

Chapter 1 : Ben's sermon: Transplant Surgery

Grace! The bank gives us a grace period. The seedy politician falls from grace. Musicians speak of a grace note. We use the word for hospitals, baby girls, kings and pre-meal prayers.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. That is, he was born with this defect. He declares this truth in such a way not as to cover up the wrong he had done, but with the right theological perspective that allow us to see ourselves as God sees us. It seems that if you knew that you had a problem with your heart, you would do all you could to keep it healthy. One of the best things you can do to help your heart is to watch what you eat. However, there are people who do such things on the physical side, yet many more in spiritual realm. Not everyone is born with a physical heart condition, but everyone is born with spiritual heart disease. We should, therefore, consider our spiritual diet. David had apparently been cheating on his. He was at home at a time when kings were at war. There, he arose from his bed one evening and from his balcony saw a woman bathing; this bathing beauty looked good to him. Because it is that thing that has the ability to tempt and trap us. Most people have no trouble staying away from that which repulses them. It is that finely garnished plate, the aroma of delicious food that tempts the eater; it is the glitter of gold and the sparkle of jewelry, the power and prestige that allures the would be rich. Let us not suppose that this particular night was the first time that David ever saw this bathing beauty. Perhaps it was because he had feasted too long upon her from the distance that cause him to stay behind while her husband went off to war. Remember—we are talking about the heart, and so we should be aware that there are untold evils associated with it. What happened to David can also happen to anyone of us. We need to be watchful about what we take into our spirits. There are two ways in which we ingest: Money, cars, jewelry, women, men are what the masses seek because this the diet of many. The words of Jesus come rushing into my mind reminding us that our diet must not consist of physical food alone, but every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. Here David was, suffering with a congenital heart condition and compounding the problem by leaving his proper diet. Yet, he is not paying attention to the signs! Not only does he forsake his spiritual diet, but he also cuts out his exercise. At a time when he should have been at war, he was taking it easy; when he was suppose to be fighting , he was kicking it. If that be the case then surely that inactive heart is also his stomping ground. The heart and the mind are often mentioned in conjunction to one another. Oh, my brothers and sister, let us not think that we can do anything we want to, say anything we want to, never help anyone, never pick up a Bible, or never bend a knee in prayer and suppose that we are not doing damage to our hearts. David, despite of his knowledge that he was suffering with a congenital heart condition, feasted his eyes and ultimately his lustful appetite upon Bathsheba. And so, he called for Bathsheba and lay with her. Still not aware that his heart was messed up, he went along with his routine. However instead of David giving vent to the feeling, he chose to ignore it. David went from bad to worse when he tried to make the uncomfortable-ness go away. However, Uriah was a man of integrity. He seemed to realize that he too was suffering with a heart condition and so he refused to allow certain things in his diet, and he refused to let us on his exercise. So, when he was prompted to go into his house and his wife, he would not. There is a lesson to be learned in this, that is, that each time we allow our hearts to lay dormant and out of fellowship and communion with God, we place it in the higher risk category. When David came to realize and recognize the seriousness of his situation, he confessed his sins. This passage is that confession. In verse 10 he pleads with God to do a work his heart. He cries out in despair because he realizes that heart he has is filthy and flawed. Have you come to a serious conclusion about the condition of your heart? If you would take this situation serious today, you will come to realize that you too are plagued with a filthy and flawed heart. You too are in need of a spiritual heart transplant. Now, The average waiting time for a heart transplant in the UK is about six months. Being accepted for a heart transplant has advantages and disadvantages. Being accepted for a transplant carries with it the implication that your heart failure is severe and life-threatening. I think I need to tell you that the situation is already severe and life threatening. In every case, in order to receive a heart transplant , somebody has got to die. The only thing that he requires of you is that when you receive it—take care of it.

Chapter 2 : An Interview with Joan Chittister, OSB | Christian Feminism Today

spiritual heart surgery is a picture of a supernatural heart transplant God promises not just to wipe the slate clean for past sins but to give us a heart transplant. That involves removing our old heart of stone that rebelled against God and replacing it with a heart of flesh that beats with the cleansing lifeblood of Jesus.

