

September 12, 2021 Tyler Ferguson

The Heart of Freedom Fellowship: Seeking His Heart Not Just His Hand

Another characteristic of Freedom Fellowship is that we want to seek God's heart and not just His hand. We want to preserve in the foundation of our church these seven characteristics called The Heart of Freedom Fellowship. What does it mean to seek His heart?

Matthew 7:21-23 *Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, drive out demons in your name, and do many miracles in your name?' Then I will announce to them, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you lawbreakers!'*

These verses identify those that saw God's hand but didn't know God's heart. There are many people in hell who saw plenty of God's hand but not one who truly understood His heart. We tend to spend more energy seeking God's hand than we do His heart. We do want to see His hand, but more important is that we seek His heart. Let's discover God's heart towards you.

1) God is not disappointed in you. **Romans 5:6-8** *For while we were still helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly. For rarely will someone die for a just person—though for a good person perhaps someone might even dare to die. But God proves His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. God knew everything you were going to do when He gave everything for you. God can be disappointed in a decision we make, but He will never be disappointed in you as a person. We may grieve God with our sin but nothing can change His love.*

When we feel God is disappointed in us we might be paralyzed in fear that our next move will disappoint Him, then... we don't do anything. Or sometimes, we might fill our time doing everything possible to make sure He is not disappointed in us.

Know that God is exceedingly proud of you - He believes in you. Nothing can change the fact that God loves each one of us.

2) God likes you. **Psalm 147:11** *The Lord delights in those who fear Him, who put their hope in His unfailing love.* God delights in us - He takes joy in us. Most people know that God loves them but struggle with God liking them. God enjoys spending time with us - it is not a sacrifice for Him. God likes us. God longs for us to sit with Him and tell Him about our day. We can go to God with many requests and much praise, and also with just talking to Him.

3) God chases after you. **Hosea 2:6-7** *Therefore, this is what I will do: I will block her way with thorns; I will enclose her with a wall, so that she cannot find her paths. She will pursue her lovers but not catch them; she will look for them but not find them. Then she will think, I will go back to my former husband, for then it was better for me than now. Verse 14-15* *Therefore, I am going to persuade her, lead her to the wilderness, and speak tenderly to her. There I will give her vineyards back to her and make the Valley of Achor into a gateway of hope. There she will respond as she did in the days of her youth, as in the day she came out of the land of Egypt.*

Jessica Lynch, as a Prisoner Of War in Iraq, was alone and feeling forgotten, yet behind the scenes, there was a great rescue plan happening. Do you find yourself far from the heart of God? Do you feel forgotten? Behind the scenes, God is mobilizing the entire army of heaven to bring you back to His heart. God's heart is to rescue each one of us.

How have you resisted knowing God? Have you drifted from God?

What is a special time that you knew God's love, God's like, and His chasing after you?

How would you explain the difference between seeking God's heart and seeking His hand? Which would you choose? Or how can you do both?