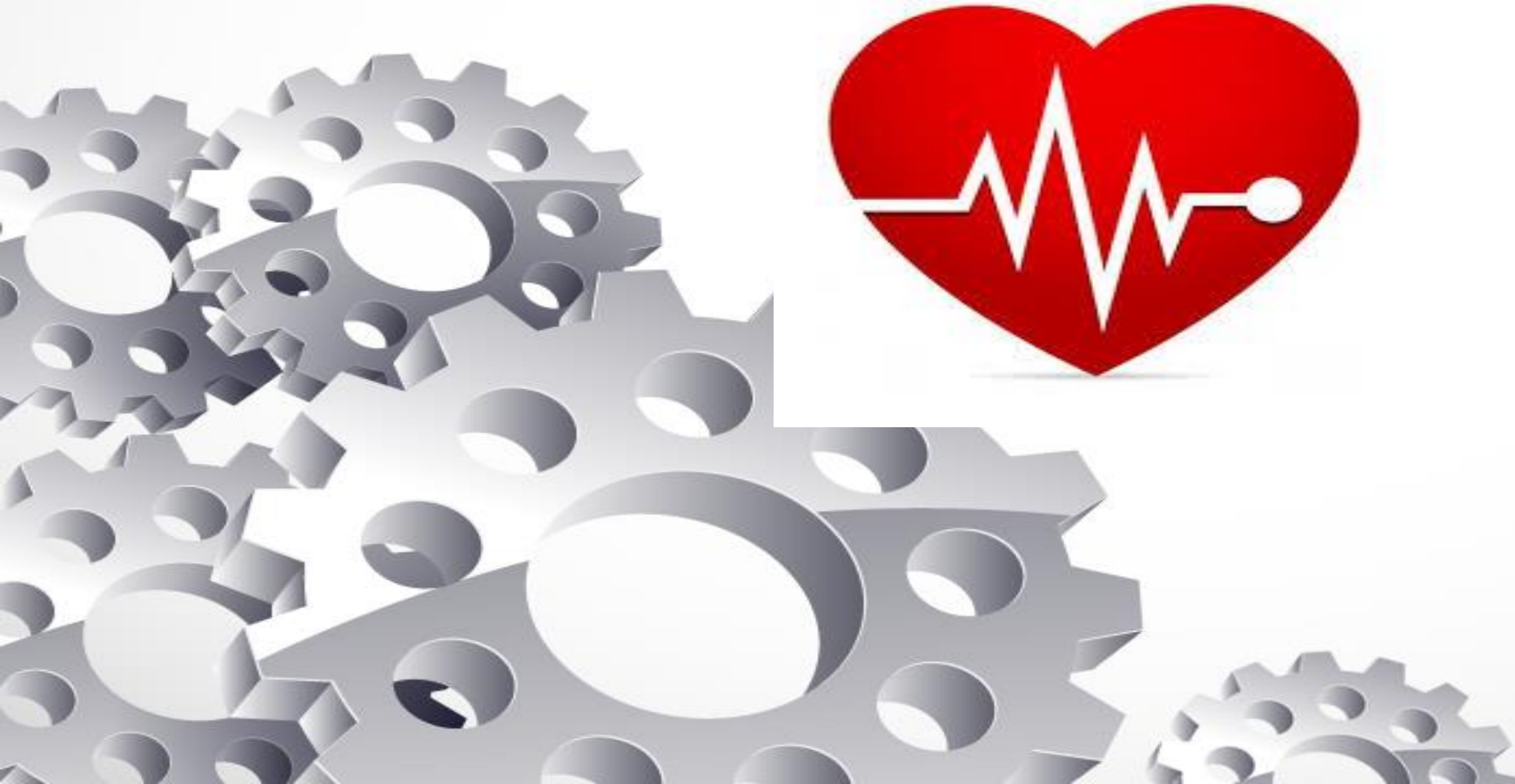


# SURRENDER IS A HEART ISSUE: The Heart God Controls



**A sermon  
prepared by  
Rev. Ken Aringo  
for CITAM  
WOODLEY  
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“At the Heart of the matters are the matters of the  
Heart and that is where matters hurt most”

Rev. Ken Aringo

- The Oxford Dictionary defines Surrender as “to stop trying to prevent yourself from having a feeling, habit, etc, and allow it to control what you do: He finally surrendered to his craving for drugs.”

