



Touchstones of the Heart

Hiding

As a child I loved to play hide-n-seek. The fun of course was hiding—Finding that perfect spot, staying still and quiet and feeling a sense of adventure, but ultimately it was the thrill of being sought after that made it all worthwhile. In the Garden, Adam and Eve played a dangerous game of hide-n-seek with God, but their objective was not to be found or more correctly to be found out. They had failed, failed their purpose and design. They knew it, God knew it and they knew God knew it. Somehow they hoped that He would not find them and see the shame that was now exposed.

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Ministry Updates

The Rescuing Men's Hearts Boot Camp Retreat was rescheduled and a new date for the spring will be announced soon. Camp Bob Cooper required that we have a minimum of 12 participants in order to go forward. When we had not met that number by the pre-registration deadline, we had to cancel. Though this may seem like a setback, we at Rescued Heart do not see it that way. God is on the move and we desire to move with Him. He is teaching us and growing us in all of this and we will be the better for it in the end. In the mean time David will be hitting the road making contacts and setting up speaking engagements with churches and men's groups.

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The Winding Road
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Newsletter Spotlight

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Tidbits for Living: The Battle Field For Your Heart



Battle Field For The Heart
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“Abide in me, do you know what it means to abide in me?” God was speaking to me and gave me the illustration that I call the “Lesson of the Recliner.” Listen to what He had to say as He continued to speak. “You are sitting in a chair, but your feet are resting on the floor, you are not abiding in the chair. Now lift your feet off the floor.” I did as I was told. “You are still not abiding in the chair. You are using your own strength to hold up your legs. Now recline the chair with your legs resting on the chair.” Again, I did as I was told. “You are now abiding in the chair. You can relax fully because you know the chair is supporting you completely. Now, abide in me.” On the battle field of for your heart it is all too easy to trust in your own talents, energy or strength. However this reliance will only serve to kill you and destroy your heart. We will only succeed in this battle when we fully trust

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Touchstones of the Heart

Hiding (Continued)

Like Adam and Eve I have played this game hoping to never have my shamefulness exposed for others to see. I put on a fig leaf covering that I believed would belie my insistence on having my own way. The funny thing though is that the fig leaf is so obvious to everyone except me. What do I hide behind? Is it knowledge, ability, charm or some other 'personality' trait? What is the harm? You may ask. We all have natural abilities and God given talents that serve us well in business, home and church, but it is something entirely different when we hide behind these while all along serving our own purposes. For me it was a result of the things that John Eldredge calls the "ought to's". You know, "I ought to pray more, I ought to read my bible more, I ought to...etc." If I was preaching and had not been fulfilling my "ought to" list, then I would hide behind my natural speaking ability and put on the fig leaf of religion which I thought made me look more credible. What I have come to realize is that when I live out of the "ought to's" I am actually killing my heart and it comes out in a destructive type of hiding from God. My heart does not operate out of the "ought to's" but operates out of love, beauty and passion. When I come out of hiding and allow God to remove the fig leaf and replace it with the skins of His grace and mercy, then my heart comes fully alive. It is then that I can live out of love, beauty and passion. The "ought to's" fall away and I no longer have to wear the fig leaf, because I am known fully and I like it! When this happened for me, so many barriers in relationships were broken and I believe those who really "got to know" me benefited as well. No longer do I hide my failures. I do not parade them, but I do remain open so that others can know the real me and perhaps say to themselves, "If God can use him, then surely He can use me!"

Ministry Updates (Continued)

Keep an eye on the website for his speaking schedule in case you would like to attend. Rescued Heart is now incorporated as a non-profit business in South Carolina and will soon have it's 501c3 corporate status with the IRS and will be able to receive tax exempt donations of money, gifts and property after we pay a \$300-\$750.00 fee. South Carolina also requires non-profits to file an application to receive charitable donations annually which requires a \$50.00 fee. I share these things with you to let you know that there are a lot of loops to jump through and cost to get to the status that we need to be in order to fully do what we are called to do. Our funds are limited, but our God is limitless! We are trusting Him for the resources to accomplish His work and do through us all that He wants to do. David is very close now to completing the book entitled "The God Dance" which he will be publishing and selling through the Rescued Heart Press Bookstore on www.lulu.com/rescuedheartpnp Soon there will be some excerpts from the book for you to read on the website and a chance to pre-order a copy if you would like.

Tidbits for Living: The Battle Field For Your Heart (Continued)

Him with our hearts. He is the "unseen" that I talked about last month and since He is unseen it is harder to abide in Him than in the recliner. However, he does long to gather us under His wings as a mother hen gathers her chicks and provide us with His protection. When we insist on doing things our own way we only complicate and delay the victory. When we surrender to Him the peace comes, but it will not come until we take the step of pushing that recliner all the way back and resting fully in Him. In the article above entitled "Hiding" I discuss how we often hide behind our talents and abilities and use them like fig leaves to hide our failures. God is asking us to trust Him with the deepest longings of our hearts and He will give us every assurance that we need to abide in Him for peace, safety and victory!

May I give one more small piece of advice? Don't do these things because you "ought to", but do them because you understand that without them you will die on the battle field for your heart!

-David

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