

## Title: Heart For It

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 05/25/25

I would like to start today with a story. This is by Walter Ravenhill's son, Leonard Ravenhill, recounting a story of his father who was radically born again. Walter would go to the hospitals or the prisons to share the love of God. He would go to the pubs. He was once an alcoholic, but God saved him. He would go and minister to people there. Once a man yelled back to him, saying, "I used to pray to God, but He never heard my prayers." Walter responded, "Well, we live in England," which is where the Ravenhills were from, "and you are a subject under the King of England. But, if the King of England were to walk in this room and you asked him for five pounds do you think he would *give* it?" The gentleman said, "Well, I suppose not." Then Walter Ravenhill said, "Well, what would happen if the Prince of Wales stepped into this room and asked the King of England for five pounds would he give it?" The man had to respond, "Yes." Walter Ravenhill said, "See, it is all about the relationship with the King."

The Kingdom of Heaven is in your hands. The Kingdom of Heaven is available, but you have to be a son of the Kingdom. It is not a transaction of business. It is not a transaction of citizenship. Yes, we are citizens of Heaven. It says that in the word. But, the Kingdom is more relational than that. The Kingdom is about a Father and His children. We want you to be in relationship with the King, not just in the Kingdom of Heaven. Not just a citizen that is receiving all the blessings, but you must know the King as your own Father and you as the son.

### Luke 13:22-30 NKJV

What is He saying here? He is saying you can do the Christian thing and not be in relationship with the King. You can associate with the Kingdom of Heaven. You can eat and drink in the presence of God here. But, the whole point of you being here is that you do not leave without knowing who is the King. Is He just the King, or is He your Father? Are you a son of the Father in Heaven? "Then you will be in that day saying, 'We ate and we drank in your presence. But, strive to have the, "narrow way."

The narrow way is about relationship with the one true God. Yes, there are rewards for this. Did you know that there are rewards for serving the King as a son? There are rewards for taking on His Kingdom as your Kingdom. There are rewards for taking on His life and death at the cross daily. The rewards of serving Jesus are in *the book of Revelation*. I want to focus on Revelation chapter two. We are going to be in the Bible today. I am just focusing on certain *verses* here, but they are all good. Say, "They are all good, but they are hard to get."

### Revelation 2:10 NKJV

Christians do not have to worry about dying because they already have died, right? We are celebrating that today with CJ's baptism. It is a prophetic symbol of, "I am no longer my own. It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. I have died in the grave, but I shall be raised into Christ." So, we do not have to be afraid of dying because we have already died. You can fall on the rock or the rock can fall on you. We choose to fall on the rock and die. We choose to crucify the flesh. We choose to die daily, and to take up our cross daily. So, there is no fear. "Whatever men do to me, why should I fear?" Yes, the crown of life is ours. Say, "The crown of life is mine." Amen.

### Revelation 2:17 NKJV

Now the hidden manna was in the Ark of the Covenant. Moses put some of the manna, that the Lord provided in the wilderness, in a jar, and placed it in the middle of the Ark of the Covenant.

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It was hidden. Nobody could go in there and open it. Nobody could go into that place, but it was there. God is saying, "I am going to give a piece of that hidden manna." This white stone is also a symbol of the priesthood. They would give them names on white stones. It was like a token. We come across the terminologies and the symbolisms of the priesthood in Revelations. Say, "The priesthood." The priesthood of the Levites, sons of Aaron, into the the sect of Zadok, and it comes down the line. But, now it is spiritually in Heaven. We are seeing that you and I can receive the rewards of the priesthood. Wow, that is awesome. I am focusing on the verses specifically on rewards of ministering to the Lord as a priest.

#### Revelation 3:5-6 NKJV

What is this talking about? Well, if you were a priest and you disobeyed the law or you married somebody outside of the Jewish people, you *would* have disqualified yourself from the service of the Lord. We read about this in Ezra. They *list* all the names of those that did not disqualify themselves and were not blotted out of the service of ministering to the Lord. Those that were of the house and were of the ministry, can stand before God. Those are named. They are mentioned in the assembly and spoken of before God. So, we see this ministry here is that your name will be in the Book of Life, to stand before God and minister to Him. Wow. That's awesome.

