

1-24-21
THE HEART OF THE MATTER IS YOUR HEART
CONSIDER ASPECTS OF UNDERSTANDING THE HEART

The word heart appears 830 times in the Bible.
More than the words love soul and spirit combined.

The heart of a man is deep mystery. The Bible says:

Psalms 64:6 the heart, is deep.

Proverbs 20:5 Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Jeremiah 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

When we speak of the heart, what exactly are we talking about?

This morning I want to talk to you about the subject of our hearts.

I. FIRST OF ALL WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND A Definition of a man's heart.

SEAT OF EMOTIONS.

Soul, person, Heart = virtues of the person.

Innermost desires.

That which steers a person.

A person's appetites, desires.

THAT PART OF MAN THAT CAN BE DEFILED, CORRUPTED, PERVERTED.

THAT PART OF OUR BEING THAT CAN BE GRIEVED, CONVICTED.

A Biblical word study shows how the word is used in the Bible the following ways:

1. The Word is used of the internal organ we all know as the heart:

It of course could speak of the bodily organ that sustains our life.

It is interesting that the word heart is front and center in the Bible, and problems with our physical hearts is the number one reason for deaths in America.

Heart problems are the leading causes of death in the world. Over half of the men that die, die because of some complication of the heart.

2. The Word is used as the Heart and Personality of a person:

As representing the man himself, it was considered to be the seat of the emotions and passions and appetites (Gen 18:5; Lev 19:17; Ps 104:15), and embraced likewise the intellectual and moral faculties; though these are necessarily ascribed to the "soul" as well. This distinction is not always observed.

3. The word is different from the Soul: They Differ somewhat.

"Soul" in Hebrew can never be rendered by "heart"; nor can "heart" be considered as a synonym for "soul."

4. Center of Vital Action:

Heart is central to a person actions (1 Ki 21:7 "let thine heart be merry"). "Heart,"

Except as a bodily organ, it is never ascribed to animals, as is the case sometimes with nephesh (life or Soul) and ruach (Spirit or Breath) (In Lev 17:11, ; Gen 2:19 nephesh is "Translated life"; Nu 16:22; Gen 7:22, ruach "Translated Breath of life or spirit").

"Heart" is thus often used interchangeably with these two in men (Gen 41:8; Pharaohs spirit was troubled (i.e. heart) Ps 86:4 I lift up my soul (i.e. heart) ; 119:20 My soul breaketh forth in longing (i.e. heart);

5. Heart and Mind are similar:

As the central organ in the body, forming a focus for its vital action, it has come to stand for the center of its moral, spiritual, and intellectual life.

"In particular the heart is the place in which the process of self-consciousness is carried out, in which the soul is at home with itself, and is conscious of all its doing and suffering as its own"

6. Heart is used figurative senses:

The radical corruption of human nature is clearly taught in Scripture and brought into connection with the heart. It is "uncircumcised" (Jer 9:26; Ezek 44:7; compare Acts 7:51); and "hardened" (Ex 4:21); "wicked" (Prov 26:23); "perverse" (Prov 11:20); "godless" (Job 36:13); "deceitful and desperately wicked" (Jer 17:9).

It defiles the whole man (Mt 15:19,20); resists, as in the case of Pharaoh, the repeated call of God (Ex 7:13). There, however, the law of God is written (Rom 2:15); there the

work of grace is wrought (Acts 15:9), for the "heart" may be "renewed" by grace (Ezek 36:26), because the "heart" is the seat of sin (Gen 6:5; 8:21).

7. Heart is used for the Process of Spiritual Renewal:

This process of heart-renewal is indicated in various ways. It is the removal of a "stony heart" (Ezek 11:19). The heart becomes "clean" (Ps 51:10); "fixed" (Ps 112:7) through "the fear" of the Lord (verse 1); "With the heart man believeth" (Rom 10:10); on the "heart" the power of God is exercised for renewal (Jer 31:33). To God the bereaved apostles pray as a knower of the heart (Acts 1:24--a word not known to classical writers, found only here in the New Testament and in Acts 15:8, kardiognostes). In the "heart" God's Spirit dwells with might (Eph 3:16, "eis ton eso anthropon"); in the "heart" God's love is poured forth (Rom 5:5). The Spirit of His son has been "sent forth into the heart" (Gal 4:6); the "earnest of the Spirit" has been given "in the heart" (2 Cor 1:22). In the work of grace, therefore, the heart occupies a position almost unique to everything else.

Romans 10:9 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.

8. What Is In The Heart Is What We Put First:

We might also refer here to the command, on which both the Old Testament and New Testament revelation of love is based: "Thou shalt love Yahweh thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might" (Deut 6:5); where "heart" always takes the first place, and is the term which in the New Testament rendering remains unchanged (compare Matt. 22:37; Mk 12:30,33; Lk 10:27, where "heart" always takes precedence).

Matthew 22:37 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.

Mark 12:30 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.

Luke 10:27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

9. A Term being used for what is the "Deepest":

A bare reference may be made to the employment of the term for that which is innermost, hidden, deepest in anything (Ex 15:8; Jon 2:3), the very center of things. This we find in all languages. Compare Eph 3:16,17, "in the inward man," as above.

Exo 15:8 ... the heart of the sea was congealed.

Eph 3: 16-17 Christ dwells in the inner man and dwells in our hearts through faith.

EASTON BIBLE DICTIONARY MAKES THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATION OF THE HEART:

According to the Bible, the heart is the center not only of spiritual activity, but of all the operations of human life. "Heart" and "soul" are often used interchangeably (Deut. 6:5; 26:16; comp. Matt. 22:37; Mark 12:30, 33), but this is not generally the case. Love God with all your heart and soul.

