

# **Wholeheartedly His:** A LIFE THAT GLORIFIES GOD

with

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The following pages contain additional resources  
and information provided by our speaker for  
your continued study and enrichment.

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# Wholeheartedly His: A Life that Glorifies God

Week Three: A Longing Heart

Session Guide

*Open my eyes that I may see... wonderful things in your law.*

Psalm 119:18 (NIV)

Subtle stirrings in our heart have the ability to launch a strategic battle as we incline our heart to the whisper of “\_\_\_\_\_.” This battle seeks to rob us of discovering who God says we are as we are lured into fixing our focus on others in a “no win” \_\_\_\_\_.

## **The comparison trap is Satan’s rap**

If untended to, these stirrings can become \_\_\_\_\_ that will significantly impact our heart: envy, jealousy, anger, bitterness, shame, self-condemnation, a critical spirit, resentment, feelings of insecurity, pride, self-righteousness, entitlement.

In our humanity, we instinctively seek to \_\_\_\_\_ perceived \_\_\_\_\_; to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Luke 15:11-32:** The slippery slope of “*If Onlys*”:

Son (*Heart issues*): \_\_\_\_\_

Impact on choices? \_\_\_\_\_

Brother (*Heart issues*): \_\_\_\_\_

Impact on choices? \_\_\_\_\_

*The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*

Jeremiah 17:9 (NIV)

In his pursuit to distract our focus from being fixed on God and to weaken our walks, Satan: \_\_\_\_\_ stirrings of doubt & uncertainty regarding God’s love for us, our value & worth \_\_\_\_\_ us with condemnation to thwart our embrace of Biblical Truth and freedom \_\_\_\_\_ our thoughts and heart with lies as we incline our ear to his whisper \_\_\_\_\_ that ‘the good life’ of God’s forgiveness and favor are for others, not for us \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual activity designed to thwart our grasp of Truth. Lusts of flesh, cares of world, and the deceitfulness of riches: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ intended to woe, wound & weary us.

**Sin will take you further, keep you longer, \_\_\_\_\_ and cost you more than you ever could have imagined.**

Satan clearly \_\_\_\_\_ God’s authority, God’s Word, God’s love, and God’s children!

The Father’s Heart: \_\_\_\_\_



# Wholeheartedly His: A Life that Glorifies God

## Week Three: A Longing Heart

### Growth Opportunities

*Open my eyes that I may see... wonderful things in your law.*

Psalm 119:18 (NIV)

**Day 1:** The Comparison Trap: Can you identify where the “comparison trap” has impacted you? Where have you left a “crack” in your spiritual door, allowing “*if onlys*” and “*less thans*” to creep in and take root? What is a “lie” that has presented itself to you as “truth”?

How have you responded to that lie? Have you made it “at home” in your heart? Or, have you resisted it and redirected your thoughts to Truth?

Write out **Romans 12:2**:

**2 Corinthians 10:5**:

What are powerful truths contained in these passages?

Victory hinges on our “choice” to apply Biblical truth to our lives. I encourage you to conclude your time today reading **Ephesians 2:10** and **Psalm 139**. Embrace the truth contained in these passages; don’t pass over it! Take it to heart! Remember **Romans 12:2** that you noted above.

**Day 2:** Let’s take a look at how heart issues and comparisons impacted a family in the Old Testament. **Genesis 25:22-33**:

How does **Genesis 25:22-26** describe the relationship between Esau and his brother, Jacob?

Family tensions: They can really impact our lives. How did it play out in **Genesis 25:27-33**, and **Genesis 27:1-40**?

The tension rose to such a peak that Jacob’s parents, Isaac and Rebekah, instructed Jacob in **Genesis 28:1-2** to:

Family tensions occur, often from jealousy, comparisons, hurt, and “*if onlys*.” **Genesis 29:6-11** invites us to see God’s tender touch on Jacob’s life:

**Day 2:** (continued)

Ahhhh! Jacob worked \_\_\_\_\_ years to earn Rachel's hand in marriage! And then what?

\_\_\_\_\_ Ouch!

How is Leah described: **Genesis 29:17?** \_\_\_\_\_

And Rachel? \_\_\_\_\_

Comparisons; painful indeed. **Genesis 29:20-25, 33-34**, and **Genesis 30:1**. Life can be difficult. Jacob rose to the occasion, Rachel waited. Leah longed for... Each experienced pain, disappointment, rejection, as well as blessings. And each had to choose to look to God for healing, hope, and His perspective amidst their unspoken "*if onlys*." God can, and does, bring forth beauty from ashes.

**Hebrews 10:23:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalms 31:24:** \_\_\_\_\_

This may seem like an odd place to pause and pray in wrapping up today's session, but that's what I invite you to do. It can rattle us to read Biblical accounts in which there aren't smooth sailing and happy endings. Yet, life can indeed be messy even though God is on the throne at this very moment. Ask God, as the Redeemer who tenderly loves you, to work in the midst of whatever delicate family matters you may be experiencing, and to heal wounds that may be lingering. We can be inclined to cry "unfair, foul!" God is true to His Word, and He will work in our circumstances as we trust Him and entrust to Him our hearts and our hurts. Remember **Proverbs 4:23**: "*Guard your heart.*" Don't guard it *from* God, but rather *entrust it* to God while on guard regarding spiritual schemes designed to discourage and derail spiritual growth and intimacy with God.

