

Special Speaker, Dr. Jim Walz: We know that God always answers prayer but not always the way we want Him to answer us. When His answer is something other than what we had hoped for, how do we respond? Are we able to accept His answer, obey it, and continue to have faith in Him? Or do we find ourselves questioning His response, rationalizing an alternative action, and justifying it by saying, "God loves me, so I know He's okay with me doing what I want." Today, we will discuss this issue and how we can learn to accept God's answers, joyfully, and full of faith particularly when His answer doesn't line up with our desires.

Daily Ways to a Devoted Heart

"The world has not seen what God can do with a man totally dedicated to God."
D. L. Moody

1. Three Kinds of Hearts:

A. Degenerate Heart

Jeremiah said: The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? (Jer. 17:9)

Jesus said: "For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person." (Mark 7: 21-23)

B. Divided Heart

Jesus said: "A man cannot serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other or he will be devoted to one and despise the other." (Matt. 6:24)

C. Devoted Heart

Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matt. 6:21)

2. Daily ways to a Devoted Heart:

- A. Read and memorize God's Word.
- B. Pray.
- C. Meditate on God's Word.

LifeGroup Questions

BEGIN IT (5 min) – Spend time praising the Lord, and pray that God leads the study.

OPEN IT (10 min) – Share with one another about a time when God did not answer your prayers the way you had hoped and how you responded.

EXPLORE IT (60 min) –

1. Why does God not always answer our prayers the way we want Him to?
2. Is God concerned with the details of your life? Why or why not?
3. How can we know God's will in certain circumstances?
4. What areas of your life have you considered giving over to the Lord, and what is holding you back?
5. Read Acts 13:22. Why did Paul refer to David as a man after God's own heart?
6. Read 2 Sam. 12:13. Was David's response to Nathan appropriate? What does this tell you about the kind of man David was?

APPLY IT (25 min) – Discuss ways to maintain a regular devotional life in accordance with the strategy laid out in this past Sunday's sermon.