



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – August 8, 2010

## ***Heart to Heart...***

We have many obstacles in our lives. Sometimes things seem to weigh on us and after a while, we want to quit! The devil is real and active. He is looking to take us down. He is using means that we aren't even aware of to gain access to our heart. We need to be on guard each and every day. One of the easiest ways for the devil to gain access to our hearts is through bitterness.

The Hebrew writer warns of such ***"See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled."*** (Hebrews 12:15) One can halt the grace of God toward them just because of bitterness. Someone hurts us (maybe even our mates) and that hurt hits our hearts. We have all felt the sting of that. Slowly the hurt becomes our focus and our minds start thinking of how we have been treated. The grace of God is slowly traded for bitterness. It has been planted in the heart and that root of bitterness starts to grow. It might not be seen but it is there waiting to spring forth. Another wrong by the same person and now the root starts sprouting until it manifests itself in an outer action or outburst at the individual.

It *"springs up and causes trouble"* and what is worse we believe we are right in revealing our bitterness. It reaches and defiles others around us, even to those innocent. We talk to others how we are treated and it causes them trouble! It defiles them and you. Your words have pained them. They view the individual you speak about through the eyes of your bitterness! Bitterness in the heart will open the door to all sorts of evil actions and attitudes, even to the point of refusing the Lord's way to be loving and forgiving. That's the devil's goal!!

We need our hearts guarded and the power to overcome when we have been wronged. We need to take our concerns to the Lord, laying them at His feet, so His peace, which is beyond human understanding, will guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7). We must depend on the Lord's defenses and help, so we won't fall prey to the devil and His schemes (Ephesians 6:10-17). We need to put over our heart His righteousness so it can't be hit by wicked spiritual forces and the Lord's righteousness directs us. We need the shield of faith, trusting in God when we have been wronged to let Him defend us and not allow any bitterness, resentments or anger to build from within us.

***"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful."*** (Colossians 3:15) The power that kept bitterness and resentments from the heart of Christ is the same power that He makes available to us through Himself. The only question left is will we hold tightly, knowing the devil is looking for someone to devour and will use whatever means he can to accomplish his goal. Think about it!!!

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