I am back and ready to post. I had a wonderful relaxing time with my family. I praise God for family time. Here is a word of advice, always make sure you make time to enjoy life. Physically, there is no question that the heart is essential. The heart is not only vital physically, but the condition of the heart is important spiritually. We can combat sin by seeking God with our whole heart. Maybe you have been hurt so long that all you know is hate. Maybe you have misused or abused and you keep revenge in your heart. There are a lot of believers who are walking around with damaged hearts and try to keep hate and bitterness in one half and love on the other half. You need a spiritual heart transplant. You need to surrender your heart to God. I challenge you all to take a moment to seek God in your quiet time. You may be surprised to find out that you too need a spiritual heart transplant. The danger comes when you walk around in denial like you are perfect. Surrender and ask God to change your heart. I come boldly to God asking Him to search my heart and examine it and anything that is not pleasing to Him reveal it to me. Lord, expose my indiscretions so that I can get right with you. I pray that you all take inventory over the condition of your heart. Have a blessed day and know that a spiritual heart transplant is free. God wants to change your heart! Consistent in praying, Persistent in pursuing the knowledge of God, and Resistant to temptation. Excerpts and links be used, provided that full and clear credit is given to Nicole L.

Chapter 3 : Spiritual Heart Transplant Needed | Sunshine's Reflections Blog

A Spiritual Heart Transplant. January 1, another New Year. The old, , has gone and the new, , has come, ready or not! Can you believe it?

Another dramatic picture that Paul uses is that of death and life, or crucifixion and resurrection. He says We were But, this evening, I want to focus on a picture of regeneration that is not from the New Testament, but the Old. The picture I want to look at is from the middle of our reading earlier: God says to his people, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. For a successful heart transplant, we need three key things: I want to look at these three things in turn. The Diagnosis First we need a diagnosis. And the diagnosis in verse 26 is that we have a serious problem: The word "heart" in the Bible has a much wider meaning. It is linked here with spirit, and often in the Bible the words heart and spirit are used interchangeably. So when David prays Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me ref , he is not asking for two things "a clean heart and a right spirit" but one thing: The Bible use of the word heart most closely means "centre" or "core", as in the modern phrase "the heart of the matter". In relation to people it means the whole "inner being" or "inner man". Biblically speaking, the heart is the seat of our personality, of our emotional state, of our intellectual activities and of our will or volition. Your heart is who you are. Or we talk about giving someone our "wholehearted support", meaning we support them without reservation. Or we describe people as having a "change of heart" when they stop behaving in one way and start following a different path. All these uses of the word "heart" embrace far more than the physical pumping thing in our chests: So, when the Bible diagnoses that our hearts are made of stone, we can see that we have a very serious problem. As far as God is concerned, our hearts are just lumps of rock. We do not love him, we do not believe him, we do not trust him, we do not delight in him, we do not obey him. As far as God is concerned, our inner beings are as responsive as rocks. This is the way we are born. Not one of us was born with a heart that is alive to God. Ever since the Fall, we have inherited a defect that has left us with a heart problem; a heart made of stone; an inner being that is dead towards God. Our heart condition cannot be cured. We cannot make ourselves alive to God. We cannot make our cold, stone, lifeless hearts beat with warmth towards God any more than we can take a rock and make it live. There are any number of books about spirituality; any number of religions promising self-fulfilment and spiritual enlightenment; any number of exercises designed to give us spiritual centredness; all missing the point. No matter how hard we try, no matter how good we manage to be, no matter how much we try to pray, we cannot cure our fundamental problem: A heart of stone can never know God, any more than a rock can be your friend. Our problem is so serious that there is only one hope. We need a heart transplant. We need to have our incurably diseased old hearts removed, and replaced with a new, living, beating heart. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. How can we get one? Open-heart surgery is not something we can perform on ourselves. Open heart surgery is something that can only be done to us, by somebody with very special skills and training and equipment. It is absurd to think that I could cut open my chest, whip out my heart, stick in a new one, sew it all up again and survive to tell the tale. I can never make myself a Christian. But unless God has actually performed heart surgery on me, I will never be a Christian. My heart will remain stone cold dead. I will never be able to know God.