The heart is the "home of the personal life," and hence a man is designated, according to his heart wise, "wise in heart" (1 Kings 3:12, etc.), pure in heart (Ps. 24:4; Matt. 5:8, etc.), upright and righteous in heart (Gen. 20:5, 6; Ps. 11:2; 78:72), pious and good in heart (Luke 8:15), etc. In these and such passages the word "soul" could not be substituted for "heart."

The heart is also the seat of the conscience (Rom. 2:15). It is naturally wicked (Gen. 8:21), and hence it contaminates the whole life and character (Matt. 12:34; 15:18; comp. Eccl. 8:11; Ps. 73:7). Hence the heart must be changed, regenerated (Ezek. 36:26; 11:19; Ps. 51:10-14), before a man can willingly obey God.

The process of salvation begins in the heart by the believing reception of the testimony of God, while the rejection of that testimony hardens the heart (Ps. 95:8; Prov. 28:14; 2 Chr. 36:13). "Hardness of heart evidences itself by light views of sin; partial acknowledgment and confession of it; pride and conceit; ingratitude; unconcern about the word and ordinances of God; inattention to divine providences; stifling convictions of conscience; shunning reproof; presumption, and general ignorance of divine things."

II. CONSIDER, GOD WANTS OUR HEARTS TO BE DEVOTED TO HIM COMPLETELY.

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

Deuteronomy 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Deuteronomy 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

Proverbs 23:26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

When a person's heart strays from God,
God likens this to spiritual harlotry.

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

James 4:5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

Jeremiah 3:6 The LORD said also unto me in the days of Josiah the king, Hast thou seen that which backsliding Israel hath done? she is gone up upon every high mountain and under every green tree, and there hath played the harlot.

Jeremiah 3:7 And I said after she had done all these things, Turn thou unto me. But she returned not. And her treacherous sister Judah saw it.

God expects us to place Him first in our lives.
If we don't, He looks at us as being spiritual harlots.

Deuteronomy 5:29 O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!

Just as a husband or wife could stray from their marriage, so too a believers heart could stray from the Lord into idolatry.

The Bible says,

II Corinthians 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

II Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Just as a woman can be corrupted and go into adultery, so too spiritual idolatry and adultery can creep into a believers life.

How do our hearts sway from our Lord?

1. WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL OUR HEARTS ARE NOT CORRUPTED DOCTRINALLY AND BIBLICALLY

We only need one Bible.

We only need to be devoted to one Christ.

We need to remain pure doctrinally.

Be careful of not getting enamored with new ideas.

II Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

apostasia, ap-os-tas-ee'-ah; fem. of the same as 647; defection from truth (prop. the state) "apostasy":-falling away, forsake.

----- Dictionary Trace -----

apostasion, ap-os-tas'-ee-on; neut. of a (presumed) adj. from a der. of 868; prop. something separative, i.e. (spec.) divorce:-(writing of) divorcement. apostasia, ap-os-tas-ee'-ah; fem. of the same as 647; defection from truth (prop. the state) "apostasy":-falling away, forsake.

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The greek word is Apostasia, to apostatize.

We are seeing the church WHOLESALE going into apostasy, abandoning sound doctrine. What are some foundational truths that the Bible is clear about that we see "so called Christian churches" going along with the world in?

A. CONSIDER AREAS WE SEE BEING CORRUPTED IN THE CHURCH.

- a. **Purity of the Word of God. When that goes everything goes.**
- b. **THE SANCTITY OF LIFE. Thou shalt not kill.**
- c. **THE SANCTITY OF MARRIAGE.**
- d. **THE SANCTITY OF WORSHIP, etc.**

We recently had the pope lighten up his official opinion on abortion and gays. How many other so called Christian churches are following along?

Francis has approached the question of homosexuality with a lighter touch than those of his predecessors. He has insisted that Catholics shift their attitude toward gay people to love and welcoming instead of judgment. The most famous sentence he has uttered so far in his papacy was an off-the-cuff response to a reporter's question about homosexuality: "Who am I to judge?"

You would think that with Trump being the most pro life President ever that the Pope would have liked him. No, he didn't, but he likes Joe Biden who is the most pro abortion president so far. The reason is clear. Trump was against globalism and Biden is for it. To have a one world religion you need to embrace the one world government mentality, with one world government comes a one world church.

Pope Francis is starting to light up an issues of abortion and homosexuality.

Here are some quotes from the New York times.

"Pope Francis has criticized the church for being "obsessed" with issues like abortion and homosexuality and has emphasized the opposition to them far less than his predecessors. He has also said priests should absolve women who confess to "the sin of abortion" during the church's upcoming Year of Mercy if they seek forgiveness for their sins with a "contrite heart."

"Who am I to judge?" At the time, some questioned whether he was referring only to gays in the priesthood, but in this interview he made clear that he had been speaking of gay men and lesbians in general. "A person once asked me, in a provocative manner, if I approved of homosexuality," he told Father Spadaro. "I replied with another question: 'Tell me: when God looks at a gay person, does he endorse the existence of this person with love, or reject and condemn this person?' We must always consider the person."

Today as more and more people are having friends, colleagues at work, and family members openly declare they are gay, many people are changing their opinions about gay marriage and transgenderism. The question is, what does the Bible say? Is it a falling away to make public opinion your doctrinal stand?

Apostasy is when you abandon the Bible for public opinion or the world's opinions.

Most mainline churches today are embracing pantheism, the doctrine of evolution, gay marriage and transgenderism above what the Bible says.

