

WHEN THE GOSPEL
TRANSFORMS
The Desires
— OF YOUR —
HEART

♥
PART I

JOHN 15:9-11



A 6-DAY DEVOTIONAL

Based on the teaching — Part I • John 15:9-11
Pastor Wilfredo Feliciano

“We're Family”

How to Use This Devotional

Over the next 6 days, we invite you to pause, read, reflect, and pray alongside the teaching “When the Gospel Transforms the Desires of Your Heart.” Each day includes a Scripture passage, a short reflection, a heart-examining question, and a prayer to guide your time with God. Find a quiet place, keep your Bible and a journal nearby, and let the Holy Spirit speak to your heart.

DAY 1

The Change That Truly Matters

Word for Today — Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

If I asked what deep change looks like to you, you'd probably picture dropping a bad habit or starting a good one: stop lying, start tithing, quit pornography, treat your spouse better. All good answers — but they share something in common. They see change only as a transformation of behavior.

Here's the uncomfortable question: does it take a Christian to make those changes? A disciplined believer can modify behavior. Even an atheist can stop lying. Human willpower can produce outward behavior with zero inward transformation.

The problem was never only what you do, but why you do it. Paul doesn't call us to copy someone else's behavior — he calls us to let God transform the way we think, that is, our heart. Real change starts much deeper than we usually look.

REFLECT

What behavior have you tried to change through sheer willpower, without ever seeing a real transformation in your heart?

PRAY

Lord, today I admit that I've often confused changing my behavior with transforming my heart. Transform the way I think, so I can know and enjoy your good, pleasing, and perfect will. In Jesus' name, amen.

Notes

DAY 2

The Hidden Root of Your Actions

Word for Today — Luke 16:15

He said to them, "You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God's sight."

Picture a woman who decides, this Sunday, she won't give her offering. She's enjoying the service, full of joy in worship. But when the offering time comes, she notices her small-group leader is the one collecting it — and that very week they'd been studying generosity. She pulls a few coins from her purse and drops them in, relieved.

Did she do anything wrong? No. But the question that really matters isn't what she did — it's why she did it. Was it out of love for God and His work? Or out of fear of her leader's opinion and a desire to protect her image?

What people value highly can be detestable in God's sight. An outwardly good action can be spiritually hollow if the root feeding it is self-love.

REFLECT

Think of a "good" action you did this week. If you're completely honest, what really motivated it?

PRAY

Father, you know my heart better than I know it myself. Search me and show me the hidden roots behind my actions. Let everything I do flow from real love for you, not fear of others' opinions. Amen.

Notes

DAY 3

Your Heart Follows Your Treasure

Word for Today — Matthew 6:21 (NIV)

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The human heart is, at its core, a seeking mechanism. Christian or not, everyone loves something. We say “I love this person,” “I love my job,” “I love traveling.” To love is the heart's response to whatever it finds attractive, treasured, and desired — and the heart will relentlessly chase whatever it has crowned as its greatest treasure.

Jesus said it with startling clarity: where your treasure is, there your heart will be. Not the other way around. Your heart doesn't decide first and then find a treasure — it follows the treasure it has already chosen. That's why the most important question a Christian can ask isn't “what should I do?” but “what does my heart love the most?”

REFLECT

If someone only watched your actions this week — your time, your money, your thoughts — what would they say is your greatest treasure?

PRAY

Lord Jesus, I want you to be the treasure of my heart above everything else. Show me where I've placed my trust and affection, and draw me back to you. Amen.

Notes

DAY 4

Seeing in Order to Treasure

Word for Today — 2 Corinthians 3:18 (NIV)

And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

How do we change what we love? Not by gritting our teeth or trying harder. Paul prayed that God would open the eyes of our hearts (Ephesians 1:18), because we only enjoy what we actually see. It's the same as standing before a breathtaking sunset — no one forces you to enjoy it; you simply see it and marvel.

That's how spiritual transformation works: when we see the glory of Christ, what we treasure, appreciate, and value changes. It's not about trying harder to love God — it's about beholding Him more clearly. The more we see Him, the more we treasure Him. The more we treasure Him, the more our hearts are transformed — from glory to glory.

REFLECT

What practices help you “see” the glory of Christ more clearly — Scripture, prayer, worship, community?

PRAY

Father, open the eyes of my heart. Help me behold the glory of Christ more clearly every day, so my heart is transformed — not by effort, but by wonder. Amen.

Notes

DAY 5

A Love That Never Changes

Word for Today — John 15:9 (NIV)

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

Here is one of the most astonishing truths of the gospel: Jesus loves you with the same intensity the Father loves Him. That's not an exaggeration or a poetic figure of speech — it's exactly what John 15:9 declares. God loves you with the same measure of love with which He loves Himself.

And that love is unchanging. It cannot rise or fall; it cannot be moved by anything or anyone — not even by your sin. If you fail today, God's love for you doesn't shift an inch. What does happen is that you become unable to feel it, embrace it, and enjoy it. That's why keeping His commandments isn't the condition for being loved — it's the means to remain enjoying a love that's already guaranteed.

REFLECT

Is there a failure or sin that makes you feel like God loves you less? What does John 15:9 say about that?

PRAY

Father, thank you that your love for me doesn't depend on my performance. Help me today to remain in your love — not to earn it, but to fully enjoy it. Amen.

Notes

DAY 6

Complete Joy, a Full Heart

Word for Today — John 15:11 (NIV)

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

A heart empty of God's love spends its life begging the world for love — searching to be filled by approval, success, an ideal body, or the satisfaction of always being right. But a heart full of God's love no longer needs to beg for anything. Win or lose an argument, be heavier or thinner, your identity stays secure, because you've already been loved with the greatest love that exists.

Jesus didn't tell us about His love just so we'd know it — He told us so that His joy would be in us and our joy would be complete. Knowing this changes nothing; experiencing it deep in your heart is the only thing that makes the real difference. So your greatest need isn't to do more works to earn God's favor — it's to remain in His love, living today as the most loved person in the universe. Because you are.

REFLECT

In what area of your life are you still “begging” for approval or love, instead of resting in the love of God you already have?

PRAY

Lord, thank you that I no longer have to beg the world for love. Help me remain in your love every day, so your joy may be in me and made complete. Let me live today as the most loved person in the universe — because I am, in Christ. Amen.

Notes