Chapter 4 : Heart Transplant Sermon by Ajai Prakash, Ezekiel - calendrierdelascience.com

In each instance listed above, should the heart become worse, heart failure is sure to ensue. Thanks be to God that medical technology has made it possible that when this heart failure occurs, a heart transplant is an option.

Spiritual Heart Transplantation Last week I described the depravity of my heart. I had no idea that the only hope for my heart was a new one. Self-help techniques always failed me in the long run. I could not escape the real person that I was on the inside. I did not realize what Jesus was going to do for me when I came to Him for salvation. At best I thought my sins would be forgiven, and I would receive a pass to heaven. I was shocked to learn that the entire nature of my existence had been changed. The following Scriptures helped me to understand what had happened. Who can know it? I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. I had to take care of my new spiritual heart and make it healthy by putting good things into it. I now had the power and potential to slowly become more like Jesus by the power of God and the changes that had taken place, but I still needed to grow and mature. The following paragraphs explain this journey. God gave us access to the power to overcome our old sinful nature, but the old nature did not disappear. I had to choose to be healthy and be ready to work at it diligently even though He would actually do all of the real work. God was present and waiting to do all of the spiritual healing and surgery. I just had to cooperate and He would make my heart healthy and filled with His love, peace, joy, and will. He provided great Christian counsel that got me started. We started by focusing on who God was, what He was like, and what He had done for me by diligent Bible study, meditation, and some memorization. If he sows to please his own wrong desires, he will be planting seeds of evil and he will surely reap a harvest of spiritual decay and death; but if he plants the good things of the Spirit, he will reap the everlasting life that the Holy Spirit gives him. As I began to study I was so grateful for what God had done for me and amazed at His love for me that I began feeding my heart with as much of the things of the Lord as I could. The Holy Spirit in my heart began to lead me and empower me to a healthy heart by focusing on God and His Word. Worship, prayer, Bible study, and Christian fellowship became a daily priority in my life. The more God taught me in His Word the more my passion for Him grew. I had it my way for 36 years but now I wanted it His way because He was changing my heart. Because my heart was different my life, actions, words, motives, and goals were different. He enabled me to fulfill the law of God by the power of the Holy Spirit through agape love that only He possesses and cultivates. The diagram below is a healthy Christian heart that is doing and experiencing the things I described. The diagram pictures an ideal example of a healthy heart where everything is in perfect order mine was not. Its shows the epitome of a healthy Christian heart for learning purposes. Realize that this never occurs in real life since no one is perfect but Jesus. It is very helpful, however, to have a model to try and live by. Compare this to my heart before I was saved and note the many differences that God can make!

Chapter 5 : Ben's sermon: The Heart Transplant

A spiritual heart transplant in order for us to survive the events that are coming on the earth before Jesus comes. In others, it's going to be a time of trouble, as we read about in the book of Daniel.

