

Heavenly Calling, Not a Career Path

Psalms 45 is a song written in anticipation of a marriage. It is written from hearts stirred by love. Embarking on ministry that is focused primarily on tasks, goals, structures, techniques, or programs will lead us inevitably into fruitlessness. The image of marriage and love from the heart is a frequent one in scripture helping us grasp something of the relationship between Christ and His church. We begin this network by exploring and assessing what the key heart motivations within leadership of the local church are. The goal of this session is to help participants refresh their hearts, reminding themselves of why they do what they do.

Jon Beardon is a member of the Relational Mission core team, with responsibilities that include overseeing the team of directors responsible for governance, finance, and communications and directly supervising some of the Relational Mission churches in the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic (Pardubice), France (Lille), Serbia (Nis) and Nepal. Jon loves working with these local churches to strengthen them and foster unity between them overflowing into ownership of shared church planting mission. In the United Kingdom this takes the form of the 20/20 initiative – reaching 20 more places in the East of England over 20 years since the year 2020. Jon is a local church elder based at Wellspring Family Church, Dereham, a church he planted in 2002. Jon has a secondary teaching qualification, he spent six months in Ghana as a missionary, and for nearly five years worked as a schools' evangelist in the United Kingdom, before focusing solely on local church ministry and mission since 2000. Jon has a BA in Theology from London School of Theology. He is married to Nicky and has four children. In his spare time, he plays field hockey and likes to walk.

I. Personal Relationship with Christ – being captivated and fascinated with and by Jesus

A. Ps. 45: 1 my heart overflows

v2 you are the most handsome

v2 grace is poured upon your lips

v6 Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever

- How to keep the overflow?
- How to keep enjoying Jesus?
- How to keep in the love of God?
- How to keep growing and journeying with Him?

Tools we can use - Proverbs 4: 23, 1 Timothy 4: 16

1. Ask yourself questions
2. Read devotionally
3. Go on being filled with the Holy Spirit

“Ecstasy and delight are essential to the believer’s soul and they promote sanctification. We were not meant to live without spiritual exhilaration, and the Christian who goes for a long time without the experience of heart-warming will soon find himself tempted to have his emotions satisfied from earthly things and not, as he ought, from the Spirit of God. The soul is so constituted that it craves fulfillment from things outside itself and will embrace earthly joys for satisfaction when it cannot reach spiritual ones. The believer is in spiritual danger if he allows himself to go for any length of time without tasting the love of Christ and savoring the felt comforts of a Savior’s presence. When Christ ceases to fill the heart with satisfaction, our souls will go in silent search of other lovers. By the enjoyment of the love of Christ in the heart of a believer, we mean an experience of the “love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given to us” (Rom. 5:5). Because the Lord has made himself accessible to us in the means of grace, it is our duty and privilege to seek this experience from Him in these means till we are made the joyful partakers of it.” John Flavel

4. Serve in team - 2 Corinthians 2: 12-13
5. Manage disappointment - 1 Samuel 30: 6

II. Love for the church

A. The church is Plan A – She is beautiful
Psalm 48: 12-13

B. We serve this love of His life - Ephesians 4: 13

1. He desires unity
2. He desires maturity
3. He desires full stature

C. Growth through sacrifice - John 12: 24

III. Multiplication of Ministry

A. Context of Psalm 45 is marriage – desire is for fruitfulness of legacy

1. V16 – in place of your fathers shall be your sons

2. Invest in others - Parable of the talents - Matt 25 :14-30

Suggested Readings:

(Please note the suggested readings here are to support the whole network, and are not just for session 1)

Fathering Leaders, Motivating Mission, Devenish, David, (2011), Authentic Media Ltd, Milton Keynes

A Resilient Life, MacDonald, Gordon (2004) Thomas Nelson Inc, Nashville

The Spirit-Filled Church, Virgo, Terry (2011) Monarch Books, Oxford

God's Empowering Presence, Fee, Gordon. D (2009) Baker Academic

Apostles Today, McNair Scott, Benjamin.G. (2014) Wipf & Stock Publishers

The Emergence of the Church: Context, Growth, Leadership & Worship, Patzia, Arthur. G (2001) Intersity Press

Adopted Into God's Family, Burke, Trevor. J (2006) IVP Apollos, Downers Grove