#### Revelation 3:12 NKJV

Now this was very common. You could see at the temple in Jerusalem the dedications and the honors on the pillars. You can see it to this day. You see it on our stained glass windows, right? Those that we have honored, those that have been dedicated, and those that are standing now. Jesus is saying, "I am going to honor you as a pillar in My temple. You never have to leave. Just like those pillars in the Temple never leave day and night. They are stuck in place in the presence of God. This will be who you are. A new name is written upon you." Okay, so these are rewards of serving Jesus. It was the priests' job to minister to the Lord's needs. That was it.

#### Ephesians 4

He says that the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and the teachers are given to the church to equip the saints for the work of the ministry. What is your ministry? Your ministry is to serve the King, because He has bought you with His blood to make you a Kingdom of kings and priests before our God, it says in Revelation. Your main ministry is to serve the Lord with such devotion as the priests did, and you get the rewards of that service here. There are rewards to this, wow. There are rewards for giving up your life daily for Jesus. You say, "wow, thankfully." It is a cost, and it will always be a cost. But, there are rewards, and we see it.

Some of us when we first read this say, "I do not know if I want a white stone. What am I going to do with a white stone?" I remember as a little kid reading this, and it was perplexing and profound. I am going to be a temple. I am going to be a pillar in the temple of God. What a great honor. I do not know what that honor is. It is similar to when we read in Isaiah six, about the four living creatures that go around the throne. It says all they do all day long, is say "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty. Worthy *is He*." I am bored reading it. Who was thinking that growing up? That was me, saying, "That was such a boring job, and they do it all day long, 24/7, forever and ever and ever, right?" Why are these things an important thing? Because, when you minister to the Lord, you see the service and the sacrifice that it takes. These things really matter.

John, the author of the book of Revelations, who got the revelation of Jesus Christ, had access in the priesthood. In his account of what happened to Christ, all of the other disciples had to stay outside of the Sanhedrin in the gathering of the priests. But somehow John got in,

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because he said, "Their attendant there let me in." So, John and his family had connections, or was a relative of the priesthood. He had access. It was about relationship. He had a relationship to be in the priesthood of the Sanhedrin, when they were testing, trying and putting Jesus up for condemnation. Jesus is telling him this is what it is like to serve me as a priest. He is recognizing this is a great honor, because, "I have been a relative of the priesthood, but I have never been able to serve as a Levitical priest. I have never been able to stand in the house of the Lord. I have not been able to do any of this." But now, through Christ, he is not only offering it to the Jewish people, he is actually offering it to the Gentiles from the East, the West, the North and the South. Those that have found the narrow way and have said, "I am not just a citizen of Heaven. I have not just entered the Kingdom. I do not just eat with Christians. But, I am a son of the Father who is the King of this Kingdom." You see it? Wow.

We have been given a ministry. The Levites He called to Himself. There were twelve tribes of Israel. If you were to count them as they pass by you, there were thirteen. There were thirteen tribes, but you couldn't count Levi. Levi was God's is what he saw. Now, God is saying, "You all are now mine. Now I count you as my own." Wow. What is our job? To minister to the Lord. That was all the Levites were required to do for Him, "Serve My needs, attend to My wants and desires." That is all the Levites were required to do. That is the call of God on our life. We are equipped to do the work of this ministry, to serve the needs of the King, to minister and serve the needs of the Lord. This is our position and ministry for all the saints.

#### Deuteronomy 10:8-9

What is their job? "To stand before the Lord, to minister to Him." Butlers, if you would, to be an attendant to the King. We see there is this ministry unto the Lord that calls for devotion, and you have to have a heart for it.

#### I Chronicles 16:37

What are they doing? Do you know who Asaph is? He is a musician, and his brothers are musicians with him. David left him and his brothers there before the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord to minister before the Ark regularly, as every day's work required. How does David know that? Well, David did minister to a king. He ministered to Saul. David was a warrior, but he found out that the king likes to be ministered to with Saul. David sang and played for King Saul, and the afflictions that would come upon him and the torment would be lifted and removed in the presence of worship. Jesus showed David, this is what I want. This is what I desire. I desire to be ministered to the same way.

