

**Andrew Murray:**

**"Therefore shall ye lay up these My words in your heart and in your soul" Deuteronomy 11:18.**

**"Son of man, all My words that I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart" Ezekiel 3:10.**

**"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee" Psalm 119:11.**

**"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby"(1 Peter 2:2). Every young Christian is taught that he must receive the Word of God as milk--as the living participation of the life and vine of God--if he is to grow. On this account it is of great importance to know how we must deal with the Word. The Lord says that we must receive it and lay it up in our heart.<sup>1</sup> The Word must possess and fill the heart. What does that mean?**

**The heart is the temple of God. In the temple there was an outer court and an inner sanctuary. So it is in the heart. The gate of the court is understanding. What I do not understand cannot enter into the heart. The Word enters into the court through the outer gate of understanding.<sup>2</sup> There it is kept by memory and reflection.<sup>3</sup> Still it is not properly in the heart. From the court there is an entrance into the innermost sanctuary. The entrance of the door is faith. What I believe, that will I receive into my heart.<sup>4</sup> Here it becomes secure in love and in the surrender of the will. Where this takes place, there the heart becomes the sanctuary of God. His law is there, as in the ark, and the soul cries out, "Thy law is within my heart."<sup>5</sup>**

**Young Christian, God has asked for your heart, your love, your whole self. You have given yourself to Him. He has received you and would have you and your heart entirely for Himself. He will make your heart full of His Word. What lies in the heart is dear because it is filled with joyful thoughts. God would have the Word in the heart. The Lord and His might are where His Word is. He considers Himself bound to fulfill His Word. When you have the Word, you have God Himself at work in you.<sup>6</sup> He wills that you would receive and lay up His words in your heart. Then He will greatly bless you.<sup>7</sup>**

**How I wish that I could bring all young Christians to simply receive that Word of their Father, "Lay up these My words in your heart." I wish they would give their whole heart to become full of God's Word. Resolve then to do this. Take pains to understand what you read. When you understand it, always take one or another word to remember and consider. Learn the words of God by heart. Repeat them to yourself in the course of the day. The Word is seed and the seed must have time, must be kept in the ground. Likewise, the Word must be carried in the heart. Give the best powers of your heart, your love, your desire, the willing and joyful activity of your will, to God's Word.**

**"Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth he meditate day and night" (Psalm 1:1,2). Let the heart be a temple--not for the world and its thoughts but for God and His thoughts.<sup>8</sup> If you faithfully open your heart to God's voice, hear His Word and carry it with you, you will discover how faithfully God will open His heart to you and hear your prayer.**

**Dear Christian, read once again the words at the beginning of this section. Receive them as God's Word to you--the Word of the Father who has received you as a child, of Jesus who has made you God's child. God asks of you, as His child, that you give your heart to become filled with His Word. Will you do this? What do you say? In this manner of power, the Lord Jesus will complete His holy work in you.<sup>9</sup> Let your answer be distinct and continuous, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart." "How love I Thy law! it is my meditation all the day" (Psalm 119:97). Even if it appears difficult for you to understand the Word, continue to read it. The Father has promised to make it a blessing in your heart. But you must take it into your heart first. Believe that God will then, by the Holy Spirit, make the Word living and powerful in you.**

**My Father who has said to me, "My son, give Me your heart," I will give You my heart. Now that You charge me to lay up and keep Your Word in that heart, I answer, "I keep Your commands with my whole heart. " Father, teach me to receive Your Word in my heart everyday so that it can exercise its blessed influence there. Strengthen me in the deep conviction that even though I do not yet fully understand its meaning and power, I can still depend on You to make the Word living and powerful in me. Amen.**