­Establishing the Heart ­ sermon for 11-26-17

Start with YouTube video of “If I Were the King of the Forest”

**Psalm 1121-8** (NKJV)

Blessed *is* the man *who* fears the Lord,
*Who* delights greatly in His commandments.

**2**His descendants will be mighty on earth;
The generation of the upright will be blessed.
**3**Wealth and riches *will be* in his house,
And his righteousness endures forever.
**4**Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness;
*He is* gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.
**5**A good man deals graciously and lends;
He will guide his affairs with discretion.
**6**Surely he will never be shaken;
The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance.
**7**He will not be afraid of evil tidings;
His heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.
**8His heart *is* established**;
**He will not be afraid,
Until he sees *his desire* upon his enemies.**

**The heart we are talking about today is the desire producer inside of us that determines our choices—our will.**

**Having a heart that is established is to have a heart that is set courageously on a consistent course.**

This is the heart of a righteous man.

A righteous man has a settled will because of what his will is supported by.

**Established means that the heart is leaning on or is supported by something sure and consistent.**

1. An established heart is not supported by talent.
2. An established heart is not supported by strength.
3. An established heart is not supported by wisdom.
4. An established heart is not supported by resources.
5. An established heart is not supported by circumstances.
6. An established heart is not supported by a level of perfection or maturity.

All of these things that we lean on are unsure, shakable foundations.

They are unreliable hiding places in the middle of the worst storms.

The storms of life do not cause us fear any more than a normal thunderstorm outside of our nice warm home bothers us. The time when fear starts to take over our hearts is when we see the storm starting to cause damage to our house. **That’s when we really start to worry.**

As long as the thing that we depend on keeps the storm out, we feel confident.

But when our shelter—our hiding place—**starts to allow the storm inside, we become afraid**.

An established heart is not wishy-washy or double-minded.

It’s a heart that is leaning on an everlasting, unshakable foundation.

Isn’t that what we want? A heart that is sure? A will that is set?

Most of the time we feel like the cowardly lion. We are courageous one moment, but scared the next. Sure one moment, then unsure the next.



Look at it through the NLT…

**7**They do not fear bad news;
    they confidently trust the Lord to care for them.
**8**They are confident and fearless
    and can face their foes triumphantly.

**Our habits establish our hearts.**

# 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 (NKJV)

**12**And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we *do* to you, **13**so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

* Our habits of love—our “doings” of love—enable God to establish our hearts.
* **Our hearts are rendered constant and courageous through the habit of increasing and abounding in love.**

# 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 (ESV)

**16**Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, **17**comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

* Although God has already given us comfort and hope, our hearts are established during good works and words.

Good works include forgiveness and mercy.

**God’s grace establishes our hearts.**

# Hebrews 13:9 (KJV)

**9**Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

* It is a good thing to establish our choices and expectations in God’s grace and not our religious disciplines or personal convictions.
* **Our hearts are established by habits of grace not doctrines or personal convictions.**

# James 5:7-9 (NKJV)

**7**Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See *how* the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain. **8**You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

**9**Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=James+5:7-9&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-30364a)] Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!

* A steady heart makes patience possible.
* And **patience is the only thing that keeps you from stepping over your boundaries while you are waiting for God to water your fruit.**
	+ We end up trying to do God’s work for him.
	+ We desecrate the sacred.
* Set your will to patiently wait for God to bring deliverance for His coming is at hand!
* **Don’t grumble against others, they are not responsible for your trials or your delayed hopes.**