- “Above all else, guard your heart, for it affects everything you do.” Proverbs 4:23 (NLT)
- “Keep vigilant watch over your heart; that’s where life starts. Don’t talk out of both sides of your mouth’ avoid careless banter, white lies and gossip. Keep your eyes straight ahead; ignore all sideshow distractions.” Proverbs 4:23 (The Message-MSG).



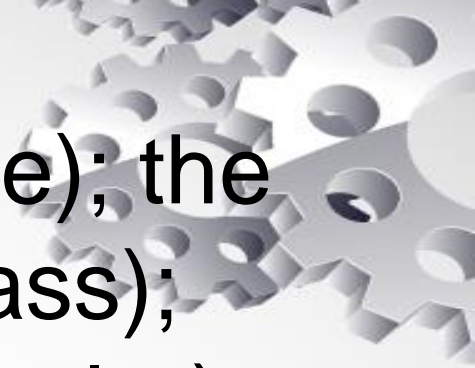
In other words:

Your heart is your engine (if you were a vehicle); the heart is your North point (if you were a Compass); the heart is your Google pin (if you were a traveler); the heart is your dictionary (if you were a student).

Your life follows your heart.

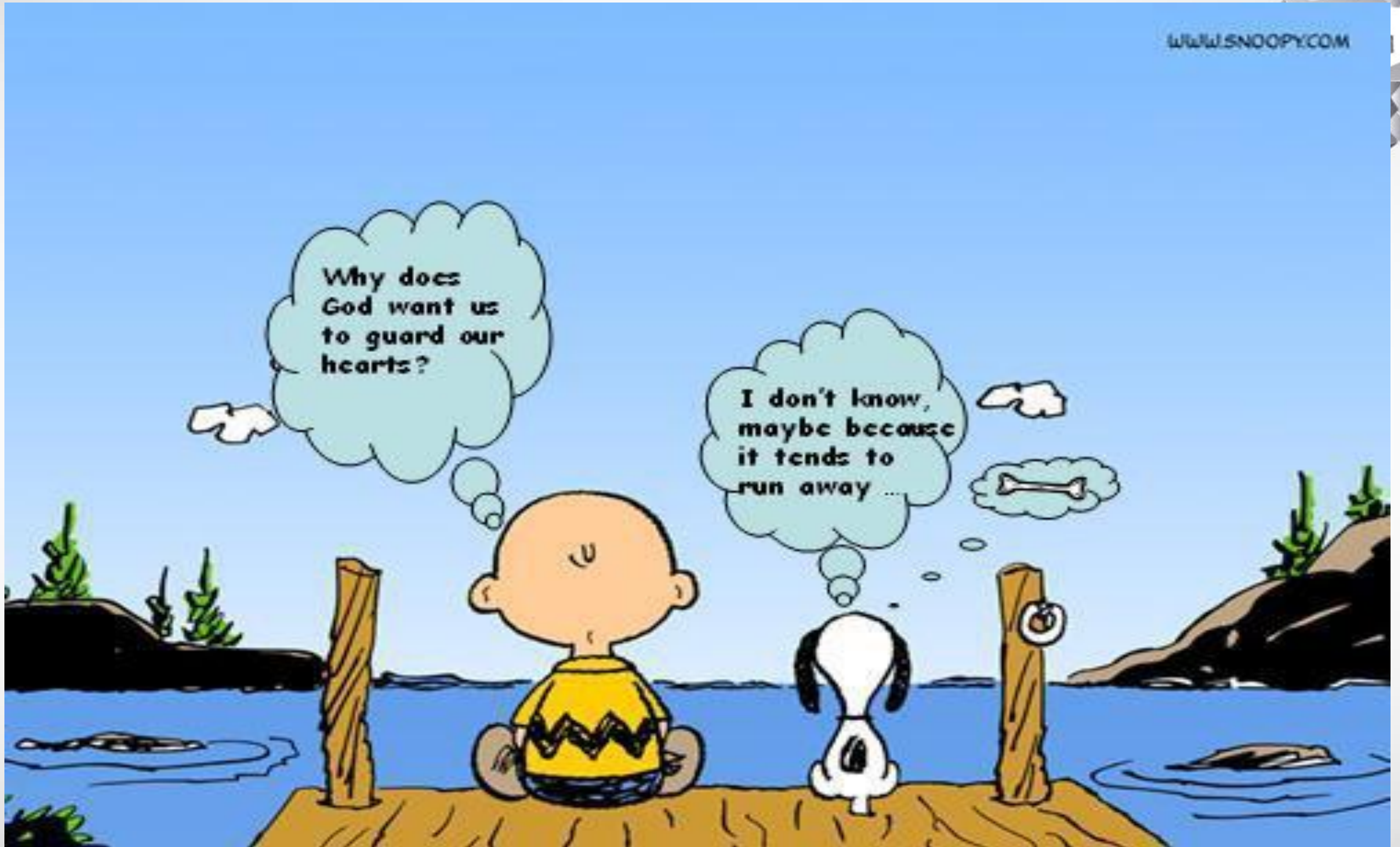
Our heart - our feelings of love and desire dictates to a great extent how we live because we always find time to do what we enjoy.

