



"FINDING THE HEART OF JESUS"

LUKE 6:40
MARK 12:29-31

I want to grow in the area of _____.

I will begin by _____.

I will not _____.

FINDING THE HEART OF JESUS

1. What would you change in your life if Jesus really did become you?
2. Since God wants you to have a heart like his, give yourself a checkup:
 - A. What's your heart condition today?
 - B. What would happen during a spiritual "stress test"? Would the results differ, depending on what was happening in your life from day to day?
 - C. What specific actions would you have to take to develop a heart like Jesus?
3. God wants you to be like him, but he does love you just the way you are. Describe the "you" that God loves. What are your gifts, talents, abilities, concerns, cares, quirks, faults, needs, desires?

PROBING THE MIND OF CHRIST

Read Philippians 2:5-13

- A. We are to have the same attitude as Christ, to "think and act like Christ Jesus." How difficult is this for you?
- B. How much effort are you willing to expend to comply with the directive of this passage? What kind of effort?
- C. What about your heart needs the most attention?

BECOMING THE HANDS OF JESUS

1. Write down 2 Corinthians 3:18 on a card and post it where you will see it every day. Memorize it and thank God for loving you enough to change you into someone like him!
2. Spend a few minutes imagining yourself handling a particular prickly situation, one that you usually struggle with. Now imagine how you could handle it with "a heart like his." Then pray that God will enable you to handle an actual situation just as you did in your imagination. The next time it occurs, write in a journal what happened, and see how God will answer your honest prayers!

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Suggested Works

The Critical Journey, by Janet O. Hagberg and Ropbert Guelich (Salem: Sheffield, 1989)

Just Like Jesus, by Max Lucado (Nashville: Word, 1998)

Rekindling the Inner Fire, a devotional series; David Hazzard, editor

A Day in Your Presence, Francis of Assisi

Early Will I Seek You, Augustine

Majestic Is Your Name, Teresa of Avila

Mighty is Your Hand, Andrew Murray

Safe Within Your Love, Hannah W. Smith

You Are My Hiding Place, Amy Carmichael

You Set My Spirit Free, John of the Cross

Open to God, by Joyce Huggett (InterVarsity Press, 1989)

Including 28 guided meditations and available with companion music

Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ, by Jeanne Guyon (Beaumont, Texas: Seed Sowers, 1975)

Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth, rev. ed., by Richard Foster
(San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1988)

Devotional Classics, edited by Richard J. Foster and James Bryan Smith
(Harper SanFrancisco, 1993) A Renovare resource for spiritual renewal

The Divine Conspiracy, by Dallas Willard (HarperSanFrancisco, 1998)

The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People, by John Ortberg
(Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1997)

Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life, by Marjorie J. Thompson
(Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1995)

Biblical Meditation for Spiritual Breakthrough: 10 Biblical Ways to Meditate and Draw Closer to the Lord, by Elmer Towns
(Ventura, CA: Regal, 1998)

Passion for Jesus: Growing in extravagant Love for God, by Mike Bickle (Orlando, Creation House, 1993)

Wasting Time with God: A Christian Spirituality of Friendship with God, by Klaus Issler
(Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001)

Yearning Minds and Burning Hearts: Rediscovering the Spirituality of Jesus, by Glandion Carney and William Long
(Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1995)

The Treasury of Christian Spiritual Classics, (Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1994)

Reflective Living books by Ken Gire

The Divine Embrace, 2003

Work of His Hands: The Agony and the Ecstasy of Being Conformed of Christ, 2002

Moments with the Savior, 1998

Windows of the Soul, 1996

Incredible Moments with the Savior, 1990

Instructive Moments with the Savior, 1992

Intense Moments with the Savior, 1995

Intimate Moments with the Savior, 1989