

# **God: Enlarge My Heart**

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## I. Introduction.

- A. We are to redeem the time.
- B. Christ's threefold objective as we live our lives.
  - 1. Intense cultivation.
  - 2. Prayerful pruning.
  - 3. Abounding fruitfulness. (Ephesians 3:18-19)

## II. Pray that...

- A. God would enlarge your heart.
  - 1. Augustine prayed this knowing the cavern of his heart was small.
  - 2. When given an opportunity to receive what Solomon wanted he asked for wisdom. God began the work of the enlargement of his heart.(1 Kings 3:19)
  - 3. God wants us to trust Him even though we do not understand the operation. Our cooperation helps Him to enlarge our hearts. (Psalm 119:32)
  - 4. Why God wants to do this.
    - a. His heart embraces the whole world, and as He loves so we must learn to love. (John 3:16)
    - b. All human needs are met in Jesus Christ.
    - c. In order that we might contain His plan, His leading and His call for our lives.
    - d. There are many more things that God wants to put in one's heart. (John 16:12)
    - e. God wants the double-hearted man to be single-minded for his glory and honor. (James 1:6-8)
  - 5. How God enlarges one's heart.
    - a. Through daily growth in necessary spiritual elements such as prayer, the Word of God, right choices in the midst of temptation and testing, fasting (Matthew 6), etc.
      - 1) Fasting is often downplayed.

2) is important for the ministry, against enemies, when proving God's ways are better, for discovering God's will, for God's guidance on choosing laborers, and as a lifestyle (Luke 2).

b. Through suffering—that which comes upon us which we have no control. It is given unto us to suffer for his sake. (Philippians 1:29, Psalm 119:67)

1). Suggestions.

a) Use a prayer journal.

b) Study and mark prayers in the Bible.

c) Use the prayers of the Bible as yours.

d) Have a particular place and time to pray daily.

e) Pray while walking.

f) Have a prayer partner.

g) Pray over a world atlas.

c. Through our mistakes and failures.(Proverbs 24:16)

1) The disciples failed over thirty times throughout the Gospel of Mark.

2) These are opportunities to enlarge the heart.

B. God would sharpen your relationships. (Proverbs 27:17)

1. Involvement with people taxes us to the limit but also sharpens us.

2. Paul was involved with all kinds of people. (2 Corinthians 6:11-12)

3. Three relationships God uses to sharpen us.

a. Faithful Christian men and women. Find a spiritual mentor.

b. Enemies. David is an example of one who allowed his enemies to sharpen him and not embitter him. (Acts 13:22, 2 Samuel 16:5-14, Romans 12:19-21)

c. Friends who become adversaries. We should also learn lessons from those who have braced themselves against us. (Psalm 145:5, 55:12-14)

III. Conclusion.

Application questions.

1. What are the two elements of the prayer that the speaker suggests? Explain the reasoning behind both.

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2. What is your role in God's enlargement of the heart? Explain.

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3. What suggestions for praying stood out to you in the speaker's message? Which two principles will you practice in your own prayer life this week?

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