

**Time to Rejoice!**  
**A Rejoicing Heart After God! "Attributes of the Generous Heart"**  
**Psalms 42:1-5,11**

October 2, 2011

The capital stewardship campaign beginning November 6th is destined to be the greatest spiritual awakening in the history of CRC. I would like to be the first to testify of the awakening this campaign has stirred in my heart. After more than twenty one years of service to this church, I had begun to feel that I had outlived my season of effectiveness to the church and maybe I needed to think about getting older and moving on in God's purpose for my life. But as we began to meet with the members and talk about what God had done for us over the past 21 years, my heart was encouraged. People would stand up in our meetings and begin to share with tears what CRC and my ministry had done for them and then every week someone else would share and God took the kindness of His people and their gratitude and willingness to give and awakened new vision in this pastor. Now I firmly believe that not only will we retire the debt on all we own over the next eight years, but I also believe that every member of CRC will participate on November 6. Please pray about your commitment for that day and bring the best you have for that day as we make our first step.

Today I begin the most powerful series of messages you have ever heard me preach and here is why. Preachers have spent way too much time telling people what they ought to do, give, serve, live right, share your faith and not enough time teaching people what kind of heart they should have. Loving you comes naturally for me. Giving to God comes natural for me. Loving my family and giving my life comes naturally. Here's why...God changed my heart! Salvation, the Word and my experiences have changed my heart. Would you like God to change your heart so that doing His will is natural for you???

"You will love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and you will love your neighbor as yourself" Mk. 12:30,31

**1. A heart that is desperate for God**

The deer pants for water after running from his enemy thru the fields and mountains!

- When other things have failed your heart becomes desperate for Him
- When other things seem empty it will turn your heart desperate for Him
- When you discover how He sees you it will make your heart desperate for Him

*Zephaniah 3:17 The Victorious Warrior rejoices over you with joy and love!*

## **A Rejoicing Heart After God! "Attributes of the Generous Heart" Psalms 42:1-5,11**

### **2. A heart that is desperate for the presence of God**

David longs to come into God's presence!

- A broken heart longs for the presence of God
- A hungry heart longs for the presence of God
- A heart that remembers a different time longs for His presence

My Mother died 24 months before God spoke to me about Va.

*"In the presence of God is the fullness of joy and at His right hand there pleasures forever"*  
*Psalms 119:105*

### **3. A heart that is desperate to see hopes and dreams fulfilled**

- Faith in the heart wants to see the blessing of God
- Faith in the heart says "the devil is a liar"
- Faith in the heart after God says my best days are still ahead!

*"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for...." He.11:6*

The deer has been running from the mountain lion and is totally breathless and strength seems to fail. What does he see up ahead? It's sparkling. It's bubbling. It's water. There he can hide and there he can drink and there he can rest and he pants for the cool mountain water. And how long have you been running from the attacks of the enemy? How many battles have you fought and look at you. Your soul longs for something you cannot describe, but off in distance what is that? It sparkles. It's moving. Run to that. It's the presence of God. He stands there waiting for you. He has no plans of killing the mountain lion. His plan is to give you a place of refreshing, rest and cool water. If He kills the lion, you will chill and think you can do this yourself, but His plan is to change your heart and give you a heart that longs for Him.

On Friday night in a little Caucasian Pentecostal church in Hohenwald, TN, they begin to sing about the Lamb that sits upon the throne and before I knew it I had fallen to my knees in tears and something happened...I forgot all of my battles. Lawsuits and courtrooms, stalkers and death threats, banks and bills, people that hated me for no reason and a Shadow fell over me and I remembered that I was the property of the Lamb who sits upon the throne and I rejoice today that He has given me a heart after Him and nothing else really matters.