This panic over climate change is a fairy tale supported by so called science.

This doomsday mentality that the world is going to come to an end if we do not do something radical is going to cause great financial crises, power shortages, and wholesale chaos in our nation.

The truth is, all these windmills cannot even produce enough energy to support themselves and maintain themselves. If it were not for tax dollars and government subsidies none of them would survive financially.

All this is because of the religion of humanism, and pantheism, and the worship of mother Earth. Just because our government calls this science does not make it science. There is pressure on church people to fall in line with these fairy tales.

The Bible is clear.

Genesis 8:21 And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

Genesis 8:22 While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

Even after the darkest hour of history, during the time of the tribulation, still the Bible predicts there will be survivors of this time of holocaust on earth.

Also, the Bible tells there will be a millennial kingdom of 1000 years before Jesus destroys this planet and rebuilds into a New Heaven and Earth.

Revelation 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Revelation 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

So I see the great apostasy entering the church in three areas:

- * The denial of the sanctity of life.
- * The denial of the sanctity of Marriage.
- * The denial of the sanctity of God our creator.

- * We could add the denial of the authority of the word of God.
- * We could add the rejection of the Biblical Jesus and Holy Spirit.
- * We could add the corruption of the gospel message and salvation.

So we are seeing the falling away before our very eyes.

Soon the man of sin will be revealed and it will be the end!!!!

How else do people go Apostate?

2. A CORRUPTED HEART CAN HAPPEN WHEN ELEMENTS OF IDOLATRY ENTER INTO THE CHURCH.

We are seeing this with the preaching of a prosperity gospel.

Colossians 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

3. THIS CAN HAPPEN WHEN WE LOSE OUR FIRST LOVE.

Losing your love for Christ is like a wife losing her love for her husband. It is the door opener to adultery.

Years ago I had a fellow who came to church because his wife left him and he thought coming to church would be like the magic genie in the jar to get his wife back. It didn't happen that way at all.

I remember when I went to see him, as he explained to me that he thought his wife was going through the change of life and as he explained more and more what happened, I

said to him, "It seems to me that maybe there is another man in the picture.." He said, "NO NO, it has to be something physiological or the change of life or something like that." I said she is acting like she found someone else.

A few weeks later he came to me and said he found out there was another man.

What are the things that can take you away from Christ?

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

The things of the world will take you away from Christ.

This man's wife went to a bar with some of her girl friends and at the bar she meet some other men who flirted with her. She went out with one of them and it started out with a friendship and one thing led to another and she decided to leave her husband.

It all starts with a friendship.

I only need one lady friend and that is my wife.
Ladies, you only need one man friend and that is your husband.

When a man has a lady friend that is a girlfriend.
When a lady is married and she has a boyfriend she is flirting with adultery.

Now we are married to Christ, and we are not to have any friendship with the world. To do so is to flirt with adultery against Christ.

The world will make a bid to take away your heart from Christ.

III. CONSIDER HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR US TO UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES OF THE HEART AND OUR OWN HEART.

Proverbs 20:5 Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.

Greatest wisdom that any person can show is wisdom pertaining to a persons heart and understanding the issues of the heart.

I Kings 3:12 Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.

I Kings 3:16 Then came there two women, that were harlots, unto the king, and stood before him.

I Kings 3:17 And the one woman said, O my lord, I and this woman dwell in one house; and I was delivered of a child with her in the house.

I Kings 3:18 And it came to pass the third day after that I was delivered, that this woman was delivered also: and we were together; there was no stranger with us in the house, save we two in the house.

I Kings 3:19 And this woman's child died in the night; because she overlaid it.

I Kings 3:20 And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me, while thine handmaid slept, and laid it in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom.

I Kings 3:21 And when I rose in the morning to give my child suck, behold, it was dead: but when I had considered it in the morning, behold, it was not my son, which I did bear.

I Kings 3:22 And the other woman said, Nay; but the living is my son, and the dead is thy son. And this said, No; but the dead is thy son, and the living is my son. Thus they spake before the king.

I Kings 3:23 Then said the king, The one saith, This is my son that liveth, and thy son is the dead: and the other saith, Nay; but thy son is the dead, and my son is the living.

I Kings 3:24 And the king said, Bring me a sword. And they brought a sword before the king.

I Kings 3:25 And the king said, Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one, and half to the other.

I Kings 3:26 Then spake the woman whose the living child was unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay it. But the other said, Let it be neither mine nor thine, but divide it.

I Kings 3:27 Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay it: she is the mother thereof.

I Kings 3:28 And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment.

How is it that Solomon gained this insight and wisdom to solve this matter?

He did it by understanding the heart of a mother.

There is a natural love that God gives a mother for her child. This same love is not in a parent whose child is not theirs.

My idea about babies. Before we had babies.

Before I had children every baby was like an ugly duckling.

After we had children I saw the beauty of having children.

When a person loves.

When a person has a heart for someone or something they will make all kind of sacrifices.

Slavery is unproductive form of commerce.

Immigrants worked harder than slaves because they had the hope and promise of freedom.

I preached a message from this text a while back called Give the Mother Back Her Child.

Basic concept of the message is that one of the greatest passions or loves that a person can have is that parental love, which can be applied to not only in the physical realm but can be transferred in other areas.

A person can give birth to an idea, a business, a work of art etc.

Even this passion and care can be transferred to the ministry and ministering.

Paul called those who were saved under his ministry his spiritual children.

II Corinthians 12:14 Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.

