

FirstFruits Gathering At Harvest Christian Church

The Adventures of a Willing Heart March 29, 2022 Suzi Armstrong

God put adventure in our DNA. The thought of adventure is something that stirs my heart. Adventure describes something unusual and most likely exciting – it often involves discovering new territory and having new experiences. We are living in very unusual times. God calls us a peculiar people. As the Israelites were starting their journey to the Promised Land, in **Exodus 19.5** God says to them “Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people; for all the earth is mine.”

I like the TV series Star Trek. It opened with these words: “Space, the final frontier. These are the voyages of the Starship Enterprise. It’s five-year mission: to explore strange new worlds; to seek out new life; and new civilizations; to boldly go where no man has gone before.” The sense of adventure from the opening lines of this TV series is powerful and mysterious. The possibilities of what could be seen or experienced or understood were endless. Of course, all of this was a TV script and fictional.

There is adventure available for us today as we align with God – how He is moving, what He is speaking, the doors that He opens, the release of heaven on earth, the time and season that He has us in. There are many opportunities to discover the new and to be right in the middle of what God is doing. Multiple prophetic voices have said that this is a most extraordinary time to be alive. It is important to have a heart that is willing.

I believe Paul had a willing and adventurous heart. In **Philippians 3** Paul says, “I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider my self yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead. I press on.”

Those who stayed and kept on staying in the upper room and experienced Pentecost had a willing adventurous heart. John was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day when he wrote the Book of Revelation. Abraham left the land of the Chaladees and the Lord led him to discover the Promised Land. Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness. A willing heart believes God. To be willing means to be ready to do something – often that includes letting go of routines and familiar ways, traditions, customs and beliefs passed from generation to generation. One definition of willing says it is the suspension of disbelief. God loves a willing heart. It is a beautiful thing before the Lord.

A willing heart is an open heart to the Lord’s input and direction.

- A willing heart doesn’t over-think or over-plan, is not a micro-manager.
- A willing heart is an open sail that will go where Holy Spirit takes you.
- A willing heart is open to adventure.
- A willing heart is secure in their identity in Christ.
- A willing heart has said “YES” to God with no strings attached.
- A willing heart gives and does not hold back.
- A willing heart is in union with Christ and the word of God.

Ezra 1.1, 5-6 NIV

¹ In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, **the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia** to make a proclamation throughout his realm and also to put it in writing.

⁵ Then the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites—**everyone whose heart God had moved—prepared to go up and build the house of the LORD in Jerusalem.** ⁶ **All their neighbors assisted them** with articles of silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with valuable gifts, in addition to all the freewill offerings.

Isaiah 1.19 NIV

¹⁹ **If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land;**

- Fear kept a generation of Israelites from eating the good things of the land when the 10 spies thought the giants were too big. Don't let the fear mongers of today close down your heart.
- Tradition and religion kept the Pharisees from recognizing who Jesus was. Don't let tradition and religion harden your heart so that you can't hear the call of the Lord to come and share adventure with Him.
- Hearts that are shut down and not willing will miss the adventure they were born to participate in. We were born and made for the adventure of our day. We were made and prepared for this day to partner with God in divine destiny.

Proverbs 4.23 NIV

²³ **Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.**

The works of the kingdom are to heal the sick, cast out demons, raise the dead and cleanse the lepers. This takes a willing and bold heart. Tim Sheets released a prophetic word that said, "Believe me for miracles, believe Me for long awaited miracles, believe Me for notable miracles, believe Me for notable deliverance. Press into this – press into this assignment."

DECREE OVER DETROIT:

Psalm 118.7-9, 13-19 NIV Reworded

⁷ **The Lord is with Detroit; he is Detroit's helper.**

Detroit looks in triumph on its enemies.

⁸ It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in humans.

⁹ It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes.

¹³ **Detroit was pushed back and about to fall, but the Lord helped Detroit.**

¹⁴ **The Lord is Detroit's strength and defense; he has become Detroit's salvation.**

¹⁵ Shouts of joy and victory resound in the homes of the righteous:

"The Lord's right hand has done mighty things!

¹⁶ The Lord's right hand is lifted high; the Lord's right hand has done mighty things!"

¹⁷ **Detroit will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.**

¹⁸ The Lord has chastened Detroit severely, but he has not given the city over to death.

¹⁹ **Open for Detroit the gates of the righteous; Detroit will enter and give thanks to the Lord.**