



# THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST BIBLE OUTREACH

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## DAILY DEVOTION

### IS YOUR HEART OPEN OR CLOSED?

**Pastor A.S.O Olaleye**

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2 Corinthians 6:13 Amplified

[13]By way of return then, do this for me—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also [to us].

We can have an open heart toward one person while closing off our hearts to another. Marriage and family illustrate this concept well.

A wife or husband may be totally open to a son or daughter while closing their heart to one another. An open heart is trusting, loving, and engaging. When I close my heart, I'm more suspicious, withdrawn, and nonresponsive. This was the case in the relationship of the Apostle Paul with the church he planted in Corinth.

Issues had developed within the church that Paul had to address. His attempt at correcting those issues resulted in a number of people closing their hearts toward him. They became defensive. In 2 Corinthians 6:11-13 (NLT), Paul appeals to them, "Oh, dear Corinthian friends! We have spoken honestly with you, and our hearts are open to you. There is no lack of love on our part, but you have withheld your love from us. I am asking you to respond as if you were my own children. Open your hearts to us!"

Again, in the following chapter, he says, "Please open your hearts to us." 2 Corinthians 7:2a.

You can feel the pain in his appeal. If you have experienced a loved one closing his/her hearts to you, you know what he was going through.

How do you know when your heart is closed? When you close off your heart to another, you withhold your love from them. Is there someone to whom you have closed your heart? A closed heart can quickly become a hard heart – indifferent, calloused, uncaring, and even bitter.

Ask God to tenderize your heart. Time is short, and relationships matter.

Maybe you need to take the initiative and make the appeal to someone you love who has closed off their heart to you. Before you do, take some time to read 2 Corinthians 6 and 7 to see what Paul did that restored their relationship.

Notice how he addresses the issues while affirming his love and encouraging those to whom he was appealing.

The way Apostle Paul handled the matter among Corinthian church will help you.

PRAYER: O Lord give me open heart to everyone around me to maintain good relationships in Jesus name.

For prayers, counselling or questions, send SMS or WhatsApp chat me on 08023270222 or 08156924668.  
SHALOM!