

Published based on [Treating Our Heart for the Treasure It Is \(and update on Alabama\)](#)

Treating Our Heart for the Treasure It Is (and update on Alabama)

Occasionally I repost something from another author. At the end of this post is a devotional from John Eldredge. John is one of my favorite writers and often leads me to deeper waters. This is his daily devotion for today taken from one of his books, *Waking the Dead*. Hope you enjoy it.

On a personal note, my life has been quite busy the last few days because of the tornadoes which hit Alabama on April 27, 2011. It was a dark day while we watched wave after wave of tornadic activity plummet our state.

Almost all of North Alabama is without power. We are thankful here in Florence to still have our power and so my little nest has increased temporarily as my mother and daughter and son-in-law are here while their power is being restored. Authorities say it may be several more days before that happens. We personally did not have any damage, although several areas close to us were deeply affected.

The devastation here is almost beyond description. The last information I heard stated that we had at least 66 tornadoes here in Alabama which hit in 16 counties. The damage is so wide-spread that almost everyone I know has been impacted in some way. Entire small cities were almost wiped out. Several larger cities have massive destruction.

Please pray for the state of Alabama. Recovery will be a long process. It is beautiful though to see masses of people mobilizing to help the hurting. The people of Alabama are a caring people. I am thankful to call Alabama home.

"Above all else, guard your heart." We usually hear this with a sense of "Keep an eye on that heart of yours," in the way you'd warn a deputy watching over some dangerous outlaw, or a bad dog the neighbors let run. "Don't let him out of your sight." Having so long believed our hearts are evil, we assume the warning is to keep us out of trouble. So we lock up our hearts and throw away the key and then try to get on with our living. But that isn't the spirit of the command at all. It doesn't say guard your heart because it's criminal; it says guard your heart because it is the wellspring of your life, because it is a *treasure*, because everything else depends on it. How kind of God to give us this warning, like someone's entrusting to a friend something precious to him, with the words: "Be careful with this-it means a lot to me."

Above all else? Good grief-we don't even do it once in a while. We might as well leave our life savings on the seat of the car with the windows rolled down-we're that careless with our hearts. "If not for my careless heart," sang Roy Orbison, and it might be the anthem for our lives. Things would be different. I would be farther along. My faith would be much deeper. My relationships so much better. My life would be on the path God meant for me . . . if not for my careless heart. We live completely backward. "All else" is above our hearts. I'll wager that caring for your heart isn't even a category you think in. "Let's see-I've got to get the kids to soccer, the car needs to be dropped off at the shop, and I need to take a couple of hours for my heart this week." It probably sounds unbiblical, even after all we've covered.

Seriously now-what do you do on a daily basis to care for your heart? Okay, that wasn't fair. How about weekly? Monthly?

[*Waking the Dead*](#), 207-8)

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