Sermon practice for the Evangelism and Church planting stream Introduction Does anyone here carry a donor card? What made you want to carry one? I was impressed to discover recently that over 12 million people are on the NHS organ donor register. Tragedy for one can become hope for another. This morning I want to tell you about another death that brings life to others. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. I just want to focus in on the first sentence, while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly ref , and I want to ask three questions: Why did Jesus die? According to the reading, it says that Christ died because we were weak. In what sense are we weak as people? What the reading is describing not our physical, or emotional infirmities, but our debilitating spiritual weakness. The Bible teaches us from start to finish that all of us have a serious spiritual disease. We simply cannot love God and obey him as we were created to do, no matter how hard we try. Even when we want to please God we find that we are powerless to do so. This is what the reading means when it says we are weak. Our innermost being is faulty. It is broken and diseased and corrupt. We can never be spiritually centred, because our very spiritual centre is rotten. There is a universal sense of dissatisfaction with life. An endless spiritual searching, but never an experience of finding. Our lives are marked by conflict and insecurity and doubt and worry. It was never supposed to be like that. There are eternal consequences too. Just as if we had heart disease in our physical hearts the result of this spiritual heart disease is spiritual death. The Bible says that God has put eternity in our hearts. We were created to live forever with him. We ought never have to face spiritual death. If we were to survive a physical heart attack the doctor would give us all sorts of advice: The heart always stops beating—it never goes on forever. We are in exactly the same situation spiritually. Our spiritual hearts are diseased. We can try all sorts of things to keep them going: We are weak; we are powerless. What do we do if someone suffers from serious heart disease? If a healthy heart of the right type is available, the diseased heart can be removed and replaced. This is the same solution the Bible gives to our spiritual heart disease: He died because we are weak, because we need a heart transplant. But for a transplant to work, the right heart needs to be available at just the right time. And for a heart to be available when we need it, it means that someone else must have died at just the right time to provide it. That is exactly what our reading goes on to say has happened. When did Jesus die? Our reading says that Jesus died at the right time ref. It was not a tragedy. It was not the untimely execution of an innocent man who was an inspirational teacher. No, he died at precisely the moment he chose. Er, can we have your liver? Yeah, I know what it is, but Need we say more? No one who has ever had their liver taken out by us has survived. Just lie there, sir. As the Python team are pointing up, the dark side to the miracle of transplant surgery is that every organ transplanted must have fallen out of use by somebody else. Every life saved is the result of the tragic death of another. A great religious teacher, completely innocent in the eyes of the law, conspicuously not seeking political power or revolution, but nonetheless tragically executed by one of the most brutal methods ever devised. His life cut short at the age of What could he have achieved if he had been allowed to live for a few years longer? But our reading tells us that it was not like that. Jesus lived in order to die. He died that we might live. He died to do for us what we could not do for ourselves: Of all the men who ever lived, his was the only heart that was good. In fact, his heart was so good that by his death he can provide each and every one of us with the new heart we need. Because we need a heart transplant. At the time he chose, to give us the heart we need. For whom did Jesus die? But to my mind the most extraordinary thing of all is the answer to the third question: Our reading tells us whom Jesus died for: That is, he died for you and me. This is the root cause of our heart disease: We live our lives largely without reference to God. We barely acknowledge him, and seldom, if ever stop to thank him. By and large, God does not feature in our day-to-day lives, and that is what it means to be ungodly. We know that he has a claim on how

we run our lives, but we persist in running them our own way. We reject his authority and do just as we wish. Imagine at work if one of the people you are responsible for managing began to behave like this. He turns up when he feels like it; he dresses as he wishes. Nonetheless he keeps cashing his pay-checke each month. How are you to interpret his attitude? But that is exactly how we are with God. Living our lives without reference to his authority is just taking the mickey. Would you die for someone like that? One will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die ref Who would you really be prepared to die for? I suppose I might be prepared to die for one of my daughters if that were the only possible way she could live. I might be prepared to donate a kidney for my wife, but to die for her That would take some thought. But, what if I were asked to donate my organs for the thief who stole my phone, or the yob who scratched my car? The thought of giving myself for this sort of people voluntarily is almost repellent. The last sentence of the reading expands on this. God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us ref. The flipside of the question we are invited to ask is "who would die for us? Can anyone of us dare to say, I am worth dying for? Yet that is the awesome truth of the message of the Bible. Here we learn that God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us ref. We are powerless to save ourselves. At just the right time. He voluntarily gave his life that a new heart, a good heart, might be available for us. He died for us. He died for the ungodly. He died for his enemies.

Chapter 6 : spiritual heart transplant needed â€“ Jesus follower

Heart Transplant Surgery When I was growing up my hometown newspaper was the now defunct Bridgeport Post. It was a conservative rag that the School of Journalism at the University of Connecticut called, "The Worst Newspaper in the History of the State."

