

October 23, 2022

## A Tender Heart

by George Slover

*“because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before God when you heard His words against this place and against its inhabitants, and you humbled yourself before Me, and you tore your clothes and wept before Me, I also have heard you,” says the LORD. (2 Chronicles 34:27)*

King Josiah was a great man. He ruled the nation of Judah several hundred years before the time of Christ. He inherited the throne at the young age of eight. This remarkable character, at age sixteen, sought the God of his father David. (II Chronicles 34:3) Instead of following the footsteps of a wicked father and grandfather, he devoted himself to pleasing Jehovah God.

At age twenty-six Josiah commissioned his leaders to repair the temple. In the process of this work a copy of the book of the law of Moses was found, (II Chronicles 34:14, 18) and it was read before the king. Josiah, when he heard these words, tore his clothes (II Chronicles 34:19) and commanded the high priest to inquire of the Lord concerning the meaning of the message. Jehovah’s answer was a promise to destroy Judah for her wickedness, but to preserve Josiah because of his tender heart.

“Tenderness of heart” means to be

soft, yielding, and easily touched. The condition of King Josiah’s heart is manifested by his willingness to hear God’s word. Josiah believes it, acknowledging it to be a message from God. He reverently fears it as he allows it to sink into his soul. He does not resist it or try to drown it out. With urgency he makes full inquiry into its import. He diligently guides himself by its commands. Without quibble he calls all others to enter into a covenant with God.

We must not neglect the simple, faithful example of Josiah as the way to receive God’s will! Give to God your tender heart!

### Getting Our Eyes Off of Ourselves

by Rickie Jenkins

Paul makes an urgent appeal in Philippians 2:3, “Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit” (Phil. 2:3 NASB). And yet we’ve said, we are all selfish, so what can we do about it? Can we get our eyes off self? According to Scripture, we can. The preceding two verses show us how. They say,

*“Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind.” (Phil.*

## Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

**We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.**

## Important Dates

*If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.*

2:1-2 NASB)

Paul's sarcasm is thinly veiled. Is there any encouragement? Any consolation? Any fellowship? Then smile! What's the cure for selfishness? Get yourself out of your eye by getting your eye off yourself. Quit staring at yourself and focus on your great Savior.

Don't focus on yourself; focus on all that you have in Christ. Focus on the encouragement in Christ, the consolation of Christ, the love of Christ, the fellowship of the Spirit, the affection and compassion of heaven.

If Christ becomes our focus, we won't be like the physician in Arkansas. He misdiagnosed the patient. He declared the woman to be dead. The family was informed, and the husband was grief-stricken. Imagine the surprise of the nurse when she discovered that the woman was alive! "You better tell the family," she urged the doctor. The embarrassed physician phoned the husband and said, "I need to talk to you about the condition of your wife." "The condition of my wife?" he asked. "She's dead." The doctor's pride only allowed him to concede, "Well, she has seen a slight improvement." Slight improvement? Talk about an understatement!

He was so concerned about his image that he missed an opportunity to celebrate. We laugh, but don't we do the same? We've gone from cremation to celebration. We deserve a lava bath, but we've been given a pool of grace. Yet to look at our faces, you'd think our circumstances had made only a "slight improvement." "How's life?" someone asks. And we who've been resurrected from the dead say, "Well, things could be better." Or "Couldn't get a parking place." Or "My parents won't let me move to Hawaii."

Honestly. We worry about acid rain

in silver linings. Do you think Paul might like to have a word with us? Are you so focused on what you don't have that you are blind to what you do have? Have you received any encouragement? Any fellowship? Any consolation? Then don't you have reason for joy? Don't you have a reason to get your eye off you, and show someone else some love?

## Prayer Requests

**Jack Wilson** is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

**Jerry Richardson** is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system. He is having some tests run for his lungs.

**Karen Hallmark** has improved but continues to struggle and could use our prayers.

**Dinah Williams** continues to have mobility issues.

**Don Simmons** is home and still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

**John Miller (Dyanne Turner's brother)** is under treatment for cancer.

**Sylvia Stinnett's brother, Jerome**, had surgery and is recovering.

**Elaine Kersch** is having tests run to diagnose problems with her lungs.

**Randall Vanaman** is having difficulties with his feet.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

**"praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,"**  
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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