

> We are so glad that you have joined us here today, to hear what the Lord has placed on my heart.

-- This message segment is brought to you by: **Discovery Crossroads Ministries**.... a ministry that truly believes:

"Where dead-ends, can & do - become alive again!"

> **1971, Neil Young** song: "**Heart of Gold**" - "***I want to live, I want to give. I've been a miner, for a heart of gold. It's these expressions, I never give - that keep me searching for a heart of gold... and I'm getting old.***"

-- **This song is about**: the search for true love & companionship in life – while acknowledging that the search, begins *within oneself*. The author & song singer establishes that: he wants to "***live & give real love***" (*as if he knows, that is what a heart of gold would do*) - **Yet**, he admits that these expressions of real love, are something he doesn't have to give away! It is as if he is admitting that: his own heart, is NOT as golden as other people's hearts that he knows! So he goes on a long quest to find this elusive "**Golden Heart**", but he just cannot find it for himself – and that is why he sang, "***that keeps me searching, for a heart of gold!***".... **Sadly**, the author &

song singer "*cries out, with desperation*", that his time to find this Special heart, is quickly running out - for he explains, "*and I'm getting old!*".

-- **Good Glory**, **Can anyone listening now, admit to having the same struggles, as the author & singer of this song, had? Have you searched to find a kinder & sweeter heart, than the one you currently have – but you are just NOT finding it?**

> **So**, **WHY** did the song speak about the "**Heart**"? **What about the "Heart"?**

-- **The Bible** mentions the heart almost 1,000 times. **In essence**, it says that: the heart is that "*spiritual part of us*", where our emotions & desires dwell. The heart is the "central part" of a person, where the nature of a person resides. **So**, **to know** someone's heart, is to know their innermost: character, feelings & inclinations. **The heart "houses" who a person is!**

- **WHY** did the song look for a Heart of "**Gold**" – **I mean: Why "Gold"?**

....**Gold** has "**7**" incredible attributes:

- 1) It is mostly "**pure**"...(its free of contaminants)
- 2) It is "**durable**"...(its nearly indestructible)

- 3) It is "**conductive**"...(it easily allows the flow of electricity (or energy) thru it)
- 4) It is "**corrosion resistant**"...(its "non-reactive" - oxygen & acids don't affect it)
- 5) It is "**rare**"...(it's hard to find - not typically found in great abundance)
- 6) because its "**rare**" - it is "**valuable**"...(its highly sought after)
- 7) It is "**colorful**"...(it has an "inviting, yellowish, warm, glow, to it")

- **So, WHY should "God's" Heart, be seen (or understood) as "Gold"?** Because His Heart, is made up of all **7 Attributes** of Gold.... It's: **Pure** (He has an absolutely Pure love for us) – **Durable** (He has a Consistent & Eternal love for us) - **Highly Conductive** (His love Draws us in, even from the great distances that we place between us & Him) - **Corrosion Resistant** (His love for us cannot be damaged, corroded, or deterred from loving us forever) – **Rare** (His Unconditional Love for us, is the rarest form of love known to human beings – it's NOT found everywhere!) - **Valuable** (because His love for us is so Rare, it also makes His Love the most valuable thing that we could ever have & hold in our hearts) – **Colorful** (God's Love in our heart, glows from within us, shining on & warming, everyone we encounter).

-- **Maybe Now** you see **WHY** king David wanted to have "**God's**" Heart, for his very own! In the Bible, king David was **a man AFTER God's own heart!** [Acts 13:22](#), "*But God removed Saul and replaced him with David - a man about whom God said, I have found David, son of Jesse, **a man after my own heart.** He will do everything I want him to do.*" NLT

....**Obviously**, king David realized that his own heart, was highly defective! He was smart enough to know that: he needed to take action (*with God*), if he was ever to have a Better heart for himself – as well as, to find peace for his sinful heart!

-- **So**, a deep question for ourselves.... **WHY** would "**WE**" want to have "**God's**" Heart? **Because** our hearts are messed up too.... **we need a replacement (better) heart!**

- **God** said in [Genesis 6:5](#), "*The LORD observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and **he saw that everything they thought, or imagined, was consistently and totally evil.***" NLT

- The prophet **Jeremiah** agreed... he said in [Jeremiah 17:9](#), "*The heart is **deceitful above all things**, and **desperately sick** - who can understand it?*" ESV

- even Jesus said, in [Mark 7:21-23](#), "*21 For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, 22 coveting, wickedness,*

*deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within, **and they defile a person.**"* ESV (*Don't tell me you haven't struggled w/ these*)

* **Point:** Our hearts are **broken** – they are NOT made of gold. Apart from having "**God's**" Golden Heart, our hearts will just remain desperately: sick, shattered, tattered & filled with sin.

