

## “TAKE HEART!”

By Mary Mayko

**Psalm 6: 2-4** “Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am faint; O LORD, heal me, for my bones are in agony. My soul is in anguish. How long, O LORD, how long? Turn, O LORD, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love.”



**Psalm 139:23-24** “Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

The Word of God offers us love and hope in a world that daily reports news of death and despair, deceptions and discouragements without any solutions or encouragement for these conditions to change! The News just seems to add to our distress and makes us feel downcast! How can we really *take heart* when we are faced with so many negative situations! Where is the *Good News*?

**Psalm 42:5** “Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise Him, my Savior and my God.”

If we think we have offended the LORD in some way, we will *lose heart* and feel discouraged. If we really have, we need a heart exam to clear up any issues! The LORD may use these times to actually awaken our hearts!

**Heb.12:4-6** “In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons! “My son, do not make light of the LORD’S discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you, because the LORD disciplines everyone He accepts as a son.”

*Take heart!* God is always available to come to our aid! We are His children! Sometimes He calls on others to share a burden in our behalf. We see or hear from someone who asks us if we are doing “okay”, and realize they are truly looking for us to respond to their question! A Believer that is willing to go to God’s Throne in our behalf shows us how much the LORD really knows our problem and cares enough to tap someone on the shoulder to intercede for us! When others show they really do care about us, it brings a sense of renewal to our soul!

It is not enough to just know that God has others who pray for us at particular times. He wants us to do the same for their special needs. A sudden urge to pray for a particular person is sometimes so strong we feel we must seek the LORD in their behalf! Isn’t it time for us to rediscover how important love and hope is in every area of our lives? Our hearts can overflow with gratitude as we *take heart*.

What does it mean to *take heart*? It means that we are encouraged in our spirit. We feel hope and strength returning to renew us. Our trust and confidence in the LORD rises as we begin to rejoice in Him. We think about His faithfulness to us, the many times He has already answered an important plea! It means we can stand firmly on His promises. To *take heart* means I *expect* Him to come to my rescue! As He does, He will purify our heart and give us joy! **Matt. 5:8** “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

A heart for God will lift you out of any discouragement! MM

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## **“THE HEART OF GOD” ♥**

By Rev. J. Kehl Golding

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on you own understanding; in all you ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6

There is no getting around it!! February and hearts go together!!

So were my thoughts as I sat on the bench in the gym’s locker room. At the other end of the bench an individual interrupted my thinking with conversation about the cold weather. We exchanged small talk, and at one point the door was open to say a word about Jesus Christ.

“Stop right there!! I don’t believe in any of that stuff. I don’t believe in a God, or a Higher Power, or a Man upstairs, or anything like that!”

The statement was made so loud and clear, with such conviction, I was shocked, and must have shown it. Very quietly the next words were, “It’s a long story. Where is God when we have a tsunami, tornadoes, and earthquakes? Where is He when children die of cancer? Out the door the individual flew, leaving me no opportunity to respond.

All the way home and still days later this encounter has troubled me. If you only knew Him! If only you knew His heart of love! So this month, I would like you to consider the heart of God.

### **LOVE ♥**

“For God SO LOVED the world”- begins John 3:16, the most familiar of all Scripture. It takes our attention first of all to His heart of love. Our heart is the seat of our emotions, therefore is reflected in our actions, deeds, behavior and everyday living.

The Bible [God’s Handbook for living this life] clearly brings it out better than I can. “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.” Proverbs 4:23 It determines our character. Proverbs 23:7a tells us, “For as he thinketh in his heart, so he is.”

Consider the following verses, as they clearly reveal His heart of love toward us.

**“For God is LOVE”** I John 4:8

## DELIVERANCE ♥

“Because He loves me; says the Lord, I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will **deliver** him and honor him.” Psalm 91:14-15

## ETERNAL LIFE ♥

“For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have **Redemption** for the forgiveness of sins.”  
Colossians 1:13-14

## GUIDANCE ♥

“He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside the still waters, He restores my soul. He **guides** me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.” Psalm 23:2-3

## PEACE ♥

“And the **peace** of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4:7

## PROTECTION ♥

“Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the Most High, thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling **for He shall give His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.**” Psalm 91:9-12

## COMPASSION ♥

“The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; He has **compassion** on all He has made.” Psalm 145: 8-9

So what happened? How do we reconcile the love of God’s heart with all the trauma we experience in life? We must go the Bible for answers. It all goes back to the Book of Genesis chapters 1 & 2. God created man and woman and placed them in the garden.

In chapter 3 we find the serpent already there and watching Eve. The minute she has gone to the very place [tree] that God told her not to go, the serpent is waiting for her. You can read their conversation in verses 1-5 of that chapter. She, of course, ate of the tree and gave it to Adam also. He, *knowing not to eat it*, [Gen.2:15-17] did eat also. Thus, “the curse” came about. Gen 3:14-19 So our earth, world, and our flesh are under the curse!

