



## Lesson Eight

# “A Leader in the Making – Conditions of the Heart - 3”

**Objective:** *To teach and equip leaders with a heart that pleases God.*

### III. Positive Conditions of the Heart

**1 Sam 16:7** NKJV *For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."*

**MSG** *God judges persons differently than humans do. Men and women look at the face; God looks into the heart."*

**TLB** *I don't make decisions the way you do! Men judge by outward appearance, but I look at a man's thoughts and intentions."*

God is the God of hearts. He does not look at the exterior of a person or even the things a person does. He looks at and helps us with the attitudes and conditions of our hearts. That's why it is so important, that we cooperate with the Spirit of God and cultivate a right heart attitude in life and leadership ministry.

In the previous two lessons, we identified and learned how to overcome some of the negative conditions of the heart that keep a person from being the leader God wants them to be. Now we are going to consider and cultivate some of the positive conditions of the heart that God wants His leaders to have.

#### 10. A \_\_\_\_\_ Heart

When we talk about a willing heart, we are basically talking about “want to.” Without “want to,” we will never follow through with doing anything.

**Willing:** *favorably disposed in mind; ready; eager to help or participate; prompt to act or respond; borne of choice **without reluctance**; relating to the will or power of choosing.*

**1 Chron 28:9-10** NKJV *"As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and **serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind**; for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever. 10 Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a house for the sanctuary; **be strong, and do it.**"*

**2 Cor 8:11-13** MSG *Your heart's been in the right place all along. You've got what it takes to finish it up, so go to it. 12 **Once the commitment is clear** (NKJV -for if there is first a willing mind), you do what you can, not what you can't. **The heart regulates the hands.***

In many years of ministry, I have had to press past discomforts and frustrations in order to accomplish the vision of God for my life. I have had to have a lot of “want to.” If there is something we want to do strongly enough, somehow we will find a way to do it. Our victory or defeat has a lot to do with our “want to.”

**a. We can't become \_\_\_\_\_ with our “want to.”**

God wants our willingness to come from our hearts. That doesn't mean that we won't have to discipline ourselves to follow through with ministry assignments, but even then, it should be because we want to. We don't “got to”... we “get to!”

It's critical that we keep a right perspective with a willing heart towards God.

**b. Willingness in ministry comes from our deep personal relationship with God and our desire to please Him because we \_\_\_\_\_ Him.**

Anything we give or do outside of this kind of heart, is not pleasing to God. The following Scriptures deal with the willingness of our hearts when we give offerings to God, however they absolutely apply to the principle and act serving.

**c. Serving is an act of \_\_\_\_\_ our lives back to God.**

The attitude we give our lives back to God matters to Him. When our attitude in serving stinks, it's like carefully making a delicious dinner for someone but serving to them on a garbage can lid. Wouldn't you say, “no thanks?”

**Ex 35:5 NKJV** *Take from among you an offering to the Lord. **Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the Lord.***

**Ex 25:2 NKJV** *Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring Me an offering. From **everyone who gives it willingly with his heart** you shall take My offering.*

**2 Chron 29:31 NKJV** *So the assembly brought in sacrifices and thank offerings, and **as many as were of a willing heart** brought burnt offerings.*

**d. A willing heart is a cheerful heart!**

**2 Cor 9:7 AMP** *Let each one [give] as **he has made up his own mind and purposed in his heart**, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (**He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without**) a cheerful (joyous, “prompt to do it”) giver [whose heart is in his giving].*

**1 Peter 5:2 AMP** *Tend (nurture, guard, guide, and fold) the flock of God that is [your responsibility], not by coercion or constraint, **but willingly**; not dishonorably motivated by the advantages and profits [belonging to the office], **but eagerly and cheerfully**;*

**e. Leaders \_\_\_\_\_ others with their willingness to serve from the heart.**

**1 Chron 29:17** NKJV *I know also, my God, that You test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. As for me, **in the uprightness of my heart I have willingly offered all these things; and now with joy I have seen Your people, who are present here to offer willingly to You.***

**11. A \_\_\_\_\_ Heart**

**a. Leaders must \_\_\_\_\_ themselves stirred up and encouraged.**

God is not into dead or lukewarm. He gets no praise or glory out of a dead church, but He's coming for a living powerful church! (**Revelation 3:1-3a & 14-16**) If the church is going to be alive and hot with the power of the Living God, leaders must keep themselves stirred up!

Paul encouraged Timothy to keep himself stirred up so he would be effective as a leader. Apparently, Timothy was getting fearful, weary and unsure of his call to minister. Paul reminded him of his faith and how it had come to him from his mother, grandmother and by Paul laying his hands on him. Then he told him to stir it up! Nobody can stir up your gift like you can! I can try to stir you up tonight, but as soon as you go home and back to your life, you can grow cold again.

