have gone too far. You have gone too far. You are not going to be forgiven, or if you are forgiven, it is only going to be a stamped passport and you are only welcome in the city but at a distance. You are forgiven with an asterisk. He forgives you, but He does not enjoy you because He does not trust you anymore.”

THIS LONGING TO BE FORGIVEN CREATES GREAT EMOTIONAL TRAFFIC IN US

Now, the lie creates emotional traffic. Emotional traffic is not just in our minds but also in our emotions. It drains us of our energy. It minimizes our ability to feel the love of God and to love Him back in return. Our longing to be enjoyed and the assurance that we are enjoyed is satisfied as we receive revelation of God’s emotions. I have spent some years, or a couple decades actually, studying the emotions of God. I want to challenge you to study the emotions of God from the Bible. There are so many passages, from Genesis to Revelation that highlight God’s emotions.

I committed myself to this many years ago in my twenties. Now, I am fifty-four years old; so I am talking about thirty years ago. I set my heart. I said that I am going to be a student of God’s emotions. I am going to gain the most insight I can on God’s emotions on this side of eternity before I stand before Him on that side of eternity. I am not saying that I understand this much. I am just saying I am an aggressive student on this subject. I want to encourage you if that is a new idea: be a student of the emotions of God.

DAVID WAS A STUDENT OF THE EMOTIONS OF GOD’S HEART

That is what David was: he was a student after God’s own heart. He was not just committed to obey God, but He was a man after God’s own heart. He was a student of God’s heart, and he was not just committed to obey the commands of God’s heart. He studied the emotions of God’s heart. God is raising up men and women who will be people after His own heart. They will be students of His heart. They will love His heart. There is a big difference between rebellion and spiritual immaturity. This is a very significant point. Those of you who are Bible teachers, and all of us should be Bible teachers; even if we only teach one person, you are still a teacher of the Bible.

It does not even have to be a formal teaching time. It might just be a friend you share the Word with, as you are teaching them the Word. Maybe, they are teaching you too. But here is one thing you want to say over and over. Distinguish between rebellion and spiritual immaturity. Rebellion is when a person has no regard for what God cares about, or when a person just blatantly disobeys God with no regard for His heart. Rather, the spiritually immature believers are usually people who love God’s heart. We still stumble; but when we stumble, it is not OK with us. We do not stumble and say, “Well, boys will be boys.” No. We say, “No. I did it again, but I am

declaring war on it again. I am repenting of it. I am admitting it. I am setting my face against it.” I mean within the hour, you recommit yourself to Jesus. Then, in our weakness and immaturity, we have a sincere heart for Jesus.

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REBELLION AND SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY

He enjoys us even in that journey. I tell you that when we repent of that, we can have the same assurance that He forgives us. We can push delete, and that is it. We do not have to talk about it over and over again with God. You do not have to worry and say, “Oh no! Well, I might stumble again.” Even if you stumble again, call it sin, talk to God about it, set your heart against it, and in time, I tell you, you will get free of this thing. You just stay with it. But what happens is this: when people stumble, they get traumatized from shame. Then, they run from Jesus instead of to Jesus because they think that Jesus is mad at them and because they think that they are rebellious instead of immature.

What the Devil wanted was for those twelve disciples to stumble that night when they betrayed Jesus on the night before His crucifixion. The Devil wanted them to run from God instead of to God, but it is as if Jesus said, “Hey, the night before you betray Me, I want you to know that I love you like God loves Me. I love you with an intensity that you cannot even comprehend.” They ran to Jesus after they stumbled instead of from Him. It took Him a little while to sort out, but once they sorted it out, they had that confidence.

WEAK LOVE IS NOT FALSE LOVE

There is nothing more powerful than having confidence in love, meaning confidence that God loves you, and confidence that even in your weakness, He loves you. But that is not all. We must be confident that He sees your love as real even when your love is weak. Weak love is not false love. My love is weak towards Jesus compared to what I want it to be. It is stronger than it used to be, but it is still weak. My love is real. It is weak. Weak love is not false.

However, the Devil lies to us and tells us that our love is weak and false. The Devil tells us when we are immature that we are rebellious. We run from Him, but if we understand with confidence that He loves us in our weakness, He actually esteems our love as real.

I say, “I love You.”