* Sin REQUIRES a "**heart transplant**" folks.... that is why **Jesus** said (**John 3:3**), "*I tell you the truth, **unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.***" NLT

....Being "born again" is what happens, when God gives us a "**heart transplant**". The minute we turn to Him, and ask Jesus into our life (*seeking forgiveness for our every sin*), is the moment God gives us a Heart transplant. **Ezekiel 36:26**, "***I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone, and give you a heart of flesh*** (or, He'll give us "His Golden Heart")." NIV

> **So, back to king David**... If king David did indeed pave the way, for us to see that: having "**God's**" Heart, is what we all should: want, desire & Go After – **then**, **WHAT IS IT to "GO AFTER" something?**

-- We Pursue (**Chase**) the thing that we are after - **then** we aim to **Catch** (**Get**) it....(*sounds a lot like "fishing"!*)

First, you have to **Purse** the fish, going to where they are. **Then**, you have to **Catch** the fish, thru a series of special fishing baits & techniques).

> **OK**, So, if we are to "**GO AFTER**" something (*including "God's" Heart*) - **HOW** then do we "**GO AFTER**" it? ("**4 A's**")

-- **First**, we must have an "**Appetite**" for going **AFTER** something.

...We'll need a Great **Desire, Want or Thirst**, to chase after the object of our heart. We've got to "**Want**" it, instead of just "**Need**" it! We've got to be so "**Thirsty**" for it, that we literally "**lose interest**" in everything else. Jesus was clear, when He said in **John 4:13-14**, "*13 Everyone who drinks of **this water** (**well water**) will be thirsty again, 14 **but** whoever drinks of the water that **I will give him**, will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him, will become in him, a spring of water welling up to eternal life."* ESV

...Get **Hungry**... Get **Thirsty**... Get a **Great Appetite**, to want to go out and find God's Rare & Precious, Golden, Heart!

-- **Second**, we must have an "**Aspiration**" for going **AFTER** something.

...We'll need a Strong **Hope, Ambition & Determination**, for achieving the goal. We have got to have "**Hope**" that we CAN

achieve the goal - or we will simply “**grow faint**” when we attempt to get it. [Isaiah 40:30-31](#), “*30 Even youths **grow tired and weary**, and young men **stumble and fall**; 31 **but those who **hope in the Lord**, will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they **will run and NOT grow weary**, they **will walk and NOT be faint**.***” NIV

...Without “**Ambition**” and “**Determination**”, we will NOT be able to “**stay the course**” and keep going to “**GET**” the prize!

But [Philippians 3:14](#), helps us with all that we need to succeed. Paul said this (*of himself, and us*), “***I press on to reach the end of the race, and receive the heavenly prize for which God, **through Christ Jesus**, is calling us.***” NLT

...Get “**Hopeful**” in your “**Determination**”, to begin your “**Reach**” for God’s Heart!

-- **Thirdly**, we must have the “**Ability**” for going *AFTER something*.

...We’ll need to Realize our **Capabilities, Limits & Resources**, before we set out to get what we are after. We have got to have the Right “**Capabilities**” and “**Resources**”, in order to set out for success, in Getting God’s Heart. The only “**Capability & Resource**” needed, is “**Jesus Christ**”.

- [Philippians 4:13](#), “***I CAN DO all things, through Christ who strengthens me!***” NKJV (*name & claim this passage, folks*)

...Only God can give us the “**Capabilities, Resources & Abilities**”, to “**Reach High & Obtain**” His Precious Heart.

- Hebrews 13:20-21, “*20 Now may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant*
*21 **equip you with everything good, that you may do his will, working in us, that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.***”

-- **Fourthly**, we must have the “**Activity**” for going AFTER something.