***IV. WE NEED DIVINE HELP TO UNDERSTAND OUR OWN HEARTS.
A PERSON'S HEART IS OFTEN A MYSTERY TO HIMSELF, BUT NOT TO GOD.***

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Jeremiah 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

1. NOTE: MANY TIMES WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND OUR OWN HEARTS:

Psalms 19:12 Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.

Proverbs 20:5 Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.

How many times when you ask a person why did they do thus and so and they say, I DON'T KNOW.

When your car does things that you don't want it to do is it good or bad?

STALL.

Shake.

Backfire.

Suddenly speed up slow down.

When our lives are out of control it is because we have a spiritual heart problem.

I Corinthians 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

When you do things and don't know why you do them you are in confusion. God gives us a sound mind. He wants us to both know and do His good will.

Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

HEART IS THE STEERING MECHANISM OF YOUR LIFE.

Imagine a person who does not drive very well, trying to maneuver through a dangerous turn. It can be disastrous.

A person who does not have control of their passions is headed down the same road in this life. It can be disastrous.

UNDERSTANDING OURSELVES, OUR HEARTS, AND THE HEARTS OF OTHERS IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THIS LIFE.

2. *Without the help of God you cannot even understand your own heart.*

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Hebrews 4:13 Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Without a tape recorder or video camera or a mirror can you really see yourself as you really are?

James 1:23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

James 1:24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

James 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

THE BIBLE IS A MIRROR THAT REVEALS OUR HEARTS AND EXPOSES OUR HEARTS.

Preaching is also a form of that mirror.

TODAY IN THIS SERMON WE ARE GOING TO LOOK IN THE SPIRITUAL MIRROR.

When you wake up in the morning what do you do?
You go to the bathroom and look into the mirror!
What do you see?
Day old beard.
Hair greasy and messed up.
Bags under your eyes.
Men shave. Wash comb your hair, straighten up.
For a lady, it takes a little longer.

OLD EXPRESSION .
LIPSTICK, POWDER, ROUGE, AND PAINTS MAKES THE LADY WHAT SHE AINT'S.

You look into the mirror and make some changes hopefully for the better.

Ever notice the modern style is to try and make you look like you just got out of bed?
Men have day old beard, and their hair is purposely messed up. Ladies are wearing pajamas out to the stores? Crazy, isn't it!

3. *SINCE WHAT YOU DESIRE IS A MYSTERY TO YOURSELF, YOU NEED TO BE VERY PROTECTIVE OF WHAT YOU LET INTO YOUR HEART BECAUSE IT COULD DESTROY YOUR LIFE.*

Luke 6:43 For a good tree bringeth not forth corrupt fruit; neither doth a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Luke 6:44 For every tree is known by his own fruit. For of thorns men do not gather figs, nor of a bramble bush gather they grapes.

Luke 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

That old expression is true. Garbage in produces garbage out.

What is the first thing you do in the morning? It should be read your Bible and pray.

For some it is turn on the radio and listen to some rock and roll. Turn on the news or radio, read the newspaper.

Spiritual garbage in, spiritual garbage out.

What to meditate on all day:

Psalms 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

Psalms 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalms 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

EVENING MESSAGE PART III

V. OUR DESIRES EXPOSE WHAT IS IN OUR HEARTS, AND OUR HEARTS DIRECT OUR DESIRES.

1. WHAT EXACTLY IS A DESIRE?

Definition of the word: DESIRE

<de-zir'>: The verb "to desire" in the Scriptures usually means "to long for," "to ask for," "to demand," and may be used in a good or bad sense.

Synonyms, To delight in, to seek, to long for,

For "desire" in Ecclesiastes 12:5, see CAPERBERRY.
A. L. Breslich.

Each of us are bound to our desires. Note the following verses about our desires:

Proverbs 18:1 Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom.

Proverbs 19:22 The desire of a man is his kindness: and a poor man is better than a liar.

Proverbs 21:25 The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour.

Proverbs 23:6 Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats:

Proverbs 24:1 Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them.

Ecclesiastes 6:9 Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the desire: this is also vanity and vexation of spirit.

I Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Desire is that downward slope in a person's life that determines where everything in his life will eventually flow. A person can put up walls or others can put up these walls for

him/her to keep the water from flowing that direction, but sooner or later the desire of the heart will spill over that wall. A desire can build and build until the wall which hinders that desire can no longer contain it. In time, the flow of our desires will spill over that wall.

A person's desire is that key that ultimately directs his whole being. What makes a person desire something? Can a desire be directed? What makes one person give himself to an activity, while another could care less about the matter? One person loves sports another loves music, another loves hunting, another hates hunting, another loves to jog, another loves to walk, another loves poetry, another loves art, another loves antiques, another loves collecting stamps, another loves to fish, another loves to bowl another loves, you fill in the blank. Everything in our life flows from the mysterious train of a person's desires, which he/she seems to have little control over.

Ultimately, every person's desire will monopolize some or all of their time, for the Bible declares,

"Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom, Proverbs 18:1".

Everyone is a slave to their desires. People use expressions like "YOU GOTTA DO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO," which is a worldly way of saying you are a slave to your desire. Some put it this way, "YOU HAVE TO DO WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY". Again, this says the same thing. Or people say, "well whatever makes you happy." Or to each his own. Again there is a host of other sayings to show that even the world at large recognizes that a person's life will overflow in the direction of desires.

How then do our desires become an entanglement? The Bible warns us this way:

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Our desires proceed out of our heart.

The wise Christian who is seeking to please the Lord must be careful to guard his/her heart because given the freedom, what we do in this life will be determined by what we allow in our hearts and what we desire to do.

Recently everyone in our country has been worried about getting COVID 19. People are staying away from other people. People are quarantining themselves. People are wearing masks. Everywhere we see hand sanitizers in public places to stem the tide of the flu.