He does not say, “You old hypocrite! I am just tired of hearing this.” Rather, Jesus says, “I see the cry in your spirit and that cry is more real than you recognize. Your love moves Me.” I tell you that when you feel that way, you run and you want to get close to God, instead of hiding from Him. It is not difficult to believe that God enjoys us in heaven. You might say, “OK. I can believe that He enjoys us in heaven. I can even believe He enjoys us on the earth, but only after we are as spiritually mature as Paul the apostle says. Then after we become spiritually mature, I think He could enjoy us on the earth.” Here is the idea that God would enjoy us while we are growing—not after we grow. This is a radical concept that will give your spirit confidence with God.

You will love worship even if the musicians are not that great. I talked to one guy and he says, “Well, you know some of the worship in the setting that I am in is hard for me.”

I respond, “Do not worry about the musicians. It is the Man who you are in front of—Jesus. That is what makes worship well, even if the guitar player misses a few things, or one of the strings is broken. It still works because you are before a Man who is fully God and fully man. His name is Jesus.”

THREE PARABLES OF THE FATHER REJOICING OVER REPENTANT PRODIGALS

Your spirit can feel this. Jesus is smiling over you while you are talking to Him. Now in Luke 15, there are three parables: I will say them in order. There is the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son. You want to write that down: Luke 15. I do not think that I have that on the notes—the lost son in Luke 15:4-5. The lost coin in Luke 15:8-10, and the lost son in Luke 15:20. Jesus is communicating the message from each one of those parables that we see the rejoicing heart of God. We see one who has lost their way at the heart level, and then they turn and says yes back to God.

If you study the parable of the prodigal son, you will find that the father is rejoicing. Here it is in Luke 15:23-24: “Bring the fattened calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. And they began to be merry.” The father says, “Let us rejoice.” The son has only been repentant for three hours. The older brother tips off the father and says, “Hey, let’s give him three weeks before we get happy. You know him.”

The father says, “No. I will take him right now. I see his heart. Older brother, you do not see his spirit. I see his spirit.” Is he mature? No. He has only been repentant for three hours, but the father was rejoicing—that is the message.

GOD ENJOYS US EVEN WHEN HE CORRECTS US

Instead of the word rejoicing, put the word enjoying, because rejoicing and enjoying are the same idea. The Father is enjoying those who are moving back towards Him. This is not just true of an unbeliever, or a guy who has been backslidden for ten years and returns to the Lord. From the first day the son repents, God is happy. Then, after God celebrates, the ten-year backsliding is over; from then on, people think God kicks into the “I am a mean God” regime. No. People believe God rejoices over the brand new convert or the backslider who returned for an afternoon, but they cannot imagine God rejoicing over that person for the rest of their life. I spent too much time on that first one, but it gets me because I take it personally.

LONGING NUMBER TWO: THE LONGING TO BE FASCINATED

There is a longing in your spirit. God created you to be fascinated. The fascinating God put a longing in you to be fascinated. He has a plan to fill you with marvel, to cause you to live awestruck, and to fill you with wonder all the days of your life. He has a desire to touch that longing to marvel in you.

Now, the entertainment industry has identified this longing. I mean, they have figured it out. The human spirit longs to be fascinated. They long to feel awestruck. They will use dark measures to make the human spirit have that moment of wow. The design of the human spirit was made so we can interact with God forever. The enemy wants to counterfeit that. There is nothing more powerful than when God reveals God to the human spirit.

When God reveals God to the human spirit—that is the greatest pleasure experience in the human spirit. I call the Holy Spirit the escort into this grand treasure hunt and into the wealth of the glory of God. The Holy Spirit is saying, “I want to be your escort. I want to be your escort, and I want to lead you into that discovery of the

Father and the Son.” We have got a Bible. We have the Holy Spirit. We have got a longing in our spirit to be awestruck.

The combination is all there. We just have to begin the journey of the long treasure hunt. We will discover gold all the days of that journey, and some days will be dynamic. What a lot of people have done is they just will read their Bible in their study. Then, they will wait a week until we meet again. Then, they will read it again. Beloved, we must read the Word of God with a longing for fascination. You can marvel, and you can go places in God that you maybe have never dreamed of. Set your heart to live in that journey. If we do not live with a sense of awe then we live aimlessly, and we live bored. A spiritually bored believer is vulnerable to Satan and far more vulnerable than a spiritually bored person. A spiritually bored believer is also spiritually boring. They may be cool in other ways, but they are spiritually boring because they are spiritually bored.