David had a revelation. "Aha, He doesn't just want incense and burnt offerings. He doesn't just want the blood and the fat. He doesn't just want all of that. He wants worship in another style, in another way, and a new fragrance with song and with instrument. David set apart Levites, Asaph and his brothers, to just play as every day's work before the Lord. That sounds like an easy job. That is not easy. That is a lot of work. It takes a lot of work to lead a house in worship, to focus on the anointing, not whether anybody else is worshiping with you or not. They had to play, whether anybody showed up to the temple or not, whether anybody wanted to come and repent, or whether anybody wanted the call. That was not the call. The call is not to bring people to repentance. The call was to minister to the Lord and be devoted to giving Him His needs.

In Ephesians chapter four Jesus has given apostles and prophets and evangelists and pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of the ministry. The work of the ministry is every day's work of ministering unto the Lord. We equip you in how to hear God, how to see God, how to believe God, and how to know God. You think that you are getting equipped to go out. Yes, but you can't go out unless you see God, unless you hear God, unless you know God and unless you love God. So, the ministry is that we give you the tools to hear God, to know God,

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to see God and to love God. We know that when you hear God, see God, know God and love God, He will come. Then you will teach others how to see God, hear God, know God and love God, because that is the ministry. We are a Kingdom of priests unto our Lord.

#### Joel 2:17

What are the priests doing? They are ministering before the Lord in intercession. They are praying. They are weeping between the porch and the altar. That is a term of the court of the temple, and they are to stand in the gap as watchmen. Brandy was talking about that. "Wake up, watchmen." Who are the watchmen? The priests that are ministering before the Lord. They are calling forth, "Open the eyes, open the ears, open the heart and see, see, hear, hear, look, look, behold, behold the glory of the living God."

#### Romans 12:1

Service, what do you mean service? My rational ministry. This is my ministry, "That I would present myself before God, saying, "What do you need. What is your need? What do you need." Right? Lauren did a good K3 lesson all about our ministry of sitting at His feet, ministering to His needs, and listening to Him. Not that we have to hear anything, but being available for Him to speak. Sometimes we feel guilty that we did not hear God. But, what if you were just there to be available? Does the butler get upset if the master doesn't speak to Him? I do not know, but he shouldn't. You see, it is similar in that I am a bond servant of Christ. I am a slave to Christ. I am a son of the Father. Yes, we might think that we are entitled to hear that voice, but it really is a sacrifice. I am offering myself as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto the holy God. He is God. I am not. He has created me to minister to Him. It is my rational service. It is my reasonable service.

#### Matthew 25:34-46

The question comes from those that did not do it. "When did we not minister to you?" I want you to recognize that the faithful servants did not recognize Jesus, because they were ministering to Him. They saw Him so much. They say, I did not see you. I know what you look like. I know who you are. I haven't seen you. They had that relationship. "I did not, I did not see you in the prison. I did not, I did not see you there." Because they have ministered so much to the Lord that they went and did as they saw Him doing. They have ministered so much to the Lord that they went and did what they heard Him saying. They were just doing what they saw in Jesus. But they say, "It wasn't you, because I know what you look like." Sometimes when we read this chapter, when we read this parable, when we read this account, we get focused on the doing and not who we are ministering for. We focus on what I need to do. I need to go into the prisons. I need to go and give to that homeless man. I need to go and feed those people. I need to go do that, because that is what Jesus says. That is where He is. But the question was, "When did we not minister to you?"

