



#homedevos 15.1

A COMMUNITY AFTER GOD'S HEART – PART 2

Check-Up of Our Hearts

Introduction:

- We are talking about communities after God's heart, in other words, communities that live together in such a way that it brings joy to God's heart.
- We've seen last week that a community is a group of individuals who has the same beliefs and values. A community after God's heart is a community where each one believes in Jesus and loves Him passionately, follows Him and loves others as themselves, living in obedience to Him and where children are important.
- We heard Sunday on the video clip that Jesus is the center, the foundation of a Biblical community, where Jesus is Lord and King.
- We, as a family, are also a Biblical community, because we believe in Jesus – His death, burial and resurrection, our complete salvation through Him – we love Him, one another, and other people around us. But we are also part of the wider Biblical community with others around us.
- Healthy members are essential for a healthy community.

When we are sick, we know there is something wrong in our bodies and we go to the doctor to help us get well again.

Our relationship with Jesus is the most important relationship that there is.

When we feel far from Him, we need to quickly go to Him and we know He will help us.

Today, no matter where we find ourselves, we are going for a "check-up" on our relationship with God. He is a loving Father and desires to have a close and healthy relationship with us. He is lovingly waiting with open arms for us to come close to Him.



Let us first pray:

Ask Holy Spirit to help us to hear and understand what Father is saying, to give us a revelation and understanding of His love.

One of the places in the Bible where we can go for a good “check-up” is Psalm 24. Let us read verses 1-6. Ready?

(Parents, again, involve the family ... either reading in a circle or reading all together out loud - participation is important. It is also good to read from the Bible, not from the notes, that the children can see it is written in God’s Word.)

- (1) *The earth is the Lord’s and all its fullness,
The world and those who dwell therein.*
- (2) *For He has founded it upon the seas,
And established it upon the waters.*
- (3) *Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord?
Or who may stand in His holy place?*
- (4) *He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
Who does not lift up his soul to an idol,
Nor swear deceitfully.*
- (5) *He shall receive blessing from the Lord
And righteousness from the God of his salvation.*
- (6) *This is Jacob, the generation of those who seek Him,
Who seek Your face.” Selah. (NKJV)*

We read in verse 3 “Who may ascend to the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place?”

What do you think these questions mean?

Yes, that we may come in the presence of the Lord. We can ask it this way: “Who may go to God to visit Him? Who may stand in His presence?”



Questions:

Do you think we can? Do you think it is possible for us? Why?

God Himself answers this question in verse 4.

So, let’s see if we can come into His presence, if we have a close, beautiful, open relationship with Jesus. Let us each one be honest with ourselves. This is to help us to grow closer to Him.



When we go the doctor whether you are sick or for a check-up he/she first asks us some questions asking about your symptoms, what you do and your lifestyle, listens carefully to your heart, examines your body and looks into your mouth.

(You can play-play be the doctor and examine the “patient”, or your child is the doctor and you are the patient. Have some fun.)

meaning of #devoicons



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video



do an
activity



pray
together



memory
verse



ask a
question



family
talk



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When we read in verse 4: *"He who has clean hands"* it is like God asks us How do you live? What do you do?



1 Peter 3:110-11(ESV) says: *"Whoever desires to love life and see good days ... let him turn away from evil and do good, let him seek peace and pursue it."*

We read further in verse 4: *"... and a pure heart."* It is like God looks into our hearts and asks: Do you love Me with a pure heart? In sincerity, all honesty and in truth, whole-heartedly?



Jesus said in Matthew 5:8: *"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."*

Next we read *"Who does not lift up his soul to an idol"* this means that we do not put our trust in anything else than in God alone. The question then is: Do we fully put our trust in God alone? Are there other things you rather put your trust in (like money or people)?



Proverbs 3:5(TPT): *"Trust in the Lord completely, and do not rely on your own opinions."*

Lastly we read: *"Nor swear deceitfully."* In other words, you do not tell lies, but speak the truth even if you might be punished. Ephesians 4:25: *"Therefore, putting away lying, each one speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another."*



There are four things:

- Do you do the right thing, doing good?
- Are you sincere, honest, and genuine in loving and serving God?
- Do you only trust in God alone?
- Do you speak the truth?

As we examine ourselves in the light of God's Word and find there anything that is out of line, let us make right with Him right now. He stands with open arms to welcome us.

We read in 1 John 1:8-9: *"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* See, God is waiting with open arms for us to come to Him. As we admit where we have missed it and ask for

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forgiveness and we are assured that He will completely forgive us and bring us in right standing with Him, our sins completely removed.



Let us pray:

- Confess your sins.
- Ask God to help you to grow closer to Him.

(You can give your family time to pray softly in their hearts, or in the group. Encourage them to respond to God right now. Be sensitive to each one. Do not rush. Reach out and come alongside to the one who needs help.)

We have now the promise in verse 5: *“He shall receive blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.”*



Memory Verse:

We'll check in on the ones we've learned next time



Activity:

Draw a picture of you and Jesus or write a love letter to Jesus.

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