

THE BLESSING OF AN ENLARGED HEART

An enlarged heart is a layman's term describing when the overall size of your heart is bigger than it should be. Medically, it's referred to as cardiomegaly, and often its first spotted on a routine chest X-ray. Additional testing is then needed to figure out the cause. An enlarged heart is usually a precursor to heart failure.

I did not know the medical term for an enlarged heart, but I knew it was bad. When people spoke to me of having an enlarged heart they did not talk about it as a blessing, Rather, both the tone and language conveyed the message, having an enlarged heart brings sorrow, it's a curse.

With this view of an enlarged heart in mind, you might well imagine my surprise when I read Psalm 119:32, *I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart!*

Psalm 119 is the longest Psalm in the Bible, it has 176 verses. I have to admit that for many years I avoided Psalm 119. I avoided it the way I now avoid an *all you can eat buffet*. The length of the Psalm made it unwieldy and intimidating to me. I like small projects I can handle in a few hours. Wrestling with Psalm 119 is no Saturday morning project.

I avoided Psalm 119 for years. But, when turning the pages of my Bible, my eyes would see the title at the top of the page PSALM 119. When I saw the words PSALM 119, I felt a sense of shame for purposefully neglecting this passage. Finally, the shame rose to a level I could no longer ignore and I dove into the Psalm. It was not long before I began to wonder, "why did I neglect this wonderful passage for so long? Why did I deprive myself of the blessings in this Psalm?" Here are some of the blessings in the Psalm:

- God is our teacher,
- Creation is our classroom
- The students are the servants of God
- The lesson is the law of God

Psalm 119:32, *I will run in the way of your commandments when you enlarge my heart!* This heart is not cursed with cardiomegaly. Rather, it describes the strong heart of the lifelong disciple of God. This heart hungers for God's Word and it has feasted on God's Word. This heart has walked and walked for miles and years with God. This heart has been broken by sin, and it has been healed by God.

Do you want an enlarged heart that runs in the way of God? Begin today by craving, eating, and being healed by God's Word. Keep craving, eating, and being healed by God's Word. And I promise you, a day will come when your strong heart will run in the way of God.

Grace & Peace
Derek

Sunday Conference call:

To listen to our Sunday morning service live,
call 1-800-914-8405 followed by 4896244
YOU MUST MUTE YOUR PHONE

Family News & Notes

- **Richard Fraley** will have by-pass surgery , **Tuesday, March 27.**
- **Danny Jackson** is in Baptist Memorial rehab, room 213.
- **Rick Murphy** as he continues on IV antibiotics for several weeks.
- **Lula Whittle** is going to West Clinic for continued treatments.
- **Jeanette Williams** has a compression fracture.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

HEALTH ISSUES: Joe Albritton, Herman Davis, Ken Joines, Misha Kimbell, Donna Meadows, Peggy McGowen, James Neal, Jerry Richardson, Jamie Vorhof, Linda Weatherford, Lula Whittle, Jeanette Williams

REHAB: Danny Jackson, Peggy McGowen

SHUT-INS: Valeria Canada, Lorene Edge, Cora Epperson, FM Hylander, Evelyn Fowler, Sallye Giles, Irmagene Hall, Margaret Jones, Jackie Lorensen, Dot McEwen, Billy & Betty Moore, Dorinda Murphy, Helen Weathers

FAMILY: Jeanette Barnes, Maxine Drewery, Sallye Giles, Mike Hasler, Zayden Huffman, Judy Lee, Sam Macmillan-deployed, Mike Massey, Jacob Maxwell-deployed, Sandra Morris, Terrance Simmons, Ray Yearwood,

Invite a friend to worship

FAMILY LIFE CENTER UPGRADES

Upgrades to the FLC sound equipment and quality are advancing. We thank you for your patience. Please use extreme **CAUTION** when entering this area.

NEWS FROM EL SALVADOR

Join us **tonight** in the FLC as Nick Eddlemon and Ivan Gomez give us updates and future plans for our El Salvador missions.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, April 15, Lynn Stalnaker will be celebrating her 90th birthday. Please come and join her celebration in the FLC that day at **1:00PM**.



Reminders . . .

- ☞ Truthseekers will have a pot luck **today** after services in the FLC. Visitors invited!
- ☞ **Friday, March 30** the Office will be closed for Good Friday.

EASTER EGG HUNT

- * **When:** Saturday, March 31
- * **Time:** 9:00AM—11:30AM
- * **Breakfast:** 9:00AM—9:30AM
 - * **Menu:** pancakes, bacon, sausage, eggs, donuts, biscuits & gravy, fruit
 - * **Price:** Adults \$2.00, Kids age 4-10 \$1, Kids under 3 free
- * **Activities:** Easter Egg Hunt, Games, Bounce House, Family Pictures



WHAT YOU NEED TO GROW

We need a healthy, balanced diet to grow. But a healthy, balanced diet is not always easy. It is only easy after years of self-discipline by forming better eating habits. If we will have healthy eating habits, this often means we will need to change our eating habits. Changing habits is a vital part of spiritual formation. One habit that contributes to a healthy, balanced spiritual diet is large, weekly portions of the Old Testament.

We need God's Word to grow. We need ALL of God's Word to grow. Yes, that includes the Old Testament! In 2012 we began studying the book of Genesis. Now we are in 2018 and are just a few quarters away from completing a study of (nearly) the entire Old Testament. The Old Testament Scriptures will deepen your faith in God. Our Old Testament ancestors threw some difficult questions at God and he threw some more difficult questions back! The Old Testament reveals God's tenacious love for us. The more you understand the Old Testament, the more you will understand Jesus. We are currently having a class on the book of Job, a book that asks tough questions about God's role in human suffering. We know this will be a blessing to our members.

*All Scripture is breathed out by God
and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction,
and for training in righteousness*

2 Timothy 3:16

YOUTH NEWS

TEEN GROUPS

Tonight our Teen Groups is meeting at the Williams' house. We will start at **5PM** and end at **7PM**. Ask **Jared** for details.

AREA WIDE

Our next Area Wide will be in Como on **Sunday, April 1**. Make plans to be there. Let **Jared** know if you plan to attend.