We should concentrate on those desires that will keep us on the right path.




Why does  
God want us  
to guard our  
hearts?

I don't know,  
maybe because  
it tends to  
run away ...



Eldredge writes about the centrality of the human heart thus:

“We describe a person without compassion as “heartless,” and we urge him or her to have a “heart.” Our deepest hurts we call “heartaches.” Jilted lovers are “brokenhearted.” The truly evil are “black-hearted” and saints have “hearts of gold.” If we need to speak at the most intimate level, we ask for a “heart-to-heart” talk. “Lighthearted” is how we feel on vacation. And when we love someone as truly as we may, we love “with all our heart.” But when we lose our passion for life, when deadness sets in which we cannot extricate



This morning I would like us to ask ourselves;  
How does a heart that God controls look like?”  
If there was one word to describe such a life (heart) that is  
fully surrendered to God, how would we describe it?  
What does the Bible say about the state of our heart when it  
comes to our relationship with God?

“But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his  
appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The  
LORD does not look at the things people look at. People  
look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the  
heart” (NIV).

The setting: the house of Jesse after Saul was rejected as king (1 Samuel 15:3).

King Saul blamed his disobedience on the people for “sparing the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the Lord” (1 Samuel 15:15). But the prophet Samuel rebuked him with these words: “Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.” (1 Samuel 15:22).








Therefore when God rejected all the seven sons of Jesse, (1 Samuel 16:10) He was looking for the least likely next king of Israel in a young shepherd boy by the name of David-and his only qualification was his heart that was evidently hungry for God.

The young David would soon find himself in the service of King Saul who had lost favor with God and was now a tormented man; “Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD tormented him...” (1 Sam. 16:14).



- The true test of David's heart was going to present itself after he accomplished a great military feat in battle by bringing down the Philistine Champion (Goliath) to the amazement and shock of the King Saul and his army including David's elder brothers who were serving in King Saul's army (1 Samuel 17:4-9; 45-50).





Though a celebrated warrior and a gifted musician who played the lyre to the tormented King whenever “the evil spirit from the LORD came on him”; David remained faithful to the king who did not hide his hatred and jealousy towards him and on more than one occasion tried to kill him (1 Samuel 18:10-11;19:10). David guarded his heart jealously and continued with his divine assignment in the King’s service even though he knew very well that he was the duly anointed, God chosen next King of Israel (1 Samuel 16:13).

# Lessons from King Saul and David

Some people need their hearts healed; others need their hearts filled because they are empty like Saul.

When you focus on your pain and persecution you will corrode your heart and miss your moment. David did not allow Saul's evil schemes to sidetrack him.

You can be saved but still sick. Saul was called by God, serving as a King but living in torment because of his "evil heart".

Someone said; "Some people are saved but not safe to love".

We can be intellectually sharp, physically fit but emotionally deficient.



# Five Questions to Consider

Do you have a tendency to put others needs ahead of your own?

Do you always seek good where others are critical?  
(Everybody says; “avoid so and so but you still see hope in them”.)

Are you intense about whatever you feel passionate for?

Do you assume other people’s burden as if they’re your own?

Do you find it difficult to share pain, worry or loss longer than others with similar circumstances?



## Take NOTE:

- The call to “guard your heart” is not a call to “block our hearts” from others. It is to be consciously aware and exercising personal responsibility in determining who, why and how we admit people into the inner sanctum (heart) of our life where the “issues of life flow from” (Proverbs 4:23).



## **Conclusion: The 3G principle**

David employed the 3G principle to guide, guard and gauge his Heart and let God control his destiny.

God's principles give us 3 crucial tools:

- 1.They are a Guide: they help us stay on the right path.
- 2.They are a Guard: they keep our hearts and bodies protected.
- 3.They are a Gauge: they enable us to evaluate where we are.





# surrendering hearts ♡

*Surrender your heart to God, turn to Him in prayer...*

*Job 11:13*

It ain't much,  
but it's all I got.

It's all I  
ever wanted.

