

YOUR HEART

INTRODUCTION:

1. Word "heart/hearts ... " found 963ts
2. Both O. T. and N. T. religions - involved the heart of man
3. God knows your heart
^ (Psa 44:21 KJV) "Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart."
4. God - if we allow it - will prepare ours hearts to be what we must be
^ (1 Chr 29:18 KJV) "O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee:"
^ (2 Cor 4:6 KJV) "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." (Enlightens the heart)
5. The true religion of Jesus Christ is a heart religion
6. While we must obey Christ - the obedience is only accepted if it is from the heart!

I. THE HEART OF THE WICKED

A. SEAT OF SIN

1. Evil things -
^ (Mat 12:35 KJV) " ... and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things."
2. Adultery -
^ (Mat 5:28 KJV) "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."
3. Mischief -
^ (Psa 28:3 KJV) "Draw me not away with the wicked, and with the workers of iniquity, which speak peace to their neighbours, but mischief is in their hearts."
4. Revolting / rebellious -
^ (Jer 5:23 KJV) "But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone."
Revolting = 05637 carar {saw-rar'} a primitive root; TWOT - 1549; v א AV - rebellious 6, stubborn 4, revolters 2, revolting 1, slide back 1, backslide 1, away 1, withdrew 1; 17
א 1) to rebel, be stubborn, be rebellious, be refractory 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to be stubborn 1a2) stubborn, rebel (subst)
Rebellious = 04784 marah {maw-raw'} a primitive root; TWOT - 1242; v א AV - rebel 19, rebellious 9, provoke 7, disobedient 2, against 1, bitter 1, changed 1, disobeyed 1, grievously 1, provocation 1, rebels 1; 44 א 1) to be contentious, be rebellious, be refractory, be disobedient towards, be rebellious against 1a) (Qal) to be disobedient, be

rebellious 1a1) towards father 1a2) towards God 1b) (Hiphil) to show rebelliousness, show disobedience, disobey

5. Pride -

^ (Prov 16:5 KJV) "Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished."

B. THE WICKED HEART DESCRIBED AS:

1. Hard -

^ (Eph 4:18 KJV) "Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:"

^ Blindness = 4457 porosis {po'-ro-sis} from 4456; TDNT - 5:1025,816; n f AV - blindness 2, hardness 1; 3 = 1) the covering with a callus 2) obtrusiveness of mental discernment, dulled perception 3) the mind of one has been blunted 3a) of stubbornness, obduracy Mark 3:5

ASV "...hardening of their heart"

NAS "...hardness of their heart"

2. Darkened / Foolish-

^ (Rom 1:21 KJV) "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."

3. Despiteful -

^ (Ezek 25:15 KJV) "Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because the Philistines have dealt by revenge, and have taken vengeance with a despiteful heart, to destroy it for the old hatred;"

Despiteful = 07589 sh@'at {sheh-awt'} from an unused root meaning to push aside; TWOT -

2345a; n m AV - despiteful 2, despite 1; 3 = 1) despite, contempt

NAS - scorn of soul

RSV - malice of heart

NKJ - spiteful heart

4. Evil Thinking -

^ (Gen 6:5 KJV) "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."

5. Lustful -

^ (Prov 6:25 KJV) "Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids."

6. Hard / Impenitent -

^ (Rom 2:5 KJV) "But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;"

II. THE HEART OF THE RIGHTEOUS

A. A SEAT OF GOOD

1. Good Things -

^ (Mat 12:35) "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: ..."

2. Good Desires -

^ (Rom 10:1 KJV) "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved."

3. Joy -

^ (Acts 2:26 KJV) "Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:"

4. Love -

^ (Mark 12:30 KJV) "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment."

5. Acceptable Meditations -

^ (Psa 19:14 KJV) "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer."

6. Obedience -

^ (Rom 6:17 KJV) "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you."

7. Clean -

^ (Psa 73:1 KJV) "A Psalm of Asaph. Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart."

8. Perfect -

^ (Psa 101:2 KJV) "I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart."

