



wellspring

"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life." Proverbs 4:23

As you start your Bible reading plan...

Wednesday: October 19, 2011

DUE:

Saturday: October 15, 2011

D1 – the heart

*'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind.'*

Matthew 22:37

*'For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword,
piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow,
and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.'*

Hebrews 4:12

1. What time of day are you doing your reading? Why that time? In what ways is that time helpful? In what ways is that time a challenge? Do you need to make any changes?
2. Try to pray for a few minutes before you read and then feel free to interrupt your reading with prayer to God about what you are reading. Express your love for God and your desire for Him to reveal more of Himself to you in His word. Ask Him to increase your heart's appetite for Him. Write a little bit about how this is going for you.
3. As you read, are you aware of any tendencies to play leapfrog over your own heart to think of others (who you wish were reading what you're reading!)? How are you doing at keeping your Bible reading a devotional activity just between you and God?
4. Think about how you can take at least one thing from what you read about God in His word with you to meditate on throughout the day. Write a little bit about how this is going for you.

"That is how Scripture differs from an encyclopedia. When I use an encyclopedia, I do not need to read other articles to understand the one I am reading at the moment. One article has no connection to another; there are no overarching themes. In the Bible, however, every passage is dependent on the whole, and the whole Bible is held together by interdependent themes that run through every passage like rebar, the steel rods that reinforce concrete. . . These themes give me a sense of identity, purpose, and direction that will fundamentally alter the way I think, desire, speak, and act. . . The sad fact is that many of us are simply not biblical in the way we use the Bible! Being biblical does not mean merely quoting words from within its pages. Being truly biblical means that my counsel reflects what the entire Bible is about. The Bible is a narrative, a story of redemption, and its chief character is Jesus Christ. He is the main theme of the narrative, and he is revealed in every passage in the book. . . Lasting change begins when our identity, purpose, and sense of direction are defined by God's story."

[Paul David Tripp, *Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands*, pp. 26-28]

