

Today, we would be looking at what it means to dig deep.

Luke's Rendition

"Now why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

[47] Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and acts on them, I will show you whom he is like:

[48] he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid a foundation on the rock; and when there was a flood, the river burst against that house and yet it could not shake it, because it had been well built.

[49] But the one who has heard and has not acted accordingly is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation; and the river burst against it and it immediately collapsed, and the ruin of that house was great."

Luke 6:46-49 NASB

Last week, we learnt of the house, the bedrock and that which connects both - the foundation. Digging deep is important to lay a foundation that is close to or on the rock. The depth of the foundation is dependent on the height and the weight of the building. The weight of the house depends on the owner. Someone not used for much may have a shallow foundation. Someone like Paul needed to have a very deep and solid foundation because so much weight was placed on him. Though another believer may not have a deep a foundation as Paul but will get the same reward if faithful. Faithfulness is rewarded.

The Promise - Revealed, Fulfilled, and Enjoyed

We initially said the rock is Christ as revealed through the law and the prophets referenced by the early apostles like Stephen in Acts 5 and Peter in Acts 1. The promise made to the fathers is found in the rock. The promise fulfilled for the children is in the foundation- Christ coming in the flesh. And the promise enjoyed is in the house.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:

Ephesians 1:3 KJVS

As believers, we have blessings. Majority of these blessings are found in the old testament. Examples of some blessings are in Genesis 1, Deuteronomy 28, and Numbers 24. However, we need to **know** these blessings to enjoy it. This blessing includes physical and spiritual fruitfulness and dominion. Whatever promise you want to enjoy, we need a solid understanding of the rock (Christ in the law and the prophet). Christ was the fulfilment of the law and the prophets. The four gospels and the book of Acts show the fulfilment of this law.

How Do We Dig Deep?

To dig deep is a process of unveiling one's heart. The singular interest of God is the state of the heart - which is the interest of God. Once He gets our heart aright, he gets our destiny. A lot of Christians are satisfied with a superficial relationship with God. However, to get the fullness of God, our whole heart must be in tune with God. Blessed be that man who can rightly discern the state of his heart. David was such a man. He knew when his heart was astray and when it followed

after God. For God to do His full work in our lives, our hearts must be perfect towards Him. We need to know when our heart is proper and when it is swaying away. David, like Saul, may not have had a perfect heart, but he knows his heart and when it sways and how to bring it back. This man can be a deep friend to whom God can commit deep things to. As for God knowing our heart, God knows it. God knew it before we were born, but do we know it? Esau did not know the state of his own heart. As a result, his blessings passed over him.

The Heart

All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers.

[2] And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no.

Deuteronomy 8:1-2 KJVS

Only God knows the state of the heart of any man. We need to consistently present our hearts to God. What will derail a man in the next ten years starts today, even earlier. However, a man comes to Jesus Christ, God gives him a new heart. When He gives you a new heart and you do not know what was in it, it could be defiled. Isaiah (1:21) says, How does a faithful city become a harlot? If diligent care is not taken, one's heart can become unfaithful. This is why scripture says to guide your heart with all diligence. How? Guide what goes into your mind. This eventually goes into your heart (Prov 4:23). Whatever does not pass through your mind cannot get into your mind. Be diligent that you only digest in your heart what makes it grow.

To dig deep, you need to go through the process of discovering who you really are and what is really in your heart. This process is a painful process, which can be captured as the sharing of Christ's suffering. To dig deep, you go to down low. But the lower you go, the higher you are in Christ. Christ went from the very highest heavens to the point where he went to the grave and God raised him above all heavens. Because of the pain of this process, many believers refuse to dig deep.

The suffering of Christ is something that the 21st-century church avoids teaching. You have to decide to carry your cross as Christ did. The foundation of our faith rests solidly upon Christ, His burial, His resurrection and His ascension. Paul understood that there is a portion of the suffering of Christ that was apportioned for him. Every day, he was determined to fulfil his own portion. This was why he spoke about the fellowship of the suffering of Christ in Philippians 3:14. Colossians 1:24 speaks of the affliction of Christ. To share in Christ's affliction is to share in his glory. It is better for you at this time to go through it, especially now that his grace abounds. Every believer needs to go through it. His suffering is like a sharp surgical knife that shows you your heart and its potential.

Esau and Jacob had the same provision. The same is the case for the Israelites in the wilderness with Joshua and Caleb. 1 Corinthians 10:1-5 shows that they all ate of the same spiritual bread and drank from the same rock. Yet for many of them, God was not pleased and they were

overthrown in the wilderness. If the present-day church thinks that they will escape this suffering, they are in for a surprise. More is certainly expected from us because more has been given to us. Ask yourself, what do you have that David and Elijah did not have? They all operated under an inferior covenant of the blood of bulls and goats. Yet, we you have a superior covenant with Christ and the Holy Spirit. God expects us to beat their record. The essence of this mediation is for us to take a step back and dig deeper foundations. God has sufficient grace to take you through it. The process is heart X-raying and exposing.

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

[2] Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.

[3] And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

[4] And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.

[5] Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.