The book of Liezi tells a story of Bian Que exchanging the hearts of two warriors to balance their personal characteristics. The first heart transplanted into a human occurred in at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi when a team led by Dr. James Hardy transplanted a chimpanzee heart into a dying patient. The heart beat for 70 minutes before stopping. The first human to human heart transplant was performed by cardiac surgeon Christiaan Barnard in December. The patient was Louis Washkansky of Cape Town, South Africa, who lived for 18 days after the procedure before dying of pneumonia. Subsequently, another transplant was done at St. Thomas only survived 8 months before dying of rejection of the transplanted heart. A series of five subsequent heart transplants were done that month by Dr. Cooley followed by a number of transplants in Houston that year before the program was canceled. In , at two years old, Elizabeth Craze became the youngest surviving heart transplant patient. As we gather tonight I want us to think about a different kind of heart transplant. The heart transplant that God himself promised us through the prophet Ezekiel. When we partake in the same jokes, drinks, entertainment and so on, why should they want what we got? Can I be honest with you tonight? Before you tune me out, listen carefully to what I have to say. Our lack of commitment, our self-seeking, self-serving attitude, and the way we treat our fellow brothers and sisters all point to the reality of a heart issue. We have just allowed our priorities to slip and have allowed the wrong things to take its place. Tonight I want to point us to the Scripture and hopefully we will allow the truth to clean out our clogged arteries. Because of this they sunk into an all time spiritual lull. The nation turned their hearts from God and turned them to idols and selfish living. God often sent His word of condemnation through His prophets but the people often rejected the message. It was during one of those spiritually low times that God raised up the Prophet Samuel. Even the spiritual leaders of that day were wicked and led many away from the Lord. And Levi was not much better for he never dealt with his sons as he should have blood is thicker than water. After the Lord struck the Philistines they knew they had to return the Ark. So the Ark is returned to a group of Levites in Beth Shemesh but they soon send the Ark on its way because the Lord struck down 50, men for opening it and looking into it. The Ark is then moved to Kirjath Jearim into the custody of Eleazar the son of Abinadab and remained there for 20 years. The recovery of the Ark was a beginning point in changing the hearts of the Nation of Israel. Please turn to 1 Samuel 7: We need to develop a hunger for God. Notice I did not say that we need to develop a hunger for church or for the things of God but for God Himself. Up to this point the people were content to have the Ark back and pry into it but now they realize that the Ark only represents the presence of God but is not a substitution for the presence of God Himself. I mean do you really want to have a deep intimate relationship with Him? Are you tired of the substitutes for God and are you ready to have Him? We must deal with our sinfulness. As Samuel stood before the nation he hit them in the heart of their sincerity. He gives them four things they must do to truly be repentant. Jesus told us in Matthew. We cannot tell God we are sorry for our sin without forsaking such sin. The nation could not genuinely return to God without first dealing with their idols properly. I like what Dr. There are some issues that demand clear cut decisions. Fence straddling is impossible. Samuel is telling them that their hearts must be directed toward the Father and nothing else. Jesus gives us an understanding of this type of focus in the Sermon on the Mount. He said in Matthew 6: For God does not accept competition. They also committed themselves to serving God only.

Chapter 7 : Benedictus Deus Â» A Spiritual Heart Transplant

I. Spiritual Heart Transplantation Last week I described the depravity of my heart. I had no idea that the only hope for my heart was a new one. I thought I could try and be a "good person" but God showed me I had to become a new creation.