They do not have a vibrant spirit, but God created us to have a vibrant spirit. A fascinated believer is equipped. They are strong. They are equipped to stand against temptation. A fascinated believer does not have near the propensity to go in that dark path because their spirit has already been touched. Again, we are going to look at that in the next session after the break.

LONGING NUMBER THREE: THE LONGING TO BE BEAUTIFUL

Again, I will be brief just because of time. Moses prayed in Psalm 90:17: “Let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hand for us; yes, establish the work of our hands.” The beautiful God created us to long for beauty and to long to see it. That is the fascination thing that I have just said, but also the longing to possess the fascination. The longing to possess it, the very beauty that God possesses, He imparts.

The beauty that God possesses is transferable through redemption because of the blood of Jesus. God has a plan, in Isaiah 61:3 to give us beauty for the ash heap of our broken humanity. What ashes are is that the wood has been burning, and the fire has been burning in all the wrong ways. After the fire burns, all that is left are ashes in many people’s lives. After they have given themselves to the wrong passions, their emotions are in total confusion. So much of their life has been wasted. So much of their life has been ashes.

The Lord says, “I want those ashes. I will give you beauty if you take it. That beauty starts now in our spirit, but it is reflected for billions and billions of years—not just internal but external and eternal.” I mean it happens in our spirit, but it also happens in our body. What happens is people get so fixated on physical beauty and only physical beauty at the expense of everything because they have a longing for beauty. Everybody has a longing for beauty. We men do not appreciate beauty in the same way, as God built our spirits differently. However, God has a plan to give you beauty now in your spirit.

THE BEAUTY THAT GOD POSSESSES IS THE BEAUTY THAT GOD IMPARTS

The verse I do not have there is 1 Peter 3:4: “Rather, let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty, with a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.” That spirit is precious to God. We must have a spirit that is confident in God. We must have a spirit that says we are confident in our spirit. This type of spirit is beautiful. It is precious to God, but it not only makes our inner man beautiful, it actually affects our outer man as well. But the big point is this: God put the dream in your spirit that you desire to look beautiful; therefore, you do not need to repent of that. You need to repent of pursuing it the wrong way. You do not want to cash in your life just to make everything physically beauty right now. You do not want to cash in your inheritance for internal beauty, and we want to gaze on the beauty of God. Some

people so long for this that they want it their way right now instead of God's way, which He builds in our inner man. It is reflected through our outer man because God wants a beauty outwardly that has a continuum and a connectedness with the internal beauty. This is the way that He runs His kingdom forever.

Anyway, that is a big subject for another day, but God put the longing for beauty in your spirit. He says, "Oh. I am going to fulfill it beyond anything you could imagine." Every single believer will be indescribably physically beautiful forever and ever. It is true. It cannot be stopped. Do not sell your inheritance away to put all of your attention on external beauty. External beauty is cool. I mean there is nothing wrong with that. It is the being consumed with it that causes darkness to enter into our human experience.

LONGING NUMBER FOUR: THE LONGING TO BE GREAT

The great God created us to be great. Matthew 20:26-27: "Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave." Jesus says that whoever desires to be first in authority, or the one with most prominence, must become a servant. You say, "What?" Here is what we think God would say: "Whoever desires to be great among you should repent." He is simply saying, "You have to do it My way—not your way." There is a time delay in it. We are great before God because of the choices that we make in redemption. That is what it means to be great before God. God greatly esteems the choices we make. Then, in the resurrection, those choices are announced.

The implications are widespread: in the resurrection, you will have a physical, material body, and you will be on this physical, material earth because of the time of the second coming, heaven is coming down to earth. Well, we are going to talk about that tomorrow afternoon. I am getting ahead of myself, but the longing to be great is not something that we repent of. We repent of the longing to seek greatness outside of the will of God, and outside of our relationship with the Lord. I want to be unmistakably great. I quit repenting of that thirty years ago. I said, "I want to be as great as possible before You."

The Lord whispered back to me, "Do it My way."

I said, "I will. I am locking into Your way. I am going to serve the best that I can in the grace of God. I am going to take the choices that You esteem."