**2 Tim 1:6** AMP *That is why I would remind you to stir up (rekindle the embers of, fan the flame of, and keep burning) the [gracious] gift of God, [the inner fire] that is in you by means of the laying on of my hands [with those of the elders at your ordination].*



This is my ordination photo from October 2008. I have to remind myself to stir up the gift that is in me by the laying on of hands by my spiritual elders. I have to remember what was transferred to me and keep it stirred up! Tonight, I will lay hands on you the same way my Bishop laid his hands on me and declare that the oil continues to run down.

**Ps 133:2** NKJV *It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments.*

**b. HOW DO I KEEP MY HEART STIRRED?**

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ with stirred people.

We are a part of the body of Christ. A part of the body that becomes disconnected from the rest dies without what the rest of the body brings to it. It cannot function independently.

If you stay around people who are full of vision and are stirred up about the things of God, it won't be long until you are excited and stirred up, too. That's why church attendance is so important! We need the encouragement and inspiration of each other!

**Heb 10:24-25** MSG *Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, 25 not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.*

2. A \_\_\_\_\_ God to flow through you.

Where water flows in and does not flow out, it becomes still, stagnant and dead. The Dead Sea is called that because water flows in but it does not flow out. Moving water is life giving water! Find a place to flow!

3. A \_\_\_\_\_ the power of God through faith.

You may not feel powerful... but you are. Paul had to remind Timothy that the Spirit of power was already in him **while** the spirit of fear had a grip on his heart. That power just needed to be called to remembrance and stirred up.

**We can choose to be pitiful or powerful, but we cannot be both!** We need a spiritual backbone rather than a spiritual wishbone. In other words, stop waiting and wishing for the perfect conditions to feel like activating God's power... Activate it now!!! Stir it up!

**2 Timothy 1:7** AMP *For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (of cowardice, of craven and cringing and fawning fear), but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of calm and well-balanced mind and discipline and self-control.*

4. A \_\_\_\_\_ yourself in the truth by confessing God's word.

No matter how you are feeling, God's word is more true than your circumstances. His Word is eternal, true, living and powerful, spirit and life. Speaking His word is stirs up the gift inside of me and prevents my spirit from sinking within me.

a. **Confessing God's word** \_\_\_\_\_ me up and \_\_\_\_\_ my heart at the same time!

**2 Cor 4:13** NKJV *And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak...*

**Rom 4:17** NKJV *God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did...*

b. **Prayer, praise, worship or speaking His Word** \_\_\_\_\_ the fire of my heart.

## 12. A \_\_\_\_\_ Heart

**Submission:** The state of being obedient; the act of accepting the authority or control of someone else.

Submission is a sort of sacrifice. It means we are not going to have our way all the time. Submission means I am willing to sacrifice my own will in order to fulfill someone else's plan. In the church, that plan comes from God to the Pastors and leaders and we all work together submitted to one another in order to bring it to pass.

**Acts 16:9-10** NKJV *And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them.*

God has an **order** for everything He has created. The universe operates in order. The solar system and stars are perfectly aligned and operate in order. The seasons come and go in order. Our bodies operate in order. Marriage operates in order. Corporations operate in order. The Military operates in order. Our homes operate in order. Traffic operates in order. Could you imagine the world we live in without order?

a. The \_\_\_\_\_ operates in order.

Order is necessary. It has been said that "the only difference between a mob and an army is... order." The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians concerning church order.

**1 Cor. 14:40** NKJV *Let all things be done decently and in order.*

b. Submission to spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ is the order of God.

Jesus is the head of the church and He has established these offices as well as people to be leaders with authority in the church. Following the established leadership of the church is critical to the success of God's specific vision for Xceleration Church.

**Eph 4:11-12** AMP *And His gifts were [varied; He Himself appointed and gave men to us] some to be **apostles** (special messengers), some **prophets** (inspired preachers and expounders), some **evangelists** (preachers of the Gospel, traveling missionaries), some **pastors** (shepherds of His flock) and **teachers**.<sup>12</sup> His intention was **the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [that they should do] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church),***

**Hebrews 13:17** AMP *Obey your spiritual leaders and submit to them [continually recognizing their authority over you], for they are constantly keeping watch over your souls and guarding your spiritual welfare, as men who will have to render an account [of their trust]. [Do your part to] let them do this with gladness and not with sighing and groaning, for that would not be profitable to you [either].*

**c. Submission to spiritual leadership is about a functional relationship of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, to God first, then to man.**

More than ruling over people, spiritual authority has an obligation to Jesus Christ to love, feed, and protect the flock of God. And God has given them the grace and authority to govern. **Along with that responsibility comes instruction, counsel, warning, correction, and even rebuke when necessary.** Spiritual authority is more than a title; it is a relationship with people. They stand as servants, ministers, and even spiritual parents in the lives of God's people.

Having a submitted heart as a leader, means that you will be faithful to the vision of the church. We get behind our leaders and support the vision with faithfulness.

**d. Submission \_\_\_\_\_ our commitment.**

We are submitted to each other in the fear and reverence of God, so we should never make a commitment to serve or help and then just blow it off or not show up. Our submission to Jesus requires that we submit to and honor each other in the church.