



Dear Friends,

You will remember that a couple of weeks ago I asked God to show me what my new focus should be for 2011. *"Have a soft heart"* was the answer. Have you ever noticed how God brings the same message into your path over and over again? All of a sudden you hear a song with those words or someone's prayer focuses on that thought, or you find another verse that teaches you some more about it. It's like buying a red car and then all you see around town are red cars.

That's what's happening with this idea of having a soft heart. If you are a Northview attendee, you will know that we just finished a six week sermon series on money. Much was said about how the world sees and treats money as opposed to how Christians should see and treat money. Quite convicting!! What struck me this week, though, was the connection between having a soft heart and how we Christians should see and treat money. Let me explain.

All of us are born as sinful beings. We are predisposed to sin, to live life for ourselves. In a sense we can't help but sin. When we do act in honorable ways it's only because God enables us to (even though we don't give him the credit for it). It isn't surprising that humans see and treat money through selfish eyes. These selfish eyes come from a heart that is hard towards anything or anyone who threatens our selfishness, hence, our resistance to God.

God, knowing our sinful bent, promises to do something about the source of our sinfulness, our hard heart. Read what the writer of Hebrews says in 8:10 when quoting Jeremiah 31:33 (NLT) *But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel on that day, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their minds, and I will write them on their **hearts**. I will be their God, and they will be my people.*

Ezekiel 36:25-27 gives further insight. (NLT) *"Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. And I will give you a **new heart**, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and **give you a tender, responsive heart**. And I will put my Spirit in you so that **you will follow my decrees** and be careful to obey my regulations.*

Read it again, this time from the Message: *I'll pour pure water over you and scrub you clean. I'll give you a **new heart**, put a new spirit in you. I'll remove the stone heart from your body and replace it with **a heart that's God-willed, not self-willed**. I'll put my Spirit in you and **make it possible for you to do what I tell you** and live by my commands.*

Did you notice what happens when God gives a new heart? We become tender, responsive, God-willed instead of self-willed. We are given that ability to do what God asks us to do. In other words, when we come to accept and believe that Jesus died to pay for our sins, he gives us a soft heart that **GETS TO** obey him. No longer do we have to selfishly see and treat money. We **GET TO** give generously. We **GET TO** stop worrying about money. We **GET TO** stop bowing down to money.

Paul sums it up in 2 Corinthians 5:14-17 (NLT) Either way, Christ's love controls us. Since we believe that Christ died for all, we also believe that we have all died to our old life. He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life will no longer live for themselves. Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them. ... This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

How would our attitude change if we took obligation language out of vocabulary and replaced it with privilege language. The "ought to's" and should's would be replaced with "get to's and can't wait to's". That is what God has made possible by giving us a soft heart.

So ...

I get to spend my money on others.

I get to read my Bible and understand God better.

I get to phone that difficult person in my life and show kindness.

I get to not worry about my future.

I get to ... you fill in the blank.

Heavenly Father, I love this verse in ***Ephesians 1:5*** – *You decided in advance to adopt us into your own family by bringing us to yourself through Jesus Christ. This is what you wanted to do, and it gave you great pleasure.* I want to have great pleasure in obeying you because of what you did for me. I get to enjoy obeying you. I get to love you. I get to receive your love. Thank you!!!

*Blessings from Bev*



**Northview**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH

© 2010 Northview Community Church  
32040 Downes Rd Abbotsford BC V4X 1X5  
Phone: (604) 853-2931 Fax: (604) 853-9921  
General Info E-mail: [northview@northview.org](mailto:northview@northview.org)  
*"Loving God, each other, and the world"*