Sister Joan Chittister is the executive director of Benetvision, a resource and research center for contemporary spirituality in Erie, PA and has established an international reputation as an author and lecturer as well. Her latest book, published this spring, is entitled *Heart of Flesh: A Feminist Spirituality for Women and Men*. When I asked how she happened to tie a book on feminist spirituality to the passage from Ezekiel quoted above, her reply was quick and passionate: But when the heart of flesh is not what is underlying policy-making – whether in a family or in a government – then you have great suffering. And that had to be the notion that God had built inequality into the human race. Otherwise, she maintains, we would surely have had a moral problem, generation after generation, with the destruction of people. So if you believe that God built inequality into the human race, then in my opinion you are a very short step from the lynching of black people, the nuclear destruction or napalming of Asian people, and the gassing of the next generation of Jews. So then I had this phenomenal Eureka moment that was tragic. It almost broke my heart. Equality was in every creation myth. You will have a hierarchy of control and people thinking that they not only have a right to control but a responsibility to do it. Look at the history of religion. Look how each of us claimed full truth, the total truth, and the right to impose that truth on everybody else. In Conjunction or in Conflict? She has also authored articles too numerous to mention. She holds a doctorate in speech communication theory from Penn State. She traces her love of writing to her earliest days. An only child, she entertained herself by writing about her adventures with five imaginary brothers. In high school, she worked diligently on the school newspaper. She says she found it impossible not to write. One of the most poignant and disturbing of the anecdotes with which she opens each chapter of *Heart of Flesh* recounts her daily keeping of a journal after she entered the convent. She recorded her thoughts about the spiritual life, her reactions to monastic living, and her observations on the structures that formed and maintained the life of the community. She suspected that behind its mysterious disappearance was the rigid novice mistress who scrutinized the young women so closely, demanding unquestioning conformity and obedience and never hesitating to punish. Over the next five years, Joan did not put down on paper any further personal thoughts; she bottled up her reflections inside. But on the night before her final profession, the novice mistress sent word that she wanted to see Joan by the elevator. Here is what happened as Joan describes it in *Heart of Flesh* p. It was a strange request. We had hardly seen one another in years and never ever talked about anything when we did. Night Silence had, in fact, already begun. No one talks about anything to anyone after night prayer in a monastery. Nevertheless, she was indeed waiting for me, elevator at the ready, when I came to the hall. Silently and solemnly she took me to the basement, then to the boiler room, and finally to the incinerator. I recognized it instantly. I thought as I threw the journal slowly and reluctantly into the fire. To this day, I can see the flames curling around those pages still. The only difference is that now I know the answer to the question. Even at that age I had the perception – maybe the insight to know – that there would come a time when the reflections of that young, young woman on this strange new world around her would have its own spiritual value – and it was taken away from me. And I wanted to be holy with all my heart. I knew there was something wrong. I had been raised a very independent child – by a mother and father who raised my sights as high as they could go, especially my mother. It was the inside of me being taken away. Every private thought I had had now been destroyed. I never will forget it. I did not write for years. I never wrote another personal word. I will journal major events in my life. She will not risk it. I mentioned that she has nevertheless stored them in her heart and is now sharing them with the world through her books. They come out sideways! And we, the readers, are the beneficiaries.

Chapter 8 : thecoblog: Spiritual Heart Transplant

Summary: What indicates the need for a new heart? As sinners, all of us need a new heart. Have you had a spiritual heart transplant? God's Spirit will circumcise unbelieving hearts and give a heart that loves God, desires to obey Him and has the power to obey Him.

The general outline of the series may already be developed for your in the Four-week teaching series. There are so many ways you can drill down into this in a fresh and compelling new presentation of the Gospel. Here are just a few examples: How do you know if you need a heart transplant and how do you get one? To start the series, we recommend you preach for about minutes and then show the 9-minute video followed by the invitation. More on that later. What is the nature of the old heart? The spiritual heart is the fountain or source of all of our thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes and endeavors. When we seriously compare our own thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes and endeavors to those of Jesus Christ, Romans 3: Great time for another invitation. The heart transplant allegory provides a powerful model to help us understand the exclusivity of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Our hearts are dead in our sins and transgressions. We need transplants and there is only one spiritual heart that can save us. Only the perfect, eternal heart of Christ, the only begotten sinless Son of God who died on the Cross, can save us for eternity. And what a beautiful picture of a personal relationship with Christ! Having the very heart of another person is even closer than your breath. When His thoughts become our thoughts, His passions become our passions, when His desires become our desires, there is no greater level of intimacy. How much does God the Father love us and want us to love others? So, just how much does the Father love Jesus? God is pursuing us. After our heart transplant, the Holy Spirit will fill us with that same love. What would happen to the world if Idlewild members would live out that reality?! What can we do to earn this new heart? You could easily preach several weeks on this. In your church you probably have members who have received heart transplants. If so, ask them what they could have done or ever could do to earn the right to receive the heart of their donor. There is absolutely nothing a heart recipient could ever do to earn the right to receive the heart of their donor. What is the nature of our new family relationships? A physical heart recipient becomes flesh and blood relatives with the family of the heart donor. But the family tie is even stronger with God. When we receive the heart of Christ we are adopted into the family of God and become new creations with new identities. We become heirs with Christ to the Kingdom of Heaven. The people in the church are our new brothers and sisters with the same hearts. How do we live heart healthy lifestyles? After our transplant, we need to take medicine, which is the Word of God; attend support groups, which are Bible believing churches and small groups, and meet with our great physician daily, which is prayer. Immediately after our transplant we may not be the picture of perfect health, but praise the Lord, God promises to finish the good work He started in us and transforms us into the image of Jesus Christ. How do we help others receive heart transplants? This is the evangelism training piece. As a result, non-Christians will be drawn to watching it and some of your members may feel more comfortable giving it to their non-Christian friends. In this week we look at how our partnership with LifeLink for organ donor registration can give us many opportunities to share this message. By the end of the eight week series your members will be well equipped to confidently share this message with their friends. You could explain it this way at the end of each service in the series: Imagine you go to your cardiologist and she explains you are in end-stage heart failure and your only chance to survive is to receive a heart transplant. But some of you are in that place where you know your old heart is dead and no amount of exercise or new diet can save you. And no matter how hard you try, you end up doing the opposite of what you know you should do. For some of you God has made it clear that your old heart is dead in transgressions. You know you need the new heart. The great news is, God is waiting right now and would love to take out your old heart of stone and put in the heart of His Son, Jesus Christ. So if you feel God is calling you to surrender that old heart of stone and receive the perfect, eternal heart of Jesus Christ, you can simply say something like this to God: You could give some form of that invitation every week for eight weeks. After the invitation, ask the people how many of them have ever talked with a friend about medical issues in the last