THE GREAT GOD CREATED US TO BE GREAT

I have a life mission to be great in the age to come. I am unashamed about it. I hesitate to say this, but I will say it anyways. I will tell you why I hesitate in a minute. I want to be great. I want to be wealthy in the age to come. I am not joking. I really want great treasure—incredible treasure. I am after the money. I am after the glory, but I have understood that with God, there is only one way. It is His way.

I said, "I will give my time, my money, and I will fast, pray, serve, humble myself, or bear reproach. I will do anything that is Your way because I want to do it Your way. I want the big stuff. I am willing to step aside from the pursuit of it in this age." Now God may give honor, He may give finance here and there, but that is not my goal. It may come. It may not come. That is not important to me right now.

I have one goal: I want to be great. I want treasure forever, and I am serious about it. Jesus taught more on eternal rewards than anyone else in the Bible. The Church does not take them seriously. I want to tell you to take the eternal rewards seriously. It will be a good choice the day when you determine you are going for this

unashamedly. You will bear a lot of things between now and then because part of being great and having treasure is doing the opposite of what man's values now. We have got to do it God's way, and by all means, do it.

I want to be great. If you will lock into that instead of repent of the longing for it, you can then repent of pursuing it in the wrong way. But lock into it, and make it a goal. I am going to be a person who loves God second to no one on the earth by the grace of God, and I am going to give myself to being a servant. I am going to consume myself with the Word of God. I will take my chances on the last day when I stand before Jesus if that was a wise way to live or not. In Matthew 11 after John the Baptist was about to be killed, Jesus said that John was in prison and about to be killed in Matthew 11:17: "And saying: We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we mourned for you, and you did not lament."

See at first, they were all excited about John. They said John is a prophet. He is the new thing in town, but at the end of the day, his message was so cutting against the grain of that culture that many said that John had a demon. It is as if Jesus said, "I will tell you this: the wisdom of John's life will be vindicated when he stands before God. You will see when it is all said and done; his lifestyle will be vindicated openly as wisdom. So you want to be great, then know this: the payment is not until you come before God, but I assure you that your wisdom will be vindicated."

WISDOM WILL BE VINDICATED

The wisdom of a life of abandonment will be openly vindicated and made known in Jesus' sight on that day. But there will be a whole lot of humiliation and trouble between now and then. Stay focused. Lock in and go for it.

LONGING NUMBER FIVE: WE LONG FOR INTIMACY WITHOUT SHAME

Again, I am just barely touching on these; I look at these and I say, "Oh! That is my favorite one too, and that other one is my favorite one too."

The first longing is the assurance of being enjoyed—that is my absolute favorite one, but I like being beautiful, rich, great, powerful, and intimate. I like those too. I like them a lot. Longing number five: intimacy with no shame in it at all. It says in 1 Corinthians 13:12: "For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known." Right now we know in part. We only have partial knowledge, but then we shall be known. I shall know just as I am known. In that day, we will be fully known, and we will know at a far greater measure.

What that means is this—well, there are many implications of this. This is what we will understand—that God sees our desires and our longings. There are many longings for goodness in your spirit that the people around you do not see; but one day, it will be made known—all your communication with God and even with others that will be openly known.

Let's just look at that for a moment here. We long for intimacy without shame. We long to know and to be known. There is a two-way knowing. God knows the secrets of our hearts even now; He knows them, but it is hard for us to have confidence that He knows the good secrets.

There is a verse in 1 Corinthians 4:5 that I do not have in the notes where God says that the secrets of your heart will be made known in that day: “Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one’s praise will come from God.” Then God will give you praise. This shocks us, as we think that the secrets of our heart being made known and we say, “Oh no.”

1 CORINTHIANS 4:5: GOD WILL PRAISE YOU FOR THE SECRETS OF YOUR HEART

Do you know that you have many really good secrets in your heart? This means your intention to love Jesus, to follow through, to do well, to walk in humility—those intentions are real. Those are secrets of your heart. Some of your friends do not buy into it at all. They just think that you are a hypocrite. They do not even buy into it because of condemnation and lies from the Devil. However, Paul said in 1 Corinthians 4:5 that in that day, the secrets and the stirrings of your heart will be fully revealed. God will praise you. It did not say that God would rebuke you when the secrets are made known, but God sees those secrets now. When we begin to feel a little bit of what God feels towards us, it just changes everything forever.