BUT, I want you to see something very important here. The serpent was already in the garden. Read the description of him – more than *just a serpent!* How did this being get there?

In Ezekiel chapter 28 we read of a Prince of Tyrus- not just an earthly prince, but one far greater. Read carefully verses 2-5, that describe the pride of this individual. When you get to verse 12- we read how perfect in wisdom and beauty he was. Note vs 13- “Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God.” Vs. 14 “Thou art the anointed cherub and wast upon the holy mountain of God.”

Verse 15 is very important. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created ‘til *iniquity* was found in thee.” Read carefully vs 17—“Thine heart was *lifted up* [proud] because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by the brightness [brilliance]: I will cast thee to the ground.” This is no ordinary earthly prince!

Isaiah 14:12-17 gives us more insight to this being..... “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which did weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the height of the clouds. *I will be like the Most High*. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms, that made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?” Isaiah 14:12-17

Jesus assures us in Luke 10:18 that He saw Lucifer [Satan serpent] cast out of Heaven because of his iniquity [sin, pride] found in him. ....And He said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from Heaven.”

Satan is called “Prince of this world” John 14:30. He is the source of evil. Read what Ephesians 2:1-2 tells us about sin, disobedience and death.... “And you hath He quickened [made alive] who were dead in trespasses and sins [before we accepted Christ as our Savior] where in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to *the prince of the power of the air*, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience.” [Unsaved people]

BUT, He is the creator above all things. “For by Him were all things created, that are in Heaven, and that are in the earth, *visible and invisible*, whether they be thrones or dominions, or *Principalities, or Powers*: All things were created by Him and for Him.” Colossians 1:16

Look at verse 10 in Colossians Chapter 2 and see what He has provided for His child in this evil, sinful world.... “And ye are complete in Him, which is the *Head of all Principality and Power,*”

Paul gives us more insight in Ephesians 1:19-22a “And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to upward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ when he raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in Heavenly places. Far above all principality, and power, and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: *AND HATH PUT ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET.*” ....

Paul gives us the key to handling the traumas of this life in Ephesians chapter 6, he tells us... “We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against Rulers of the darkness of this world, against Spiritual Wickedness in high places [places of authority]”. Indeed this is enemy territory! Starting in verse 13 he gives us sound advice- “Put on the **WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD**”. Be sure not only to read this, but to put on the whole armor of God for yourself!

You and I are no match for Satan. How we handle him is **IN THE NAME OF JESUS!** He does torment us, cause great catastrophes and pain. **BUT**, will these events make me **BITTER OR BETTER**, the choice is mine.

Paul said in Romans 8:35 “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?” “Nay, in all these things we are *more* than conquerors through Him that loved us [vs 37] For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor anything present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the *love of God*, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” [vs 38-39]

Next time you are confronted with someone questioning God’s love—

Remember the Heart of God and who is *really* behind evil! ❤️

God Bless you in your walk with Him.

Rev. J Kehl Golding



**By Mary Mayko**

**1 John3:11 “This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.”**

**Ahhh! True love! Most people in the world today seek that *true love!* They look for some one who will love them unconditionally! They want to be cherished, nurtured, protected and they desire to be made to feel special! Well, who wouldn't want that!**

**I believe true love between people has to be offered and received by both parties! A one sided love leaves people torn apart and bitter!**

**This seems to be true between friends and Believers, as well as married couples. Dear old St. John had ministered to his congregation for a good many years. Now he was separated from them on a lonely island because of his love and commitment for the LORD! In spite of all this, he writes some loving letters to them, calling them both friends and dear children! How precious it must have been for these people to receive his warm and fatherly messages of encouragement!**

**True love is never selfish. It sees the needs of others, and with a heart of compassion does all he can to help someday. True love is not one who draws constant attention to himself or boasts of all he has or who he is! It is very interesting to consider the placement of 1 Corinthians 13 between the chapters on spiritual Gifts! Chapter 13 is a beautiful description of what true love is and is not! You can be spiritually gifted and give away all you have, but if not done in love, it is worthless!**

**1 Cor.13:4-8a “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”**

**Do you expect others to live up to these instructions but fail to do so yourself? How much do you truly love God and others? Most of us fail at times in these matters, but don't be overwhelmed! This love description shows us a beautiful side of our LORD! He says we are to be like Him! We need His help to accomplish true love in our lives, and He is willing to give it!**

**Back to our precious St. John! He shows us that love is more than a warm feeling! We may have that, but true love is action! As we seek to serve God and others, we are walking in the LORD'S steps. God does not condemn us, but shows His love and forgiveness!**

**1 John 3:16-21 "This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence, whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God." This, my friend is really true love!**

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