I say to you, why are we not so worried about what goes on in our hearts? Letting the wrong things in is worse than getting Covid 19.

Our life is like a house and what we allow into our house will determine the things we find ourselves involved in. These things will consume our time. We will separate ourselves into these endeavors.

These can become our entanglements with the world, We then spend time and money on these endeavors.

Don't worry about Covid 19. Care about what you let into your heart. Keep your heart with all diligence.

Be careful of letting bitterness into your heart.
Be careful of letting doctrinal error into your heart.
Be careful of letting the world into your heart.
Be careful of letting sin into your heart.
Be careful of losing your love for Christ and His Word.

I don't see people worrying about these things.

2. WHERE DO OUR DESIRES COME FROM?

Desires, I believe, are spiritually motivated. The director of our lives is our spirit. A spirit is contagious and depending on our strengths and weaknesses and inclinations and upbringing and personalities we all have certain leanings in the area of our desires or spirits.

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

A. SOMETIMES WHAT WE DESIRE COMES BY WAY OF THE TEMPTER AND ARE SIN:

The Bible teaches that we should not desire the things of this world that are forbidden of God:

Deuteronomy 7:25 The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the LORD thy God.

Deuteronomy 7:26 Neither shalt thou bring an abomination into thine house, lest thou be a cursed thing like it: but thou shalt utterly detest it, and thou shalt utterly abhor it; for it is a cursed thing.

Genesis 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

Genesis 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

How did sin enter the world?

It entered the world when a forbidden desire entered Eve's heart.

Genesis 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and **a tree to be desired to make one wise**, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Consider the first time man was enticed to desire something unlawful. In Genesis, the devil, through his subtilty, made Eve think it was her idea to eat the fruit. A temptation comes by way of a wrong suggestion. What are the doors that lead to temptation:

- a. Satan subtly instilled in Eve's heart a desire to eat the forbidden fruit by provoking her thoughts to consider the benefits she is missing out on by not eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

So it is in our lives, that we are being bombarded with thoughts and ideas and stimuli to provoke us to desire unlawful and ungodly things.

All around us there are billboards luring us to drink or smoke, or indulge in some other activity of the flesh that will hurt us. Sensual posters to tempt us to think immoral thoughts.

No one sets out wanting to desire things that will hurt them. The Bible teaches that when we desire things that are sinful we are not in control but have been taken captive of Satan:

II Timothy 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;
II Timothy 2:26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Every Christian that wants to do right and live a fruitful and productive life but has a desire for sin is in essence opposing themselves. How is it that on one hand we want to serve God and do right and on the other hand we secretly desire to do things that He hates and has forbidden us to do.

We who fall into the traps of sin are double minded indeed. How foolish it is to say we want to serve God and we know our time is limited, and we need to be busy about doing right, but then on the other hand we desire to do things that will hurt us and hinder us in the pursuit.

We are like people who are seeking to build a house and then set a match to the very lumber we need to build it because it is chilly and we want to enjoy the warmth of the fire. It reminds me of the young boy who likes a girl and to show he likes her he throws mud at her or pulls her hair How is she to respond to this expression of love?

We say we want God's blessing but why do we not invest our time in pursuits that will guarantee that blessing? Why not spend time in church, why not spend time reading the Bible, why not spend time in godly pursuits?

b. Satan will use our worldly lusts and appetites to create desires.

- * **Our eyes.**
- * **Our thoughts.**
- * **Our pride.**
- * **Our appetites.**
- * **Confusion and wrong thinking.**

This is why satan uses drugs and alcohol to weaken our will.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

The devil is a master of tempting us to desire the wrong things through temptations. Sin is pleasurable at first and then it produces death.

B. SOMETIMES WHAT WE DESIRE JUST SEEMS TO HAPPEN TO US BY CHANCE OR PROVIDENCE.

Many have a talent in a certain field and also God has allowed opportunities to exercise those talents, so we have people with different gifts and abilities who receive rewards in the form of praise and even monetary remuneration for their work. This all feeds a desire to excel in their field of work or hobby.

These are not necessarily sinful desires, they are just natural desires; things we have fallen into because of our upbringing and circumstances of this life. Some people only pursue these. Many times they exhibit themselves in the form of hobbies and trivial matters of this life. Paul said it this way:

"All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any, 1 Corinthians 6:12".

Some things are not necessarily wrong; it is just that they are not going to amount to much in eternity.

CONSIDER WHAT IS A DESIRE?

WHAT KIND OF DESIRES SHOULD WE AVOID?

SOME ARE CLEARLY SIN.
SOME ARE NOT EXPEDIENT.

BUT THERE IS THIRD AND NOBLE SOURCE OF A MAN'S DESIRES.

C. *SOME DESIRES COME BY WAY OF GOD AND HIS HOLY SPIRIT.*

Psalms 37:3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.

Psalms 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Psalms 37:5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

These are the supernatural desires that come by way of the Holy Spirit of God. These are the desires that every born again Christian should pursue.

We should pursue those desires that are directed of God and godly, but often what determines our desires we don't seem to control. Something greater than ourselves often seems to mold our life's desires. Is this right?

3. WE SHOULD FEED GODLY DESIRES:

A. *It is a supernatural thing when a man desires to serve Christ.*

Each person should seek to serve to his full potential.

Our Lord has given each of us talents according to our several ability. It is our duty to invest those talents for the Kingdom of God. This is our primary purpose in this life.

