

This is the second of the three talks given by Fr David Kelly OSA at the [Friends of Augustine National Meeting](#) at Clare Priory 19th June 2010.

Texts of Augustine on the Heart:

[1] Conf. 9, 2, 3

With the arrows of your charity you had pierced our hearts {saggitaveras tu cor nostrum) and we bore your words within us like a sword penetrating us to the core.

[2] Conf. 10, 6, 8

You pierced my heart with your sword (percussisti cor meum verbo tuo), and I fell in love with you.

[3] Conf. 1, 1, 1

Great are you, O Lord, and exceedingly worthy of praise (Ps 47:2).

[4] Conf. 10, 3,4

My heart is the place where I am whoever I am

[5] Sol. 2, 1, 1

God, who is always the same, may I know myself, may I know you {noverim me, noverim te)

[6] Sermon 91, 3, 3

With the heart one asks, with the heart one seeks, with the heart one knocks and it is at the voice

of the heart that God opens the door.

[7] On Psalm 118,29,1

The cry of the heart to the Lord'

[8] On John's Gospel 40, 10

The bosom of the heart' / 'the innermost depth of the heart' {sinus cordis)

[9] On Psalm 119,9

Many cry out with the voice, but are silent in the heart; but on the other hand, many are those whose lips are silent, but cry out with love.

Eye of the Heart

[10] On Psalm 26,2, 15

To you my heart has said, I have sought your face'...If our joy (in this life) were for (the light of) the sun, our hearts would have not said, / have sought your face, but rather the eyes of the body. To whom does the heart say, / have sought your face, but the one who pertains to the eye of the heart? The eyes of the flesh seek this (visible) light; the eyes of the heart that other light. But what you want to see is that light, which is seen by the eye of the heart, for that light is God. For

God is light, St. John says, and in there is no darkness at all (1Jn 1:5). Do you therefore want to see that light? Purify the eye, so that the light may be seen. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God(Mt. 5:8).

Song of the Heart

[11] On Psalm 86,1

The king of that city has made himself the way, in order that we might arrive there. Walking therefore in Christ, we are on pilgrimage, until we reach our destination. We desire with desire for the ineffable peace that dwells in that city: of that peace, we are told what is promised to us: what eye has not seen nor has ear heard, nor has it entered into our hearts (1 Cor 2:9). Walking therefore, let us sing so that we may

desire. In the one who desires, even if the tongue is silent, that person sings with the heart. On the other hand, for the one who does not desire, whatever sound may reach human ears, it is silent before God.

Inner ear/ear of the heart

[12] On Psalm 147, 5

Let us hear what city it is that this psalm sings of. Let us hear and let us sing. Our joy when we hear (this psalm) is the song of our God. For not on Sy with voice and lips do we sing, There is also a song within, because there is one whose ears are within. We sing in order to arouse ourselves. With the heart we sing in order to please God.

Mouth of the heart

[13] On Psalm 125, 5

Then was our mouth filled with joy and our tongue with exultation. Our mouths which we have in our bodies, how were they filled with joy? They are not accustomed to being filled except with food or drink or some such things that are put there. Our mouth is full at times... and when it is we cannot speak. We have an inner mouth that is in the heart, whence whatever comes out corrupts us if it is evil, and cleanses us if it is good.

Blindness of the heart

[14] On Psalm 118,18,3

This, I say and testify in the Lord so you may not walk as the pagans do in the vanity of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding and alienated from the way of god through the ignorance which is in them on account of the blindness of their hearts (Eph 4:17,18). May their inward eyes whose blindness is their failure to understand, be opened and their hearts purified by faith (Acts 15:9).

The heart's ardent love

[15] On Psalm 126, 1

These therefore are the songs of those who love and who bum with a sort of holy longing. They are ardent who sing these verses from their heart. Their ardent heart is to be found in their conduct, in good conversation and in works done in accordance with the commandments of God.

Desire of the heart/desires of the body

[16] On Psalm 36, 1,4.5

Delight in the Lord and he will grant you the desires of your heart... Understand the proper meaning of the desires of the heart. Distinguish between the desires of the heart and bodily desires. Distinguish between them insofar as you can. It was not in vain that it was said in a certain, God is (the strength) of my heart. There in the following line it says, and God is my portion for ever (Ps 72 [73] 26). For instance, one who is physically blind prays that he may receive his sight. Let him ask for this because God does that and bestows these blessings as well. But then even the wicked ask for these things. This

is a bodily desire. One who is ill prays to be healed, even at the point of death. That is also a bodily desire as such things are. What then is the desire of the heart? As a bodily desire is to want one's eyesight restored to enable one to see the light that can be seen by such eyes, so a desire of the heart pertains to that other light. Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God (Mt 5:8).

The road of the heart

[17] Sermon 4,9

So also after baptism, when Christians begin to walk along the road in their hearts in the hope of the promises of God, they must not deviate. Temptations occur, you see, suggesting something else - the delights of the world, another kind of life - in order to deflect you from the road and turn you aside from your purpose. If you overcome these desires, these suggestions, the enemy is beaten on the road and the people are led to their native land.

[18] On John's Gospel 18, 10, 1-2

Return to the heart! Why do you go away from yourselves, and perish from yourselves? Why do you go the ways of solitude? You go astray by wandering about. Return. Where? To the Lord, it is quickly done'. First, return to the heart. You are wandering without, an exile from yourself! You do not know yourself, and you ask by whom you were made! Return, return to the heart; remove yourself from the body. Your body is your dwelling-place; your heart perceives even through you body, but your body is not where your heart is. Forsake even your body, return to your heart, it your body, you found eyes in one place, ears in another. Do you find this in your heart? Or is it that in your heart you do not have ears? About what (ears) therefore was the Lord speaking, He who has ears to hear, let him hear? Or is it that you do not have eyes in the heart? Of what (eyes) does the Apostle say, the eyes of your heart enlightened? Return to your heart! See there what you perceive about God because the image of God is there. In the inner person Christ dwells; in the inner person you are renewed according to the image of God.

Purity of heart/The vision of God

[19] Sermon 53,6

When we attend to the vision of God, we won't seek such things anymore. What after all is there to seek, if you have got God? Or what will you be content with, if you are not content with God? We want to see God, we are looking for ways to see God; we are on fire to see God. Who isn't? But notice what it says: Blessed are the heart-pure, for they shall see God.

Provide what you need to see with ...Make your eyes healthy, and that light will be a joy; make your eyes unhealthy, and that light will be a torment. You will not be permitted to see with an impure heart what can only be seen with a pure heart. We come to the heart-pure, there is the promise made of seeing God. Not without reason, because then we have the eyes that God can be seen with. The apostle Paul is talking about those eyes when he says, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened (Eph 1:18). So now these eyes, for their weakness, are being enlightened by faith; afterward for their strength, they will be enlightened by sight.

[20] Sermon 53,10

So if we long to see God, how is this eye going to be purified?..-Divine authority given

us the clear answer to our question: Purifying our hearts, it says, by faith (Acts 15:9).  
Faith in God purifies the heart, the pure heart sees God.

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