The question was, "When did we not minister to you?" That was the perplexing thing, because we had it in our minds, "The church can do this. When we do those tasks, or when we do those things, Jesus will be there." But, what if He's not? Those that recognize Him know where He is. "Wherever you go, I will go. Whatever you say, I will say." This is why Jesus could go into an entire pool of sick people, and only pray for one. Because the task would be, "you pray for all of the sick people." The task would be, "you go and give food to all of those people." Because it says that is what you do, to minister to the Lord. But, Jesus did not go to all the sick people. He went to where the Lord was hovering over the one that for decades couldn't make it to the water. He says, "I am the water. I am the pool." Do you know what I am talking about? It is a very strange account, but Jesus doesn't go after the "tasks." He goes after the "one." He's ministering to "one," even when He fed the 5000. He's ministering to one for the glory of Your name, Father, for the glory of Your renown, for the fame of Your name, and administering Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on the Earth. Our ministry is to devote ourselves and all

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that we have to minister to the Lord's needs. It is not so much accomplishing tasks for the Lord's work. It is being devoted to the Lord's desires. Our outward service derives from our intimate service with the Lord. It is our relationship with Him. It is all about relationship.

Which is better? Well, maybe this is a trick question, but which is better? Is it better for guys to just get any gift for your wife, or to listen? Yes, thank you, good job. Listen to what has been on their heart and through relationship, and give the gift that you have been listening for, right? There has been a deeper level of intimacy when you were listening and hear "Oh, I really need to replace this." You get a gift of relationship versus just a gift, right? That is the way it is.

Should I go to the homeless, because that is my ministry? Or, did you hear Jesus say, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few?" Because, when you hear God's voice say it, or when you hear the exasperation in Jesus's voice, then it moves you. Versus, "I just read that parable. I need to go to the jail. I need to go out." Yes, there is a faithfulness, but the spirit of it can be wrong. Versus, "I am devoted to you, and I saw Jesus grieving over the nation of X, Y and Z. I saw Jesus crying over this school system. I saw Jesus weeping over my grandma. I saw Jesus. I heard his cry." That is the move of a servant that says, "I saw the Master's pain, and it moved me to go, because I can be the hands. I can be the feet. What do you want to do, Jesus?" Versus what do you want me to do? What do you want to do? How can I assist in the heart of God? That's the ministry of the saints, and He has given apostles and prophets and evangelists and pastors and teachers to equip you for the work of the ministry.

That work is to know the heart of God. Love that heart, and do with that heart. You hear it? When you hear God's heart, it is a matter of relationship. My wife, did not tell any of you things to get her, right? But, you hear if you are in relationship, and if you are in a covenant with someone. You hear what they long for, you hear what they enjoy, and you hear what they do not like. Those things in the relationship matter more because you listened, you cared and you loved. How much more so with Jesus, that you listened, you cared and you loved. You give out of that, and you do out of that, and you work out of that every day's work. Love is who God is. Yes, we were meant to give ourselves up for another. I believe that.

I believe that we were created to give ourselves up for another. I believe that we were meant to sacrifice. I believe that we were meant to be selflessly devoted. Why? Because, we were meant for love. All of the songs out right now are singing about love, and they have from the beginning of time. All of the most popular books are about love, because we were meant to be devoted selflessly, fully. All that I am and all that I have is yours, because that is who God is. God is love, and He created us. He said, "All that I have and all that I am is yours, and I will selflessly, sacrificially, unconditionally love you." That is the beauty of marriage, that we want someone who will look us in the eyes and say, "All that I have and all that I am is yours." The beauty of it is that when we fail those vows, when we fail that covenant, forgiveness comes up. We choose to say, "I will love you even though the condition changed or you broke that condition." It is a beautiful thing, because it reminds us of God, that even the angels look in awe at the grace given to us. That forgiveness can so erase hurt, can so erase deep wounds, can so erase and truly forget that our sins ever existed. "As far as the East is from the West, so I have removed your sins from you." The same love is in us through the Holy Spirit, by the grace of God, in the blood of Jesus. Out of this love comes true devotion.

How do you do the priesthood? How do you serve before Him? How can you do that? Every day is work. It is devotion, it is devotion, it is devotion. I believe that we were meant to give ourselves to another. All love is selflessly giving up of ourselves to sacrifice for another. This is true love, and so the Bible teaches us about devoting ourselves to love. But, you have to have a heart for it. When the Bride of Christ learns to devote themselves to the Lord and devote themselves to each other, that is the priesthood.

