

## The LORD Looketh on the Heart

God hates discord. Proverbs 6:16-19: **These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.**

If you're following God, you're going to avoid getting into gossip. You want to stay a million miles away from it, because it'll contaminate you. You'll grieve the Spirit of God just by listening to gossip. Let me give you an example of being critical about others and gossiping: One time I was at a Christian convention, and I was around people I haven't seen for years. I asked them about how a fellow minister friend I had was doing. They said, "*Oh, did you know he divorced his wife, and married another woman...*" And here's where it gets real ugly: "*...and she's been married four times before.*"

You know, that almost ruined the convention for me. I wondered why in the world would a Christian say that about another brother in the Lord? But to them, that was their normal conversation. I wished I had never heard it, because hearing things like that can affect you physically, emotionally and spiritually. I purposely sought out that minister they were talking about until I located him. I went up to him, loved on him, and we picked up right where we left off several years ago.

Be careful you don't get set up by other people's questions. When someone asks you about how another person is doing, and you respond by saying "*They're doing fine...*" or something edifying, in many instances, that isn't enough information. There are some Christians, and sad to say, *many*, are always looking to hear the latest gossip or bad news so they can tell someone else what they know.

The number one personal benefit I always wanted to have in my Christian life is divine health. Fortunately, I learned early in my Christian walk that God didn't want me to talk about anybody in a gossiping way. You may think you don't gossip, but the next time someone asks you about

someone that you've got some tabloid information on, listen to the way that you respond to their question.

Almost every Christian gossips, and that's why almost every Christian gets sick. 1 Corinthians 11:29, 30,31: **For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.**

When Miriam spoke against Moses' wife, she was being critical, like the person who told me the minister married a woman who had been married four times before. You're not going to fool God, and you'll give place to the devil when you talk about others. Instead of wondering why God hasn't healed you, why don't you find out where you opened the door!

God knew what the King of Syria said in his bedchamber in 2 Kings 6:8-12: **Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place *shall be* my camp. And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down. And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice. Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us *is* for the king of Israel? And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that *is* in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber. The reason Elisha knew is because God told him. Elisha wasn't psychic. He knew by the Spirit of God.**

Peter knew through the Holy Spirit that Ananias and Sapphira were not right with God. Acts 5:1-11: **But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back *part* of the price, his wife also being privy to *it*, and brought a certain part, and laid *it* at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not**

thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried *him* out, and buried *him*. And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband *are* at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying *her* forth, buried *her* by her husband. And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

Peter knew by the Holy Spirit that Simon's heart was not right with God in Acts 8:14-25: **Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and *in* the bond of iniquity. Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me. And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.**

God always looks on our heart. He knows if our heart and our motives are pure. 1 Samuel 16:7: **...man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.** God knew the people's hearts, what they said and did in each of the incidents we just read.

Remember, God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3 John 2).

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