

## Ministry & the Heart

Q: What order are the heart, head and hands?

Q: What is the emphasis normally in parenting / in our education system?

The heart drives everything:

- Proverbs 4:23; 1 Kings 11:1-10
- Matt. 12:34; 13:14-15 – What’s the order?
- Ephesians 4:17-18 – What’s the order?
- [The passion-driven life](#)

Problem: Exodus 4:21; 7:3, 13-14, 22; 8:15,32; Zech. 7:12; Matt. 15:8-9, 18-19<sup>1</sup>

The call: Deut. 10:12-16; Jer. 4:4; Ezek. 18:31

The solution: Deut. 30:6; Jer. 31:33; Ezek. 11:19; 36:26

Lessons for devotional life (and mentoring and parenting):

### ***Maisha ya mkristo ni mambo ya moyo***

1. There is a battle: 2 Sam. 15:1-7; 2 Corinthians 11:2-4

“The great contest of heaven and earth is about the affections of the poor worm which we call man.” ([John Owen](#))

2. What you hear and see captures your heart: Gen. 3:1-6; Job 31:1, 7, 9, 26-27; 42:5-6; Song of Songs 4:9
3. So the key task: Luke 24:32; 2 Cor. 3:15-18; Gal. 3:1
4. And the key prayer: Luke 24:45; Eph. 1:17-22; 3:14-19
5. And the joy of the Lord is your strength: Nehemiah 8:10

“It has pleased the Lord to teach me a truth, the benefit of which I have not lost, for more than fourteen years. The point is this: I saw more clearly than ever that the first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day was, to *have my soul happy in the Lord*. The first thing to be concerned about was not how much I might serve the Lord, how I might glorify the Lord; but how I might get my soul into a happy state, and how my inner man might be nourished.” ([George Müller](#))

Questions:

- How is this different to an emphasis on head or hands?
- How might this change the way you look at the Christian life?
- How can we help each other’s hearts? (cf. Hebrews 3:12-13)

Resources:

- [Killjoys \(DesiringGod\)](#)
- [Ted Tripp, \*Shepherding a Child’s Heart\*](#)
- [8 Questions To Help Guard Your Heart](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. similarly James 4:1-4