Proverbs 17:16 NKJV

It reads a little differently I think in every version. This is what the New King James says. "Why is there in the hand of a fool, the purchase price of wisdom, since he has no heart for it." I think that they should put this up at Six Flags. Why is there in your hand a ticket for a roller coaster when you have no heart for it. That's what He's saying. What are we saying here? I am saying there are a lot of Christians that have in their hands the "keys to the Kingdom, but no heart for it." We have the purchase price of blood on our hands, but the devotion required to love the Lord your God with all your strength, all your soul, all your mind, all your heart, is a hard price. That devotion is wisdom, that devotion is truth, and that devotion is real.

It is the Bride of Christ that has finally realized, my ministry is to the Lord first. "My ministry is to Him first, and it is in my hands, the Kingdom is in my hands." What is your heart for it? What is your heart for the Kingdom? What is your heart for the Kingdom of God? What is your heart to see the Kingdom of God in your hand growing greater and greater and greater, glorious and glorious and glorious. If you just want to see the power of God, He is not going to give it to you. But, if you want to see God in His power, there is the difference. If you want to just heal the sick, He's not just going to give it to you. But if you want to see the Healer, He will show you. You see the difference?

I am devoted to what? I am devoted, not to what, but I am devoted to Whom. Ah, the purchase price is in my hand. But, I am not going to be a fool. I am wise. I have to have a heart for it. I have to have a heart to do this. That is why the entire Bible is full of examples. How many examples are in the Bible? I just named a few of people. People devoted, because the Bible consistently tries to encourage us that you can be devoted, that you can have a heart for it. They give us many examples over and over and over again to teach us how to do this. A lot of them are in the book of Timothy. "The good soldier who does not get entangled in civilian affairs. The farmer who cultivates and works the land for the harvest." These are devoted to a purpose.

But, all of it says, "All in all, is in Christ. All of this is through Christ. All of this is in Christ. All of this is by Christ. All of this is by the whole and it is surrounding the devotion to the ministry of the Lord." But, they give us analogies on what it looks like to be so devoted to Him, right? A maid servant or a bond servant, is who tends specifically to the needs of their master, after they have worked all day. Jesus said, "They do not come in and say, Master, can you make a meal for me and prepare for me?" No, it is flipped. You go and work all day, and then you come to Jesus and you say, "What can I do for you? How do I serve your needs? Can I get your pillow? Can I fluff your beds?" That is the butler's mindset.

The Bride who focuses and devotes her time on beautifying herself for the Bridegroom, is a glorious, spotless church made ready. It is a symbol of how long the Bride takes to prepare. How many hours does she look in the mirror, and how many people attend and see her beautify herself. She has devoted time. She has been set apart, and she is hidden away. She has devoted herself to not worry about anything but getting ready for the Bridegroom. Devotion and focus, do you have a heart for it? The athlete who trains and runs and perseveres for the prize of Christ. However it is that we need to get it. However it is that we have revelation. However it is that just makes sense. The Bible is filled full with those examples. You with me? We have to see, we have to understand, and we have to get the revelation that our ministry is devotion to the Lord alone. Out of our devotion to the Lord alone, all of these things will be added unto us. "Seek first the Kingdom." But, it is really, "Seek first the King, as your Father, and all of these things will be added unto you."

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Proverbs 17:16

“Why is there in the hand of a fool the purchase price of wisdom, since he has no heart for it.”

Amen, let's stand and pray.

"Holy Ghost, we do not want to be standing in the Kingdom of Heaven with the keys to the Kingdom in our hands, but no heart to use it and no wisdom on how to do it. Complacency and apathy was the way that we walked. Now, we strive for the narrow way. I thank you for where you have given us due diligence. I thank you for where you have spurred us on. I thank you for when we have hungered and thirsted for righteousness. We ask for a greater measure of awakening the heart to hunger and to thirst for God, for Jesus, and for your glorious ministry. That we would minister to You in glory. I thank You, Father for it. In Jesus' mighty name I pray, Amen."