Isaiah 6:1-5 KJVS

In Isaiah 6, we see a prophet who had a clear vision of the Lord almighty. When you see Him, you will see your heart in its true state. When you see him, what shines to you is your heart. When He shows you your heart, you cannot but to fall flat before him. You don't need to have an extravagant experience to see God. He is made manifest to us in His words. A sincere believer who has honour for the word of God may be reading Genesis and come to the place where Cain and Abel gave a sacrifice and God had respect for Cain and Abel. This believer may ask themselves, what is in my earth that could prevent God from having respect for my sacrifice? Another can look at the perfectly made Adam and Eve and see the serpent deceiving them. This believer would ask himself, what can make them disregard the word of God and follow the serpent?

Know your heart. Do not let it deceive you. Man can be deceived by any other thing, but do not let your own heart deceive you. You might even quote scriptures, but this is not enough. Satan can quote scriptures to you, but can your heart discern where it is coming from? This is what the serpent did to Adam and Eve and he tried the same with Jesus. Yet, Jesus did not fall. He had the same Holy Spirit as you do that made His overcome. This is why David (Psalms 139:23) cried and said "Search me o God and know my heart". This is why Isaiah, in Chapter 6 can say "Woe is me for I am undone".

Great deception is coming upon the earth. Satan is both a deceiver and an accuser. For you to discern, you must know the state of your heart. How do you know the true state? You cannot know the fake dollar unless you know the real. He will first show you the heart of Jesus. This way, you can know when something is off with yours. Joseph did not have the law, yet he knew that sleeping with Potiphar's wife was wrong. Fear God! Take heed to your heart. If your heart is not deceived, you will never be deceived. Know your heart. Carry your heart before God. Your

standing or falling in the days ahead depends on the state of your heart. Digging deep involves exposing everything that can derail you.

What Is the Heart?

1. The heart is a stability gauge. What is this? When there is an earthquake, it hits the house at the foundation. If it is a high-rise, when the house tilts, the gauge shifts the centre of gravity to give you stability despite the change.
2. The heart is the centre of your life or the very core of your life. When the centre does not hold, it all goes apart.
3. A heart is where you can be naked before God and unashamed. It is not about how well you are doing what you are doing before men, but how well God grades you.
4. The heart is a place of divine measurement/ attention. 1 Samuel 16:7

Meditation on the Word

At the point of salvation, God gives you a new heart. It is a place of regeneration. The mind is renewed constantly by the word and it goes into the heart. However, if you continue to eat good-mind food, it will go down to your heart. Meditate on God's word. Habitual meditation on the word will supply truth in the inward part to be digested into your body (including your physical body) and it will promote a healthy relationship with God and with man.

As a side note, a spiritual man is one whose spiritual connection with God is steadfast. Secondly, a true spiritual man knows when his heart goes astray and calls it back. A true spiritual man also has a healthy relationship with his brethren. One thing we must avoid is a dual personality. This is evil! Let your mouth say what is in your heart. Be of a plain heart. Don't hold anything inside that you cannot express outside. This is part of what a spiritual man is. These are the people who will stand upon the sea of glass. They are without guile or hypocrisy. Whatever you adorn your inner man with will be reflected in the outward man.

But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

1 Peter 3:4 KJVS

Attributes of a Good Heart

1. A good heart is a heart of faith. A heart that is right will automatically believe the word of God. When you delight in His word. Believing God will not be a struggle. When faith is a challenge to you, search your heart. Something is wrong. The Lord looks for people whose hearts are perfect towards him to show himself mighty, 2 Chronicles 16:4. God will not allow you to go through something bigger. Ask yourself, is faith automatic to me? Or do you get anxiety attacks? Note: Every word of God that He gives to you in the Rhema contains in it the faith to bring it to pass.
2. Spiritual knowledge: This comes from revelation. You know it be the opening of the spiritual eyes.

3. Spiritual Wisdom.
4. A breeding place of good motives. God does not look at the action, but motives. Your action may be right to man but God weighs the heart.
5. Passion. Your passion is an inward force that pushes you to do things, that you would not ordinarily do. You can be so much consumed by pleasing the Father, that you can even die for that.
6. Faithfulness and consistency in your relationship with God and others. When you see that your passion is not focused on God, search your heart.
7. Your love for Him and all the things He loves. This also includes hating the things he hates.

These are indicators that allow us to measure the state of your heart at all times. Your speech also shows the state of your heart. Again on faith, Faith is not "I believe God for this and it must be done". You believe God whether you see it or not. The reward for faith is not only in this present age but also in the age to come. The fact that you believe God for something and you do not get it in this age does not mean that you will not get it. God told Abraham that his seed would be like the stars of heaven. Though he saw one of his promised seed, yet today, descendant of Abraham are as numerous as the stars. King Ahaz was given a sign of the Lord. Though many generations later, the sign given was fulfilled that a virgin will conceive. This happened generations later. Believe Him for resurrection, and immortality. Believe Him. Do not let your heart deceive you. This is more dangerous than the devil.

Prayer: Lord heal my heart! Straighten It out and turn it inside out. Show me if there is any evil way and lead me to life everlasting. Amen