month. Or, how many of you know someone with heart problems or other medical issues. Or maybe you know someone who is a medical professional who could relate to this story. Or maybe you know someone who is struggling with anxiety, depression, fear or other problems. When they do, we recommend that they loan the DVD to the friend for one week. That way their friends are more likely to watch it and they can talk with them about their reaction to the video.

Chapter 9 : Spiritual Heart Transplant by Undefeated

Sunshine's Reflections Good morning! Happy Wednesday to you all! I am back and ready to post. I had a wonderful relaxing time with my family. I praise God for family time.

That day will always be etched in our personal and national memories! It is hard to believe that it has been 10 years already! King Jehoiachin of Judah, his family, his officials, and 8, leading men of Israel, including Ezekiel, a 25 year old priest, were captured and taken into exile in Babylonia. Ezekiel never forgot the day that he was forced to leave the temple in Jerusalem, where he worshipped God every day. Then, in September of BC, after Ezekiel had been in Babylonian captivity for 11 years, Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem again, destroyed its walls, burned its buildings including the beloved Temple that Solomon had built, murdered many of its inhabitants, and deported the rest of the people back to Babylon, where they would remain in captivity for the next 70 years. The fall of Jerusalem in September BC was etched in Ezekiel memory just like the tragedy of September 11, is engraved in ours. The Calling of Ezekiel But even in the midst of these major national crises, God poured out his blessing on Ezekiel. In June of BC, after six years in Babylon, Ezekiel experienced another life-changing event that he never forgot. At age 30, God changed his occupation. He had been a priest, but now God make him a prophet. Ezekiel tells us that God came to him in a vision and called him to be a prophet and preach to his fellow Israelites who were living in exile. God appeared to him in a brilliant, fiery chariot that was surrounded by four strange creatures and supported on wheels that were supported by other wheels. The nature of the creatures surrounding him also showed that he was the God of everything in creation, not just human beings. As God commissioned Ezekiel to preach to the rebellious nation of Israel, God told him to open his mouth. Then he saw a hand stretched out before him holding a scroll. On both sides of the scroll were written words of lament and mourning and woe. God told him to eat the scroll and then go and preach to the house of Israel. Jeremiah was only 14 years old when God called him to preach; Ezekiel was Ezekiel served as a priest, but as we will see in a few weeks, the prophet Amos was a farmer. Regardless of your age or your background, God just might call you to some type of preaching ministry. If he does, he will show you his sovereignty and put his Word in your mouth. If God called you to preach, would you be willing? In the days leading up to the fall of Jerusalem, he primarily preached messages of judgment. In the days after the fall of Jerusalem, he primarily preached messages of hope. Chapters record his sermons of judgment on Israel for its sin. A Heart Transplant Now we know he means a spiritual heart transplant, not a physical one. The first successful physical heart transplant was performed by Christiaan Barnard in , but God has been doing spiritual heart transplants for millennia. God sent Israel into exile because they defiled their land by their detestable conduct. They were consumed with violence and bloodshed and wickedness and idolatry pervaded their lives at every turn. Their lifestyle was abominable to the Lord. God was so concerned that Israel be restored to a proper relationship with him that he sent his people out of the Promised Land and that they might learn the importance of following his ways. But God would not allow his people to profane his holy name forever. After 70 years in exile, God would bring his people back to the Promised Land and restore their relationship with him. He would cleanse their souls from impurity and perform a divine heart transplant on them. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. This new heart would reap a harvest of prosperity. Like ancient Israel, we too live in a time where wickedness, idolatry, and stubbornness are the norm. In many ways, personally and nationally, we are living in spiritual exile. So few take God seriously or pay attention to his Word. When we put our faith in Jesus Christ, we undergo a spiritual heart transplant. He cleanses us from our sinful and stubborn pasts. He takes away our hearts of stone and gives us a heart of flesh: A heart that has the hope of eternal life in heaven, where there will be ultimate prosperity. Have you experienced a spiritual heart transplant? Have you trusted in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? Have you been cleansed from your sins? Do you have the hope of ultimate restoration and prosperity? Some Dry Bones In Ezekiel 37 we learn that the hand of the Lord led him to a valley filled with

