



Touchstones of the Heart

Where is God?

Have you ever asked that question? Come on, you can be honest with me. I know you have. I have. As a matter of fact I'm wondering that right now. I recently read of Jacob fleeing from his father-in-law and Rachel stealing her father's household gods. When Laban caught up with Jacob he wanted to know where his gods were and why Jacob had stolen them. Is that what God is to us? Why did Rachel take her father's household gods and why would Laban, who actually heard from God even care about them? Could it be he thought they were a source of blessings? when I start wondering "where is God?" am I treating Him like a household god?

[Continued on Page 2](#)

Ministry Updates

As 2006 draws to a close I have been reflecting on the ministry and what, if anything, we have accomplished this year. Many of you may not know that we actually began in October of 2005 with the purchase of our first domain name and presence on the internet at rescuedheartministries.org. We still have this name and can be found at that address, but in December 2005 we added rescuedheart.com, it was available, shorter and easier to remember. In marketing and advertising brand identity is very important and I believe these principles apply to ministry as well as business. In this final month of 2006 our website has had just over 450 hits with many of them being repeats. Though this often concerns me, I know that ultimately God is in control of these things and He will bring the growth in His time. There are things I have done to bring

[Continued on Page 2](#)

Volume 1, Issue 4, December 2006



Florida Mine Pit, Polaroid Land
Camera Silver Gelatin Image
Photograph by David R. Shields
© David R. Shields Images, 1988
All rights reserved

Newsletter Spotlight

The true and living God does not live that way. He comes and goes as He pleases. Jesus said He is a Spirit and the Spirit is like the wind, He goes where He wants to. When I expect Him to always be where I can find Him, then I am treating Him just like one of the household gods of Laban. In October I wrote about how we hide from God. God asks the question of Adam, "Adam, where are you?"

Tidbits for Living: The Battle Field For Your Heart



Battle Field For The Heart
© David R. Shields Images, 2006
All rights reserved

How did I get here? Have you ever asked this question? Sometimes we find ourselves in places we did not intend. Yet, somehow it is exactly where we are supposed to be. In the book, *The Lord Of The Rings* there is a scene where three of the original nine of the 'Fellowship Of The Ring' find themselves on a cliff just inside *Fangorn*, a forest they had not intended to visit. Surveying the land to the east one of them exclaims, " 'We have journeyed a long way round' said Legolas. 'We could have all come here safe together, if we had left the Great River on the second or third day and struck west. Few can foresee whither their road will lead them, till they come to it's end.' 'But we did not wish to come to Fangorn,' said Gimli. 'Yet here we are...' said Legolas." When living from your heart you will find God will lead you to places you didn't intend to go, but when you arrive you can see His hand moving you to that place. How did I get

[Continued on Page 2](#)



Touchstones of the Heart

Where is God? (Continued)

You see, I want everything to go well in my life. I want blessings to come, you know, for the crops not to fail, as they used to say. But I want God to do things *my* way. Of course we don't say that, do we? The reason it worked for Jacob was he cared nothing for the household gods. When he heard the voice of God he believed and everything came out in his favor and Laban kept losing. It was for this reason that Laban felt like Jacob stole everything from him. He was willing to let it all slide though, except he wanted his household gods back. Why? Could it be that he felt they would bring him blessings? Or did he simply find comfort in having them on his shelf where he could see them and know where they were? The true and living God does not live that way. He comes and goes as He pleases. Jesus said God is a Spirit and the Spirit is like the wind, He goes where He wants to. When I expect Him to always be where I can find Him, am I treating Him like one of the household gods of Laban? In October's issue I wrote about hiding from God and how it prompts Him to ask the question, "Where are you?" So, if I'm asking God, "*Where are you?*" Most likely God is wondering where I am. Every trial and difficulty I face serves His purposes as well as the good things. I'm not talking about suffering because of sin, I'm talking about suffering because we are residents of another country. A country at war with the country we are in. As one Christian comedian put it, "Life is hard and hard is good!" If God is nothing more to us than a household god, then when things don't work we can just throw Him out and get another. But He is not! He has formed you for a purpose and is working His purposes in you, good or bad. Do not thwart the purposes of God by treating him like a household god. You might know where they are, but they cannot speak. Only the true and living God can and He speaks truth! Where is God? Right where He's supposed to be.

Ministry Updates (Continued)

growth and they have failed. I think the key words here are "I have done" and this may be the reason I see no fruit. I know for sure that planning is a must, because if we never plan then we will not accomplish anything. I have sought the heart of God concerning our next Men's Retreat and have landed on 3-6 May, 2007. This retreat will be held at Camp Bob Cooper on Lake Marion, which is half way between Charleston and Columbia, South Carolina. Sign-up is available on the website at www.rescuedheart.com. I would like to put another plug in for our on-line store, *Gifts of the Heart*, we have T-shirts, Rescued Heart merchandise and gifts available for purchase. Proceeds from sales go directly to the ministry, so visit us today! Also we are a non-profit ministry and welcome gifts from our generous supporters. See the website for details on giving and on securing a place at our Spring Men's Boot Camp Retreat.

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

here? I have often wondered this myself. Not only questioning how I got to a place, but also the route I took to get there. Like the three companions in the story, I can look back and see how I could have arrived at my unintended destination much easier and without loss. However, had I been allowed to take the easy route I would not have learned the lessons that the long hard road taught me. By taking short-cuts I would be ill prepared for the battles I must fight. If someone had told me in 2003 that I would be moving to Charleston, SC without a family, I would have thought them crazy. And had they told me that my journey would be fraught with much anguish and hardship, I probably would have refused to go. When the time came to set out on this journey a promise was given to me; God's Spirit would meet me there. Now as 2006 is coming to a close, I can look back and see the hand of my Master guiding me and taking me to the place where He wanted me to go. Oh, I see an easier and less painful route, but I also know that it was not my intention to take that route or any other. So, how did I get here? By the hand of my kind and loving Father, who knows best what I need and where I He needs me to be! How about you?

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

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at info@rescuedheart.com or call 843-729-3858