

HEART WORK

God doing a work in our hearts,
so we can do a work with our hands

Transformed Living

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.— Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)

A. Heart work means

1. Transformed Identity

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

– 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

2. Transformed Thinking and Living

throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.

– Ephesians 4:22-24 (NIV)

3. You are saved from something, and saved for something.

4. You are not saved because of good works.

You are saved to do good works.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.— Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)

5. Hard work, but remember it is His work.

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.. – John 16:33 (NIV)

B. Growth

1. Doesn’t happen by accident.

Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.— John 15:4 (NIV)

2. Happens outside of your comfort zone.

3. Happens at the point of resistance.

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because

God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. – Romans 5:3-5 (NIV)

C. How and Why

1. Because of Jesus, God has made you to display Himself to those you see and don’t see.

God’s purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord. – Ephesians 3:10-11 (NLT)

2. Your identity and approach are different because of Jesus.

Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God’s presence. So please don’t lose heart because of my trials here. I am suffering for you, so you should feel honored. – Ephesians 3:12-13 (NLT)

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. – 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV)

3. The Holy Spirit strengthens you from God’s unlimited resources.

When I think of all this, I fall to my knees and pray to the Father, the Creator of everything in heaven and on earth. I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. – Ephesians 3:14-16 (NLT)

4. Christ’s home is your heart when you trust in Him.

Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God’s love and keep you strong. – Ephesians 3:17 (NLT)

a. Redwoods grow one day at a time.

b. Consistency over intensity.

5. I can be complete with full life and God’s strength.

And may you have the power to understand, as all God’s people should, how wide, how long, how high, and how deep his love is. May you experience the love of Christ, though it is too great to understand fully. Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God.

– Ephesians 3:18-19 (NLT)

6. What are you asking God for or thinking about for His glory in you?

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen. – Ephesians 3:20-21

Steps to Take

Pray

Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.
-Psalm 139:23-24 (NIV)

Change my attitude

Give me the **joy** of giving more than the **happiness** of getting.

Prioritize

How do you invest your time?

How does what you do reflect what you believe about Jesus’ work for you, in you, and through you?

Persevere

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. – Romans 5:3-5 (NIV)

My priorities based on identity in Christ

	Before Today	From Today Forward
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		

Next Week:

August 26: Empowered: The Church on Fire