

“Mary, Mary, At First Contrary” Part 2 John 20:13-18

Without her grief and resultant emotional reaction, Mary would have favorably received the evidence of the resurrection immediately but it's extremely difficult for a woman with a true love response such as she had in this case for her Teacher, to be objective concerning Him.

Under the experiential plan of God for the Church Age, our emotions are not adequate guides for our motives, thoughts, decisions or actions.

The sooner we learn to distinguish between post-salvation biblical rehabilitation as the means of our executing God's plan and our emotional experience which can be normal or abnormal, the better off we are.

The emotional activity of worrisome anxious fear has no spiritual confidence from biblical truth. The difference between fear and courage is the ability to concentrate under great pressure.

While concentration is needed for learning and processing biblical truth, it's desperately required to a greater extent in a pressure situation.

The sudden intensity of a disaster can easily hinder us from concentrating on the biblical principles we've already learned.

And since common reaction to disaster tends to be fear and panic blocking our application of the mind of Christ, we always need to expect to be challenged to stay focused and avoid being distracted.

The heart manifests and demonstrates who and what the real us is; we are what we think and the heart also contains our standards related to our conscience.

Inside the heart of the soul is everything that should dominate our emotion so that our emotion can become what it was designed by God to be: an appreciator of the truly good things in life.

The heart houses all our thoughts and our standards for living while the emotions contain nothing in and of themselves.

We cannot think beyond our vocabulary as our capacity for life is related to our command of conceptual words and that's why after salvation, we must learn an entirely new vocabulary to include technical theological words, which is like learning a new language for thinking, application and the expression of a new lifestyle.

All the decisions we make are based on the preconceived notions of our conscience.

We have to know something to have a conscience and when we know something, we develop standards so, whatever we learn in our heart becomes a part of our standards.

If our decisions are based on worldly standards, then they will be bad decisions derived from a position of weakness and that's why we must have a new spiritual vocabulary and thought-life to establish our new standards.

So, the happiness in the heart finds a response in the emotions of the soul.

A husband who is happy influences his wife's happiness and if he gets anxious or up-tight, then her contentment backfires.

Do you see it?

If you start in the heart and you have inner unshakable happiness because of the biblical truth in your soul, you're going to have that very same happiness in your emotions.

Emotion can respond to biblical truth but it cannot learn it or build doctrine upon doctrine for advanced spiritual growth without it.

Since the emotions have no doctrinal content, when Bible doctrine from the heart is not controlling them, they are foolish and when they respond to the sinful nature which incites mental attitude sins, lust and human good production, the emotions are wicked.

The doctrinal content of our hearts determines our appreciation and capacity for God's grace within the emotions of our souls.