

Lord, Set my Heart in You!



Portion for the Journey

The Word tells us Jesus “set His face to go to Jerusalem.” The phrase “set His face,” is used in this passage to mean He made a firm and resolute decision and was fixed in His determination, set fast, made completely stable in His direction. The word contains the idea of being completely constant and confirmed in one’s mind and being filled with strength to stay decisively on the path He had chosen in a certain direction. Luke 9:51,43

God calls us to make this same firm choice to set our hearts and minds to follow Jesus with our entire heart, soul and being. Setting our hearts requires making an initial choice or decision and then to have the perseverance and endurance to stay on that course no matter what seeks to divert or obstruct our way. He gives us everything we need in order to remain on this path, even when the going gets very rough.

The Bible compares this endurance to running a marathon race and tells us we need to keep our eyes on the finish line and to run in such a way that we may win. This takes focus, concentration and determination! We do not run aimlessly but with self-control and discipline. The object of the race is to be united with Jesus and we must train ourselves to keep Him as our focus, our ultimate prize. Hebrews 12:2 tells us to “fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...” The meaning of the word used in this passage for “fix your eyes” means not only to fix or focus your gaze upon something intensely, but to look away from anything that will distract from that gaze! The Amplified states it this way, “Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus...” Wuest’s “Word Studies in the Greek New Testament states, “The minute the Greek runner in the stadium takes his attention away from the race course and the goal to which he is speeding, and turns it upon the onlooking crowds, his pace is slackened...and his onward progress is hindered.” Read the following verses and make a note what you learn about fixing your eyes upon Jesus from these passages: 1 Cor. 9:24; Heb. 12:1-2

How do we run so as to reach the finish line? His precious Word gives us everything we need to know but we need to set our hearts to seek Him and allow Him to teach us. “He awakens me morning by morning. He awakens my ear to listen, as a disciple, and I was not rebellious; nor did I turn back.” (Isa. 50:4) A disciple is one who is being taught...a learner. Jesus said He would send His Holy Spirit to teach us and lead us into all truth.

Do not be disheartened if you feel you are not a “studious person.” When we sit down to study the Word, many of the “ways” we feel about our study relates to our past experiences in school. If we were good students, we might apply the same studious approach the Word, working hard to gain head knowledge but not allowing it really penetrate our hearts. If we had a bad experience in school, we might feel intimidated in our ability to study the Word because we unconsciously carry negative school experiences into our time with the LORD!! The enemy may have told you that you are not a good student or that serious study of the Word is just not for “someone like you.” Beloved, this is not true! Being able to go deeply into God’s Word is truly for **everyone** who loves the LORD and it is not too difficult! In fact, there are many people who testify that their overall ability to read has improved dramatically as they have determined to read and study the Word! He has the words of life!

Let’s pray together:

Lord, Our hearts hunger to know You. We desire to draw near and to sit at Your feet as Mary sat at Your feet. Your Word says that the weapons of our warfare are mighty to the destruction of strongholds that are erected against our ability to know You. Please remove any obstacles the enemy has placed that would keep me from being able to seek You with all my heart and to meditate on Your Word. I want to receive all that You have for me!! Remove any habits or patterns of thinking that are not from You! I pray they will not have power to keep me from Your Word as I seek to learn how to study Your Word!! I pray that You will send Your light and Your truth and remove any lies the enemy has spoken to me that were designed to keep me from knowing You. I commit my way to You and pray that You will make my paths straight. In Jesus precious name, Amen

Digging Deeper in the Word

1. Look up 1 Chronicles 22:19a in your Bible. Just focus on the first portion as written in the Key Scripture on page 1. Ponder the words of our key verse carefully. Write the verse out in your notebook, letting the words sink into your spirit as you work. We will not read many verses today, but rather we are going to let the real meaning of this verse penetrate our hearts deeply. It often helps to read the verse aloud, read it in several different translations and also, to write it out in your notebook. What are your first impressions of what this verse is speaking to your heart when you read it?

2. It is very common to jump quickly over words that we think we already know, or ignore words that we do not know. As we study the Word of God in depth, we need to start to really focus on words and what they really mean. Often, even common words have a far richer depth of meaning than we can even imagine. You will find there are times that you *think* you know what a word

means, but the Biblical usage of the word carries a different or much deeper meaning. There are many reference books that are available to help you know the original meanings of words used in the Bible.

If you look up the word “set” in the Strong’s, it is #5414 and the Hebrew word that was used here is “nathan.” There are a lot of words in the definition but some that really stood out to me and were the most meaningful in understanding this verse, in addition to the ones in the box above, it also means “to be completely devoted, consecrated, dedicated, and committed.”



Click or paste in the link below, to look at the entire definitions for this word in the Strong’s Concordance:

<http://bible.crosswalk.com/Lexicons/OldTestamentHebrew/heb.cgi?number=05414>

As you read this definition, really think about the understanding that each word gives you of what it means to “set your heart.” Are you surprised that this little word “set” can carry such a depth of meaning? Which words really speak to your heart?

3. Now, that we’ve pondered the meaning of the phrase, “to set the heart.” Let’s take those words back to our Key Verse. Re-write the verse using some of the words from our definition that really make this verse meaningful to you. You can personalize the verse when you write it out... “I will set my mind...”

4. Looking at other verses that use the same phrase is also helpful. Deut. 7:7 tells us that God sets His heart on His children. In this verse the word ‘set’ means to be attached, to long for the other. 2 Chron. 20:3, “Jehoshaphat “set his face to seek the LORD...” Isa. 50:7 “I have set my face like flint...”

The following verses will help us to further understand how important it is that we make the decision to “set our hearts” to follow the LORD: Look up each verse and write briefly what these verses teach about “setting the heart.” Setting the heart involves:

- Counting the cost: Luke 14:27-33; Matt. 8:18-22
- Making a choice to follow Him fully: Joshua 24:15; 1 Ki. 18:21; Deut. 30:15; Matt. 6:24; Dan. 10:12
- Setting your mind, heart and will firmly that you will not deviate from the path you have chosen: Col. 3:2; Ezra 7:10
- Those who did not set their hearts: Psalms 78:8-9; 2 Chron. 12:14

What is God Speaking to you?

How does what I have learned in this lesson apply to my life? Why should I set my heart? Have I “set my heart” fully to seek the LORD?

Responding to the Lord?

Remember you can pray and ask Him to work these areas into your life and receive His help. We are all too inadequate to do it alone!! When you pray, first ask the Holy Spirit, our teacher, to work in your life. If you feel that your heart is “set” to follow Him, then pray for others, your family and especially for the Church, which is really the collection of believers around the world! This verse is an excellent verse to pray for those family members who haven’t really “set their hearts” to follow the LORD fully!