bones. It was probably a vision of an ancient battlefield where a vast array of skeletons had laid for many years. The bones were very dry. As Ezekiel gazed at this deathly sight, God asked him if these bones could live. Acknowledging his lack of omniscience, he declared that only Lord knew. Then the Lord commanded him to preach to the bones. This seems preposterous, but I know some preachers today who feel like they areâ€well, I better not say it! But he prophesied as the Lord had commanded and he heard the sound of rattling and the bones began to form together one by one. Then, tendons and flesh were attached to the bones and skin covered them. And as he continued to prophesy about the restoration of Israel, breath entered the bones and they stood before him as a vast army. As Ezekiel beheld this sight, I picture him humming along saying: The foot bone connected to the leg-bone, The leg bone connected to the knee bone, The knee bone connected to the thigh bone, The thigh bone connected to the back bone, The back bone connected to the neck bone The neck bone connected to the head bone Oh hear the word of the Lord! God told him that the bones represent the whole house of Israel. The nation of Israel was spiritually dead and dried up, but God was going to bring restoration. He was going to bring them back to life, restore them to their land, give them his Spirit, and fill them with hope. And when their relationship with God was restored, then their nation would prosper again. Just as God restored Israel after 70 years of exile, he has the power to revive our nation today. Just think about our nation in the past 10 years since September 11, Two wars, Hurricane Katrina, a housing bubble burst, a stock market crash, a gulf oil spill, wild fires, tornados, earthquakes, floods, etc. Like the dry bones in the valley, our country is in desperate need of a spiritual revival. We need God to bring us back to life, give us his Spirit, and dwell in our land! May God give us a vision of hope as he did for Ezekiel! Likewise, God has the power to restore the individual. I suspect there are some hear today who have always been spiritually dead; some who have never had a real personal relationship with the Lord. Your whole life has been a walk through the valley of dry bones. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, he offers us forgiveness for our sins, peace in our souls, and the hope of everlasting life. If you want a new spiritual life and a real relationship with God, respond in faith and commit your life to him today! Also, I suspect that there are some here today who have already experienced transformation through Jesus Christ, but your spiritual life feels like dry bones and you are in need of a personal revival. Maybe your spiritual passion is gone of selfish choices or sinful actions. Maybe your spiritual zeal has been sapped because of some pressing life circumstance. Maybe you are going through a spiritual funk and you have no idea why. Well, if this is you, I have good news from you: Hallelujah, thine the glory! May the Lord revive us again!