B. *Entanglements with the world is what hinders us from being effective in fulfilling these great goals and desires.*

I Corinthians 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

C. *It is important that every person see himself for what he/she is and understand soberly the gifts given to them and invest those gifts for the Kingdom of God.*

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

D. The devil will try to get us sidetracked by enticing us to invest these gifts in worldly endeavors.

We need to be careful we don't trade our spiritual birthright for a Bowl of soup and lose eternal rewards. The world will give us immediate rewards for serving it. God's reward is greater if we patiently await His promise. Meanwhile we will not be without some reward in this life. The laborer is worthy of his hire, the Lord said.

Jim Elliot said, "No man is a fool to give up that which he cannot keep to gain that which he can never lose."

E. The greatest thing that we can do in this life is keep alive and stir up and feed these supernatural desires.

Psalms 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Psalms 37:5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

II Timothy 1:6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

I Peter 4:10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

VI. CONCLUDING THOUGHTS ABOUT OUR HEARTS:

What should be our goals in this life? We have concluded that it is short and we already want to make the most of it that we possibly can. The Lord wants us to do this and also he has allotted ample time to accomplish what he wants us to accomplish. The 24 hours a day Jesus had, Paul had and a host of others had was not stretched for them so that they were able to accomplish more.

In thinking of the great servants of the past, could it be remembered where they lived, what their yearly income was, what kind of horse or car they had, or what they wore or liked to eat? What lives on? Is it not their teaching and preaching and the lives that were changed because of it.

Knowing this, what hinders us from being like our Lord? We suggested that entanglements of this world is what hinders us. We traced out that problem starting from the earliest years of our adulthood. We become like the capricious children of Israel in the book of Judges, crying out for deliverance only after we suffer the repercussions of our own desires.

Then it dawned on us! The problem then must be our desires.

Deuteronomy 5:29 O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!

Yet even in this area we are often helpless to change ourselves. We discovered how from the earliest days of man's history Satan was their to victimize and manipulate man into desiring what was hurtful to himself. So the unsaved are slaves to sin but are Christians immune from the influences of Satan? Did not David desire Bathsheba to his own hurt? Did not Paul write the following to Christians?

II Timothy 2:25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;
II Timothy 2:26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Is this written about Christians or non Christians?

When we oppose ourselves and find ourselves doing the things that are not going to bring us to the goal we have set out to accomplish, we can be assured the deceiver is there leading us down the wrong path.

So we conclude this life is like a war and there are many obstacles in our way. None of us enjoy this battle and it would seem that we would like to close our eyes and pretend it isn't there. Every time we do this and our situation grows worse and it is time to open our eyes again.

What are the great enemies that would be seeking to mold our desires, contrary to the Lord's leading? The enemies of the Christian are clearly given. The enemy that tries to allure our desires is none other than the world.

I John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.
I John 2:16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.
I John 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.
I John 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

Satan is the god of this world II Cor. 4:4, and he is busy trying to allure our hearts by the things of the world. These are the entanglements that would hinder us from fulfilling our goal of serving God and being fruitful for Him.

What every Christen needs to do is live his life like a soldier, and to view these obstacles as enemies and Satan's land mines put in our pathway to try to hinder us.

II Corinthians 10:3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:
II Corinthians 10:4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)
II Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;
II Corinthians 10:6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Paul put it this way:

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.
Ephesians 6:13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;
Ephesians 6:15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
Ephesians 6:16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.
Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
Ephesians 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

It is interesting that in times of distress, war, problems, outwardly the church has prospered, but in times of peace and prosperity the church has had it's greatest setbacks. Under persecution the church was strong, under peace and prosperity the church is hindered.

The reason for this is that when the outward physical surroundings seem to be peaceful we can easily close our eyes and pretend their is no battle going on.

We are lured to sleep and become passive in this fight.

**THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM IS OUR OWN HEARTS.
Let us pray the prayer of the Psalmist in this matter of knowing our hearts.**

Psalm 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:
Psalm 139:24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

When we pray this prayer in all sincerity and honesty.. God will answer that prayer and show us our hearts.

I had a missionary friend that told me when he prayed that prayer he was sick for a whole day after God exposed to him all his deep sins.

JER 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

We need to seek God to show us our hearts and examine ourselves in light of this study!

CONSIDER THIS BLUEPRINT FOR IMPROVING OUR HEARTS AND DESIRES.

I. WHAT SHOULD BE OUR BLUEPRINT AND STRATEGY FOR OUR FUTURE IN REGARDS TO IMPROVING OUR HEARTS?

Knowing these things, and realizing that our outward condition in society seems to be a relative time of peace we need to take special care to gird up the loins of our mind and determine to fight the invisible warfare.

The Battle takes place in our minds and hearts. Satan is seeking to mold our desires by the temptations of this world. As he does this we have desires that entangle us in the web of this world and we are hindered in the Lord's work. We lose reward and Satan gains ground.

As this happens we should cry out for deliverance. God is faithful and will help us in this time of need. The blood of Christ is the proof that He is worthy of being our deliverer. Our deliverance was not cheap. Our deliverance came with a great cost. Let us not despise the blood and the price that He paid to win our freedom over sin. The Bible says, he led captivity captive (Eph 4:8). We who were entangled and captive of Satan has He led free if we call on Him. But the Bible warns us of the punishment of those who trod under foot the blood of Christ,

Hebrews 10:29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

The sad thing about the weakness of our flesh is that it seems we are always getting ourselves into one entanglement of Satan after another. Just when we learn about one

of his devices it seems the next comes with a slightly different slant. So the provision is made,

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

I John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I John 1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

I John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

I John 2:2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Jesus died for our sins, and we need to constantly search our hearts and be judging ourselves and seeking to cleanse our hearts from the slightest desire that has come by way of the world. This battle rages on the battlefield of our minds, where every thought and imagination that exalts itself against the knowledge of God must be defeated and brought into subjection to Christ and His Word. There is no neutrality in this war. The professing Christian who is not in the battle is sure to be defeated and become a castaway.