He will all know all of our secrets. I am talking about the good secrets. You have many good secrets. I put a few of them out here. It says in Romans 12:5 to rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Now, if God calls the Church to do that, He does it. He celebrates us, and we can celebrate that which is in the will of God. He feels our pain when we have pain.

He feels the sorrow of our heart. That is what intimacy is. He celebrates the good, and He feels the pain in the bad in our lives. Of course in the age to come, there will not be a negative dimension. He celebrates with our triumphs. When you have a breakthrough in your life, and you are happy, He is happy that you are happy. He is saying, “That is My girl, look at her! I love the joy she has.” We feel forgiven.

We say, “Oh, thank You, Jesus.”

The Lord would answer, “I love it when you respond that way. I love what happens in you when it connects with you that I have forgiven you.” He feels this. God feels so much more than we might think. He is rejoicing with us. I rejoice when I am forgiven. I rejoice that I get it. He says, “Oh I love it when you feel that way and when you connect with how I feel about you.”

“God, do You really like me this much?”

God answered, “Yes. Are you kidding? I became human because I wanted you so badly. I could not get to you except by becoming human.” When Jesus became a man, He did not become a man just for thirty-three years to do this task, and then lay it all aside. When Jesus became a man, He became a human forever. If I could just make up a conversation between the Father and the Son, it might go something like this: the Father says, “Jesus, You know, if You take on humanity, You are still fully God; You cannot lay it aside in a billion years when You are tired of humans. You have to be human forever.”

But Jesus answered, “I want them. I am in at that level. I want her. I want her even if it will take billions of years. I will take it because I want her. I am coming after her.” Beloved, He sees the cries in our heart. I do not mean just the cry, as in the negative cries of sorrow, but even the positive cries, the noble cries that are unknown, unnoticed, and misunderstood by others.

He sees our pain. He sees the pain in our struggle with sin. He feels the sorrow that we feel, but He is on our side. He is with us. He is saying, “I see your heart. Come on. Keep coming. Keep coming.”

We answer back to Jesus, “I feel so badly that I cannot even face You.”

Jesus responds, “Just come on. I know the pain you are feeling. I can see it in your heart clearly, but keep coming. He sees our costly sacrifices. He sees our passions and our deepest dreams. He put many of those dreams in our spirit. He understands them, and He is going to celebrate and help them come to pass as we give ourselves to Him.

LONGING NUMBER SIX: THE LONGING TO BE WHOLEHEARTED

Number six: the longing to be wholehearted and to love God with all of our heart. If we do not have something to die for, we have nothing to live for. We cannot live half-heartedly. There are so many believers trying to have just enough of God to get into the kingdom but just enough sin to stay in their same social circle. They have too much God to enjoy sin and too much sin to enjoy God.

It is really true, the most miserable people on the earth are people with false doctrines of grace where they see grace as permission to keep compromising, rather than understanding grace as God’s forgiveness when we repent. God empowers us to wholeheartedness. Wholeheartedness is the only way we can function right. We were made by God to be wholehearted. If we do not have something to die for, we have nothing to live for. We cannot live halfheartedly. We will die of boredom. Many are dying spiritually of boredom. They will not go all the way.

LONGING NUMBER SEVEN: THE LONGING FOR SIGNIFICANCE AND TO MAKE AN IMPACT

I am just going to bring this to an end—the longing for significance. It says in Hebrews 6:10: “For God is not unjust to forget your works and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.” God will not forget any of the work you do when you show love towards His name. God will not forget the simplest acts you are doing that nobody else even recognizes; He says, “I will never forget them. They impact Me. They move Me. I will remember them. I will talk to you about them.” Beloved, if I can do something that moves God’s heart in the most mundane boring day, if the movements of my heart move His heart, every day is dynamic. Everybody might ignore me. People might mistreat me, but if the movements of my heart move His heart, I am successful. If no one notices the movements of my hand in service or appreciates it, if I still move His heart, my day is dynamic. My afternoons are dynamic no matter what the rest of the gang is saying, and no matter who left me out. God’s eyes are on me, and I have the power to move Him. Well, we could go on and on about that, but we are going to bring this to an end.

Amen. Let’s stand.