



# Way of the Eagle

by Rhoda Collins

## GUARD YOUR HEART-PART 1

**W**hat is the condition of your heart?

Everybody has some kind of heart condition, depending on what is going on in them on the inside.

We can go through the motions of life and keep doing the “Christian thing” and yet often times, something has crept into our hearts that is hurting us and hurting other people because, what’s in us comes out of us. The quicker that we can detect a wrong heart condition and straighten it out the better off we are.

The longer we live with wrong things in our lives left unattended, the deeper rooted they become. God tests our hearts, not because He wants to know what’s inside of us, because He already knows what’s inside of us, but because He wants us to see what’s inside of us. Sometimes we get really surprised at seeing what’s inside of our hearts. God wants us to face what is in our hearts to allow us to grow.

ABOVE ALL ELSE, GUARD YOUR HEART, FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO FLOWS FROM IT.  
Proverbs 4:23



We’re never made free by living in darkness; the Truth sets us free. Satan is a master of deception. Anything he can keep hidden in our lives, allows him to maintain control. But when it is exposed to God’s light and we can look at it properly and deal with it with God, we can go to a new level of freedom and a new level of power.

“Guard your heart with all vigilance, for from it are the sources of life.” Proverbs 4:23 NET Bible.

You need to take responsibility to guard your heart; nobody else will do it for you. This is a full time job. You don’t know when someone will come along during the day and hurt you, so you need to set your mind and keep it set that you will not get offended.

Even when confronted with attacks, betrayal, disappointment or when family, friends and others let us down. Nothing is more important than our inner life.

Its very important to seek God’s face and not just His hand, in what He does or doesn’t do for us.

Life is not our circumstances:

- The house we live in
- The kind of job we have
- The amount of money we have in our bank account

Because we can have all this stuff and still be miserable. The world is full of miserable rich, successful people. Having “stuff” is not our real life. The inner life and how we guard our heart is more important than anything else.

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

God wants us to enjoy the blessings and all that He has in store for us.

It's amazing how happy we can be in the middle of the lousiest circumstances. And how peaceful we can be in the mist of the turmoil that is going on in the world today, when we know how to keep our heart in the right condition.

If our heart is not in the right condition, we are not able to love properly. Number one thing that we need to do is to love our God with all of our heart and love our neighbour as we do ourselves. We are not going to have a world revival if we're not going to have a worldwide love revolution.

Love is about giving, sacrifice, serving and obedience and caring more about other people than we do ourselves. Its not an easy life on the flesh, but its a fulfilling life in the Spirit. If our heart is constantly judgemental or hypocritical, how can we love somebody if we are busy judging them?

Let's break down some areas that need to be looked at in guarding our hearts...

1. A heart that is bitter and resentful- we can't love with this kind of heart! Forgive those who have sinned against us. We're not accepting the sin, we're just letting God deal with this person. Forgiving them gives us peace, prevents disease and frustrations from coming upon us and sets us right with God.
2. Coveting-wanting something that we don't have, if it gets to the point that we can't be happy without them, then we give into lust. Our heart will be trapped and keep us all tied up in self. It proves that we don't trust God because if we trust Him, we believe that He knows what's best for us. When we pray for something, we know that He heard us and when its right, if its right, He will give it to us in His own timing. If He doesn't answer that particular request, then we need to realize that He is smarter than we are and so we need to be happy, content and godly with what He provides. Don't waste anymore days being unhappy because we don't have something that we want.
3. Hardness of heart prevents generosity.

**"If there is a poor man among you, one of your fellow Israelites, If any of your cities in the land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not be heartless, nor close-fisted with your poor brother; but you shall freely open your hand to him, and shall generously lend to him whatever he needs." Deuteronomy 15:7-11**

When and in what way you are led by God, give to a church, ministry or leader that does outreaches and helps the poor and the needy. We are not suppose to just get fat in the Word, or be a pew sitter for the rest of our lives and not contribute with anything in the kingdom of God. We need to be Kingdom-oriented not self-oriented. Contributing means our time as well as out financial tithes, gifts and offerings, especially to those who we rely on spiritual, in order to further their ministry.

4. When your heart is hard you can't love. If you've been mistreated and abused mentally physically, sexually, verbally or emotionally, you need to let God's love heal your wounds and get rid of your hardened heart. You can't live with a suspicious mindset that everybody is out there to get you. Just because there is a handful of people that hurt you, doesn't mean that that is what you will encounter with everyone. It's true that a lot of Christians have been abused verbally in churches, because the devil stays busy breaking relationships and is using people's flesh mindsets to hurt others. But we can trust God to bring divine connections, that will build us up. We don't know how to receive love properly, when we have a hard heart.

5. Whatever God puts into our heart, are the gifts that He wants us to flow out to other people. We have to made our mind up, that whatever happened to us in the past we're not going to live with a hardened heart. If we get hurt in relationships, we can run to the Comforter, the Helper, the Holy Spirit to heal us. Sadly, most Christians don't know where to go.

**"But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him (the Holy Spirit) to you [to be in close fellowship with you]." John 16:7**

A tender heart is what we are using to help somebody else. Jesus was moved with compassion.

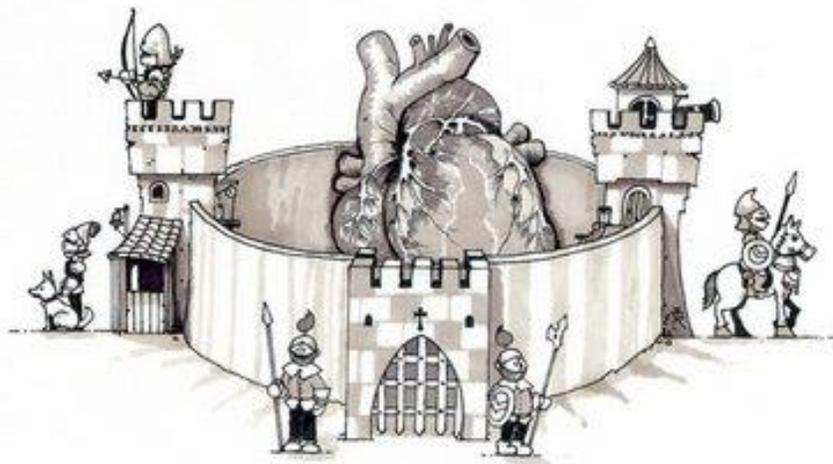
Jesus grew like a tender heart; He didn't grow like a cactus. There too many cacti in the body of Christ. Don't have a prickly personality.

6. A wicked, unbelieving heart is looked upon by God as a wicked heart.

**"But without faith it is impossible to [walk with God and] please Him, for whoever comes [near] to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He rewards those who [earnestly and diligently] seek Him". Hebrews 11:6**

Let's believe that God is good, that he will reward our efforts. Let's believe what His Word says.

**Luke 18:1** says we should always pray and not faint.



# GUARD YOUR HEART!

There's a vault in heaven with many drawers with prayers that have not being answered. Why hasn't God answered these prayers? Because people stop believing and stop expecting. God is a God who wants us to expect suddenly from him. To wait on God is to look long, expecting Him at any moment to do what He said He will do. Believing has expectation. We should trust God like little children.

**"At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:1-4**

Part 2 of Guard Your Heart is in the next teaching.