**Genesis 29:35:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 8:28:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hebrews 12:2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Colossians 4:2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Day 3:** Let's revisit the Biblical account in **Luke 15:11-32**, *The Prodigal Son*. Reread this account; ask God to speak to your heart, revealing insights that can help you grow in your relationship with Him. Consider the "*if onlys*" that each son seemingly embraced:

Older son: \_\_\_\_\_

Younger son: \_\_\_\_\_

Which, if any, of their "*if onlys*" do you relate to most readily?

\_\_\_\_\_ In what ways did their "*if onlys*" impact their hearts?

Older son: \_\_\_\_\_

Younger son: \_\_\_\_\_

**Day 3:** *(continued)*

How has your heart been impacted by the “*if onlys*” you have been inclined towards?

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The younger son chose to return to his father, repenting of his choices and asking for forgiveness. God, portrayed as the father, waits with open arms and a tender heart. The older son seemingly remained “stuck” in his resentment, bitterness, and pride. Sit with God in a time of quiet reflection; talk with Him about anything that needs to be confessed, repented of/turned from, uprooted from your heart. As well, sit with Him in acknowledgment of His tender love for you and His longing for you to draw near in His embrace.

**Day 4:** Today, enjoy looking up verses to strengthen you in being wholeheartedly His:

**Psalm 16:11:** \_\_\_\_\_

**John 1:12:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Romans 4:21:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Peter 1:3-4:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**1 John 1:9:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Day 5:** Battling the Comparison Trap: Take God at His Word! This is essential in order to be wholeheartedly His and to live a life that brings Him glory. Truth is True—always and unconditionally. Repent of any known jealousies, envy, bitterness. Take time to be very intentional with this. If you are struggling with this, you may want to ask someone to pray with you; but keep the goal clear: of emptying your heart of things that hinder intimacy with the Almighty. Now... speak Truth to yourself; maybe even in front of a mirror!

**Ephesians 1:5:** I have been adopted as God’s child.

**Colossians 1:14:** I have been redeemed and forgiven.

**Philippians 1:6:** What God has begun in me He will complete.

**Romans 8:28:** God promises that He will work all things together for good.

**Ephesians 2:10:** I am God’s workmanship.

**Ephesians 3:12:** I may approach God with freedom and confidence.

**2 Timothy 1:7:** I have not been given a spirit of fear; but of power, love, and a sound mind.

**Philippians 4:13:** I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

**Psalm 18:19:** He brought me out into a spacious place; He rescued me because He delighted in me.

There is no benefit in comparing ourselves to others, but there is great fruit to be born, freedom to be experienced, and fullness in store for anyone who takes God at His Word and embraces who **He says** they are: uniquely created to reflect Him to a lost world.

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## Wholeheartedly His: A Life that Glorifies God

Week Three: A Longing Heart  
Session Guide (ANSWER SHEET)

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Subtle stirrings in our heart have the ability to launch a strategic battle as we incline our heart to the whisper of “**IF ONLY.**” This battle seeks to rob us of discovering who God says we are as we are lured into fixing our focus on others in a “no win” **comparison trap.**

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### The comparison trap is Satan’s rap

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If untended to, these stirrings can become **strongholds** that will significantly impact our heart: envy, jealousy, anger, bitterness, shame, self-condemnation, a critical spirit, resentment, feelings of insecurity, pride, self-righteousness, entitlement.

In our humanity, we instinctively seek to **cover up** perceived **shortcomings**; to **hide.**

**Luke 15:11-32:** The slippery slope of “*If Onlys*”:

Son: Heart issues: **Entitlement, Self-Absorbed, Lusts of Flesh, Deceitfulness of Riches**  
(to name a few)

Impact on choices? **Self-Absorbed, Reckless, Distant From Truth, Miserable, Lost, Searching**

Brother: Heart issues: **Pride, Envy, Jealousy, Entitlement** (to name a few)

Impact on choices? **Self-Absorbed, Rude, Hard-Hearted, Prideful, Lack of Compassion**

*The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?*

Jeremiah 17:9 (NIV)

In his pursuit to distract our focus from being fixed on God and to weaken our walks, Satan: **Instigates** stirrings of doubt & uncertainty regarding God’s love for us; our value & worth **Intimidates** us with condemnation to thwart our embrace of Biblical Truth and freedom **Contaminates** our thoughts and heart with lies as we incline our ear to his whisper **Insinuates** that “the good life” of God’s forgiveness and favor are for others, not for us **Designates** spiritual activity designed to thwart our grasp of Truth. Lusts of flesh, cares of world, and the deceitfulness of riches: **Distractions / Sin** intended to woe, wound & weary us.

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**Sin will take you further, keep you longer,  
and cost you more than you ever could have imagined.**

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Satan clearly **underestimates** God’s authority, God’s Word, God’s love, and God’s children!

The Father’s Heart: **Compassionate, Forgiving, Kind, Ready-to-Embrace, Delighted** (to name a few)