....Colossians 3:23 says, “*Whatever you do, **work** **Heartily** as for the Lord, not for men.*” ESV

- We'll need to get to Work & Release great **Energy**, launching into serious Productive **Activity**, in order to **PURSUE & GET** the desire of our heart! **Point**: achieving anything Great in this world, typically does not just happen by itself. To have anything Great in this world, takes Work! Going AFTER God's Heart, works the same way. We do not just stumble upon His Heart, we have to “**Search Diligently**” for it – and that takes Work! **Check out**: Matthew 13:44, “*The kingdom of heaven is like **treasure hidden** in a field. When a man **found it, he hid it again**, and then in his joy, went and sold all he had and bought that field.*” NIV

...In this passage, the “**4th Step of Activity**” (*or, having to Diligently Work, to Search & Find God’s Heart*) is evident! The passage said that the “**Treasure**” was “**hidden**”.

...(understand, the Treasure was “**God’s Heart of Gold**”)

- **Come on**, How many of you have found a Great piece, or nugget, of Gold - just lying on top of the ground?

NOT! You usually have to **dig** deep in the ground, to find it!

(Think about it: If Gold was that easy to find, then Gold would have NO value... it would just be a pretty rock!)

...**Likewise**, our Search for “**God’s Golden Heart**”, is going to take some **Serious Work!** God has purposely secured His Great Heart, in a place that is NOT so accessible - so that when we Find it, we will “**Cherish it**” as the most valuable thing that we could ever have! Notice the passage (*that we used a second ago*), said that: when the man found The Treasure, “**he hid it again**” –(*that’s “double work” - he dug it up, and he reburied it*)! **Then**, he **SOLD** every “**worldly treasure**”, that he had ever acquired, in his whole life – so that he could “**buy the field**” and “**OWN**” The Treasure hidden there! **Matthew 19:21**, “*Jesus told him (a rich young man), “If you want to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”*”

...The man in the story, "**Pursued**" Finding God's Heart of Gold, and thru Great **Effort** – He "**Got**" God's Heart, for his very own!... **That needs to be "OUR" story too**... We need to Search high & low, Diligently **PURSING** God – ready to wrestle God to **GET** His Heart. For those who will Struggle in the Search, God **WILL** Bless you with His Heart.

Jeremiah 29:13, "*You will **seek** Me, and **find** Me - **WHEN you search for Me, with all YOUR heart**.*" BSB

...(Finding & Getting God's Heart, is a "**one for One**" trade-off. *If we search for God with all of **OUR** heart, God will let us Find Him & **HIS** Heart!*)-(OUR Heart, for GOD's)

Are you WILLING to trade-in YOUR heart, to gain GOD's Heart? (Willing to do the work?)

...(and **listen**, if you want to "**SEE**" God – you will NEED to **trade-in** your old broken, impure, heart. **Matthew 5:8** says, "*Blessed are the **pure** in heart, for they will **see** God.*" NIV (*meaning: the only way to "**SEE**" God, is to HAVE a "**PURE**" heart. **Point:** None of us has a "**PURE**" heart – "there is **None** righteous – no, **not one!**" We are all sinners, in need of salvation... We are in need of the "**PURE**" heart, that **only Jesus can give us!**)*

> **How about "an exam" today? Test yourself to see what "kind" of heart, that "you" might have, right now?**

1) a heart that **IS** made of Gold, is one that:

- GIVES love, unconditionally
- GIVES mercy
- GIVES grace
- GIVES forgiveness
- GIVES abundantly
- shows no favoritism
- doesn't judge
- always kind
- is true & trustworthy
- is faithful
- is wise
- is good
- is sweet
- is patient & suffers long
- is shiny (*upbeat*)
- is happy

2) a heart that is **NOT** made of Gold, is one that is:

- unloving
- unkind
- merciless
- graceless
- unforgiving
- ungiving

- corrupt
- trashy
- mean or hateful
- slanders
- judges
- gives condemnation
- thinks deceitfully
- plans wickedness
- shows favoritism
- speaks evil or falsehoods
- always impatient
- foolish
- sour (*a regular sour-puss*)
- always dull or dingy (*not upbeat*)
- sad (*downcast*)

* **Based on these descriptors, Do YOU have a "Golden" heart, or a "Dull & Dingy" heart? Check your heart, people!.....**

> Folks, I'm recording this message, the week of Christmas - and at Christmas, God's Golden Heart, really shows thru! For this is the Day that we celebrate the Deep Love of God, Who sent His One & Only Son to earth... *He came as The First & Greatest Christmas Gift, the world will ever know!*

Jesus came to die for the our Broken, Sinful, hearts. Jesus came to give Himself on the cross, in our stead... *we were & are the sinful ones, who deserved to die that horrible death –*
BUT JESUS stepped in.....