So it is like Nehemiah of old, we are seeking to build and carry out our commission with trowels in one hand and we bear the sword in the other (Neh. 4:17). So while we build, others would tear down what we build if we don't show ourselves ready to fight. So building for the Lord is a double work. We build and at the same time fight. Can we exclude from our blueprint the sword? If we do we will fail! Some want to build but have no heart to fight. We cannot build without showing ourselves willing to fight!

Half of our blueprint must include a strategy for fighting and the other half a strategy for building. With each we need to take heed..

I Corinthians 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

I Corinthians 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

I Corinthians 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

I Corinthians 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

I Corinthians 3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

II. We need to consider How To Win The Spiritual Battle That Is Being Waged Over Our Heart and Desires:

There is a battle for our hearts, and desires. They both go together. Let us protect our hearts and nurture in them godly desires. We want God to give us the desires of our hearts. When He does that we will be blessed. There is a battle raging for our hearts and minds and desires. We must fight and strive to win this battle that is taking place for our hearts and minds. Let us nurture godly desires and a godly heart!

How can I fight to keep myself unentangled by the world, the flesh, and the devil while I build godly desires in my life for the Kingdom Of God?

We should learn from the book of Nehemiah, and see how when they sought to build the temple they needed to not only take up their trowels in the pursuit but they also need to take up their swords.

(Sword Goals)

How should seek to untangle my life so I can be free to build for God?

(Trowel Goal)

I should seek to use my full potential to serve the Lord.

Many people love to build but not fight.
Others want to fight without ever building.

WE NEED TO BE BALANCED AND PURSUE BOTH.

Nehemiah commanded his people to do both at the same time. Build and carry the sword at the same time. This is the battle we are in for God.

This is a good strategy for spiritual victory in the conflict that is being waged for our heart and the desires of our heart.

III. FINAL THOUGHTS HOW TO BETTER OUR HEARTS FOR GOD AND BE VICTORIOUS IN THIS SPIRITUAL BATTLE:

There will be Obstacles in this Life: God is a God of order: To win this battle we need to be his disciples in this endeavor.

1. WE FACE THE ENEMY OF THE DEVIL.

Satan will work in our minds and in the minds of others.
Satan can intervene and hinder us from doing what we want.

Satan can move others to oppose us.

WE ALL FACE OUR ENEMY WHO IS THE AUTHOR OF DISORDER AND CONFUSION:

HE MUST BE CONQUERED BY SETTING OUR HEART, DESIRES, AND PASSIONS IN ORDER!

I Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

The word Disciple means disciplined one.

Proverbs 22:29 Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.

God is not fickle. We need not be fickle in this endeavor.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is **no variableness**, neither shadow of turning.

Our God is a God of order:

Colossians 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:
Colossians 1:17 And he is before all things, **and by him all things consist.**

What if Jesus upheld the sun like we uphold our spiritual lives?

You would never know when the sun would rise.
You would never know when the sun would set.
You could not predict the tides or the orbit of the moon.

God is so predictable that we can set our clocks by the world that he upholds.

When a person is given over to Satan their lives become disorderly and unpredictable. Confusion sets in.

I Corinthians 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

Every successful ministry or business is operated in an orderly fashion.

So it is, disorder is our number one enemy. We need victory over this enemy. We must bring ourselves under the subjection of order and discipline in order that we might be fruitful for the Lord.

Practice your Christian walk in an orderly fashion with consistency and discipline, with endurance and resolve.

The Bible says we need to be diligent. We should resist the devil and he will flee. He is not looking for a challenge, he is looking for prey!

2. We need to face the enemy of the flesh:

Our flesh is weak and bogs us down.

We get tired we get weak, we get discouraged, we get tempted. We can easily put the desires of the flesh above the Spirit.

3. We face the enemy of the World.

The world will intimidate us try to brainwash us.
The world will try to pressure us.

How can we build for God without addressing these enemies?

How can we ever do anything for God until we resist these enemies and even conquer these enemies?

4. WE NEED TO NURTURE THE NEW HEART GIVEN TO US BY GOD FOR THE NEW YEAR.

This the first month of the new year is a good time to fine tune your life.

If you have a car with problem after problem you can start chasing rabbits with repair after repair or you can consider another option:

Two options fix it or buy a new one.

What we need is not to reform our old heart but what we need is a new heart!

A new heart for the new year.

A. MOST PEOPLE TRY TO REPAIR AND COVER UP THE PROBLEMS OF THEIR OLD ADAMIC HEART.

According to the Bible, the spiritual heart that you came into this world with is totally corrupt and deficient.

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Jeremiah 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

THE BIBLE HAS THIS COMMENTARY ABOUT THE CONDITION OF THE NATURAL MAN'S HEART.

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 3:11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

Romans 3:12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Romans 3:13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

Romans 3:14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

Romans 3:15 Their feet are swift to shed blood:

Romans 3:16 Destruction and misery are in their ways:

Romans 3:17 And the way of peace have they not known:

Romans 3:18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

B. Some people seek to reform their old Adamic heart.

A Fellow calls me he obviously had been drinking.

He is going to come to church but he never shows up.

So many have so many good intentions but never follow through.

Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Romans 7:15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

Romans 7:16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

Romans 7:17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

Romans 7:19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

Romans 7:20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

Romans 7:21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

Romans 7:22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

Romans 7:23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

Romans 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Romans 7:25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

IN THE FLESH WE WILL SERVE SIN. THE NEW HEART THAT WE ARE BORN AGAIN WITH WE CAN NOW SERVE GOD! IN THE FLESH, ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE DWELLS, NO GOOD THING.

Absolutely corrupt.

Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

Just how corrupt is this Adamic heart?

Matthew 15:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

Matthew 15:19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

C. THE OLD ADAMIC HEART CANNOT BE REFORMED. SUCH REFORMATION ONLY LEADS TO FRUSTRATION AND FAILURE.

I Corinthians 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The heart of the natural man has the following problems:

a. THERE IS NO DESIRE TO KNOW THE THINGS OF GOD.

The Bible is foolishness to them.

The have no heart to understand these things.

The have no ability to understand these things.

Like trying to get a pig to appreciate the value of a diamond.
They will trample it in the mud and go after garbage.

Hold out a fistful of gems before a pigs snout.

Hold out a hand full of table scraps and which one will the pig be drawn to?

The Bible is a bunch of foolishness to the natural man.

b. THERE IS NO ABILITY OR CAPACITY TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE AND TO DO GOOD.

Jeremiah 13:23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil.

- c. ANY PATCH WORK DONE TO THE OLD ADAMIC HEART WILL JUST REVEAL MORE DEFICIENCY AND PROBLEMS AND MAKE THINGS SEEM WORSE.**

37 years of pastoring, trying to get people to reform their lives and do what the Bible says just causes them to be miserable. And ultimately they will get frustrated and not come back to the church. Chances of getting them back is slim to none because they will conclude the Bible does not work.

It reminds me of years ago when I bought an old piano tuners tools. For years I had these tools but did not know what they were for. It wasn't till I start tuning and repairing pianos that I learned what those tools were for. So it is with people with the Bible, it is a bunch of mysterious things until they give their hearts to the Lord and start living for God.

The Bible has all the tools but they only work for those who are living and working for God.

- d. JUST HOW BAD IS IT? IT IS SO BAD THAT WHEN YOU TRY TO FORCE IMPROVEMENTS IT ONLY GETS WORSE.**

Luke 11:24 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out.

Luke 11:25 And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished.

Luke 11:26 Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.

- V. THE CONCLUSION IS THAT WE NEED A NEW HEART. THIS IS THE ONLY SOLUTION.**

- 1. THE WAY THIS HAPPENS IS THAT A PERSON COMES TO THE END OF THEMSELVES AND REPENTS OF THEIR WICKED HEART..**

Romans 7:23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

Romans 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Romans 7:25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Psalms 34:18 The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Until we humble ourselves and see the wretched condition of our hearts we are not in a position to receive this new heart.

2. IF WE HUMBLE OURSELVES AND ASK THE LORD TO CHANGE OUR HEARTS, TO COME INTO OUR LIVES, WE CAN RECEIVE THIS NEW HEART.

Ezekiel 36:25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

Ezekiel 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Jeremiah 31:31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

Jeremiah 31:32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

Jeremiah 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jeremiah 31:34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

THIS IS WHAT WE RECEIVE WHEN WE GET SAVED.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 3:7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

John 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

John 3:9 Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

John 3:10 Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

John 3:11 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness.

John 3:12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?

3. THIS IS THE PROMISE, IF YOU WILL HUMBLE YOURSELF AND RECEIVE HIM INTO YOUR HEART, HE WILL GIVE YOU THIS NEW HEART.

Romans 10:8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

Romans 10:9 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.

Romans 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Romans 10:11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Luke 11:11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?

Luke 11:12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TO RECEIVE A NEW HEART.

Conclusion:

Car is acting up, you can get the old one fixed or you can get a new one.

God has a stimulus package.

You humble yourself and admit that your old heart is a clunker and He will give you a new one. However, he doesn't take trade ins.

The old one is no good so until He comes and takes you home to heaven it is stuck in your back yard as a reminder of how bad it really is.

How sad it is to see Christians driving around in the mud with the old heart and leaving the new heart in their garage.

JUST BECAUSE ALL YOUR NEIGHBORS HAVE OLD CLUNKERS.

Take out that new heart for everyone to see maybe they will want one too.

EPH 4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

EPH 4:23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

EPH 4:24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

EPH 4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

There is nothing redeemable about that old Adamic nature. It needs to be crucified with Christ.

GAL 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

That old man, the old man in Adam, needs to be crucified on the cross with Jesus, and the new man that comes out of the grave needs to live in you! This is the new man, the new heart, the new life, the new creature in Jesus Christ. And this is what we all need!

In our spirits we can live for Christ, in the flesh we will live for sin. Which one we feed will be the one that rules your life.

You have two cars one is a new one, and the other is that dilapidated old clunker. You only have enough gas for one. You get to choose which one you will drive.

Addendum:

Consider the following verses about what the Bible says about the heart:

Joel 2:13 And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.

Psalms 26:2 Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart.

Psalms 37:4 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Psalms 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Isaiah 29:13 Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Jeremiah 17:10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Jeremiah 20:9 Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.

Malachi 4:6 And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

Matthew 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Matthew 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 12:34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

Matthew 12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Matthew 13:15 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.

Matthew 13:19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

Matthew 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

Matthew 15:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man.

Matthew 15:19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

Matthew 22:37 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.

Mark 12:30 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.

Luke 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Luke 8:15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

John 12:40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.

John 13:2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;

Acts 8:37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

II Corinthians 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Ephesians 6:6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

Colossians 3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:

I John 3:20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

I John 3:21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.