9. Pure -

^ (Mat 5:8 KJV) "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

B. ACCEPTABLE RESPONSES OF THE HEART

1. To Believe -

^ (Rom 10:10 KJV) "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

2. Kept -

^ (Prov 4:23 KJV) "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life." Keep =

05341 natsar {naw-tsar'} a primitive root; TWOT - 1407; v AV - keep 38, preserve 13, watchmen 3, besieged 2, keeper 1, monuments 1, observe + 07521 1, preserver 1, subtil 1, hidden things 1, watchers 1; 63 x 1) to guard, watch, watch over, keep 1a) (Qal) 1a1) to watch, guard, keep 1a2) to preserve, guard from dangers 1a3) to

keep, observe, guard with fidelity 1a4) to guard, keep secret 1a5) to be kept close, be blockaded 1a6) watchman

3. Sanctify Christ -

^ (1 Pet 3:15 KJV) "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"

4. Trust God -

^ (Prov 3:5 KJV) "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

5. To obey -

^ (Eph 6:6 KJV) "Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;"

III. THE SINFUL HEART MUST BE CONVERTED

A. THE INTELLECTUAL PROCESS

1. Realize - the heart thinks -

^ (Heb 4:12 KJV) "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, ... and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (the heart reasons, understands believes...)

^ (Mat 9:4 KJV) "And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts?"

^ (Prov 23:7 KJV) "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: ..."

2. Realize - the heart reasons -

^ (Mark 2:8 KJV) "And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?"

3. Realize - the heart understands -

^ (Mat 13:15 KJV) "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."

4. Realize - the heart believes -

^ (Rom 10:9,10 KJV) "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

5. Intellect is changed by testimony

^ God sets forth evidence enabling the honest heart to change

^ (John 20:30,31 KJV) "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."

B. THE EMOTIONAL PROCESS

1. Realize - the heart loves -

^ (Mat 22:37 KJV) "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."

2. Realize - the heart rejoices -

^ (Psa 33:21 KJV) "For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name."

3. Realize - the heart suffers -

^ (2 Cor 2:4 KJV) "For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote unto you with many tears; not that ye should be grieved, but that ye might know the love which I have more abundantly unto you."

4. Emotions are changed by loveliness

^ (Rom 5:8 KJV) "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

^ (2 Cor 8:9 KJV) "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

^ (1 John 4:19 KJV) "We love him, because he first loved us." Jn. 3:16

C. THE VOLITIONAL PROCESS

1. The heart has volition or will

2. Realize - the heart purposes -

^ (2 Cor 9:7 KJV) "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

3. Realize- the heart determines -

^ (1 Cor 7:37 KJV) "Nevertheless he that standeth stedfast in his heart, having no necessity, but hath power over his own will, and hath so decreed in his heart that he will keep his virgin, doeth well."

4. The will / volition is changed by motives (powerful motives to induce obedience)

^ (Rom 2:4) Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

^ (Acts 17:30,31 KJV) "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."

IV. WHAT KIND OF HEART HAVE YOU?

A. THE WICKED HEART

1. Seeking power ... forbidden pleasures ... filth of the wicked world ... anger ... hate
Malice ... revenge ... lust ...

2. A heart that despises reproof

^ (Prov 5:12 KJV) And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;

3. A heart that devises wicked imaginations

^ (Prov 6:18 KJV) An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

4. The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways

^ (Prov 14:14 KJV) The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.

5. A heart that fretteth (RSV "rages") against the Lord

^ Pro. 19:3 = a heart that fretteth (RSV "rages") against the Lord

6. A heart that envies sinners

^ (Prov 23:17 KJV) Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.

7. A heart that studies (NKJ "violence") destruction

^ (Prov 24:2 KJV) For their heart studieth destruction, and their lips talk of mischief.

8. A proud heart stirs up strife

^ (Prov 28:25 KJV) He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.

B. A PREPARED HEART

1. God prepares the heart

^ (Psa 10:17 KJV) "LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:"

^ 1 Chr 29:18 KJV) (1 Chr 29:18 KJV) O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and prepare their heart unto thee:

2. We prepare our own hearts

^ (2 Chr 19:3 KJV) "Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart to seek God."

^ (Ezra 7:10 KJV) "For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments."

V. HOW DO YOU VIEW YOURSELF

A. CAN YOU SPEAK TRUTH TO YOURSELF?

1. Truth in the heart

^ (Psa 15:2 KJV) "He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart."

2. Deceiving self

^ (James 1:26 KJV) "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain."

^ (1 Cor 3:18 KJV) Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

3. Indication of self deception

^ (1 John 1:8) "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."

B. TRUTH ABOUT YOUR SPIRITUAL CONDITION

1. Can you truthfully say - "I have no need of God"

2. Can you truthfully say - "I have no need of Jesus - His death/ blood..."

3. Can you say - "Jesus does not mean anything to me"?

4. Do you treat yourself as a saved person when you are really lost?

5. What about sin in you life?

^ How are you dealing with sin? (ignoring; putting off correcting;)

6. Can you say - I 'm guilty ... I am wrong ... I 've sinned and not corrected it ... I 'm lost