...Hear the Incredible, Golden Heart, Love of God – that He poured out, that first Christmas Night... [John 3:16-17](#),
“16 For God **so loved the world (us)**, that **he gave** his only Son, that whoever **believes in him**, should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did NOT send his Son into the world **to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.**”^{ESV} That’s a “**Golden Heart of Love**” folks, that we should all STRIVE to have...(found only in having a Relationship with Jesus Christ!)

...All that God wants to do, is “**Trade-out**” your broken, sinful, heart - for a new one... **is that so bad?** **Goodness**, “**Go for the Gold**” people... **STRIVE TO Purse & Get** the “**Golden Heart of God**”!.....

....**Take some “New Steps” today.**

a) The Word of God REVEALS the heart of God. To know the heart of God, a person **must read** His Word - for that is God’s “**REVELATION of Himself**”, and “**His Message**” to all. The Bible is His autobiography about Himself. By reading the Bible, a person can KNOW the heart of God.

b) Prayer REVEALS the heart of God. Spending time with the Lord in prayer, assists in knowing His heart. [James 4:8](#) says, "**Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you!**".
...When we draw near to our friends, and open-up to them – is when we really get to know them! **Likewise**, when we truly draw near to God (*in prayer-language*), is when we really get to know God and His Heart!

> In conclusion folks, God's Golden Heart is **SO WORTH the effort**, that it takes – to **Purse It**, and **Go After It!**.....
Finding the Treasure of God's Heart (*in the great field, of all the world's treasures*), and then Allowing It to change the rhythm of our heartbeat, over to match God's Heartbeat – is the Most Incredible life-changing thing, that could ever happen to us!.... **Suddenly**, our life has a totally different "**air or vibe**" about it... a vibe that feels: new, fresh, different, or noticeably-improved - having new perspectives (*out-looks*) on life... a new vibe marked by our being more: Golden, Kind, Genuine, Good, Gentle, Loving, Joyful, Peaceful, and Hopeful (*to ourself, and to others*)... We have a sense that we REALLY ARE, more **in-tune** with (*or, in-alignment with*) God and His Incredible Heart... **Start** Pursing & Getting God's Heart today... **Pray** with me & The Psalmist, as realized in [Psalm 51:10](#). This prays cries out to God, "**Create in me a clean heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**"

Discovery questions:

- 1) Is the human heart really MORE than just a pump that moves blood around our bodies?
- 2) Have you ever deeply studied your own heart, to understand why it thinks & does what it does?
- 3) If you have studied your heart, and realized that it could be better – Have you struggled (*as Neil Young sang in the song*), to Find & Get a new heart?
- 4) Seriously, of the “7 Attributes of a Golden heart” – How many of them can you honestly say, might represent the attributes of your own (*current*) heart?
- 5) Do believe God, Jeremiah & Jesus, when they say that: “**the heart human is desperately sick – who could possibly understand it?**” (*reread: Gen. 6:5, Jer. 17:9 & Mark 7:21-23*)
- 6) Do you understand what Jesus meant (*in John 3:3*), when He said that anyone trying to get to heaven must be “**Born Again**”?
- 7) Do you believe that God REALLY CAN give us a “heart-transplant” (*as understood from Ezekiel 36:26*)? Do you know anyone, who has been given a heart-transplant by God? Can you explain the changes that you witnessed in them?

- 8)** Acts 13:22 says that “David was a man AFTER God’s own Heart” – But, what does that mean, or even look like, to you?
- 9)** Of the “**4 A’s**” given (*for How to Purse & Get God’s Golden Heart*) – Can you say that you have already attained all 4 A’s, or are you still lacking any of them? (*remember, the 4 A’s are: Appetite, Aspiration, Ability & Activity*).
- 10)** Seriously, at this point in your life... Do you believe that you have already received God’s heart-transplant - or are you believing that your heart is already OK, and that you do not need God’s Heart? (*How: Have you already found the treasure in the field, and sold everything to have it – or are you even out looking for the treasure of God’s Heart? Matt. 13:44 & Matt. 19:21*)
- 11)** If you are tired of the failures of your own heart, and Ready to “Purse & Get” God’s Incredible Heart, then please follow the advice of Jer. 29:13, and Psalm 51:10 – “**SEEK God with ALL of your heart, and PRAY that He will create in you a clean heart, with an associated right/new spirit within you!**”