

In the natural a functioning heart is essential to life  
 But equally so is a right heart is essential to our walk with God Just  
 as it is positioned in our natural life, so it is spiritually The CENTRE of our lives

Heart is the will, emotions, mind, intentions, attitude, courage, reasoning, purpose & conscience - Man's true self It's what enters & leaves – it receives, collates & dispenses like a chemist The heart is that which lies at the very Centre of man's being, the spring from which every thought, attitude & action flows It is our total personality

Personally, I've come to the conclusion that it's not about ministry, being known in Christian circles, having a following, It's the condition of my spiritual heart That I along with Enoch be known for my walk with God I pray Lord make me a man after your own heart That my heart cries out to God I dedicate my life wholly to you My hands, feet, ears, eyes, everything I have & am Is yours O God Have your way in life not my way To be obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit To have an attitude of Christ To be a man after Gods own heart means to put God first, to walk with Him every moment, to do nothing that would displease Him & to allow nothing that would grieve Him To give Him our undivided attention & to love Him supremely If GOD has our HEART He has all of us 'for where your treasure is there will be your HEART' When we have given everything to the Lord then it is no longer ours, we are the caretakers till Jesus needs them Give & live or keep & weep If your heart is in the things of God there will come forth a treasure which is phenomenal in its value & eternal significance, meeting the needs of our life So to do something with all our heart is to make up your mind to all out 100% without wavering giving it all you have got

It disturbs me as I look at how much heart the world puts into things compared to us Christians ie turning up to Church, attending meetings, giving, praying Is our heart not in it or only partially? We are content with the world & Christianity not one or the other 'best of both world concept' If that's Christianity who wants it the world says Its either whole heart or no heart If you only give 50% you won't receive 50% you get nothing 'Whatever you do work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord not for men' Col 3:23 I believe the problem is lack of commitment as in James 1:8 he calls it 'double minded' he goes on to say he is unstable why? Because he's undecided where his loyalties lie The problem with many Christians is the same as King Amaziah 2 Chron 25:2 'And he did right in the sight of the Lord, yet not with a whole heart'

Let's look at what the Bible says about the HEART first the negative But firstly let's get an overview of the HEART 1 It should be guarded Prov 4:23 2 It determines our character Prov 23:7, Matt 6:18 3 It is the source of evil Matt 15:18,19, 9:4 Gen 6:5 Prov 6:18 4 Controls our speech Lk 6:45 5 Source of faith Rom 10:10

Go back to the beginning Gen 6:5,6 'The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth & that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth & He was grieved in His heart' 8:12 'intent of man's heart is evil from his youth' (birth) Note: only love grieves, it shows the very heart God - God never intended us to be sinners, our only way back to relationship with God is through Jesus Christ Who took OUR SIN upon Himself that we can enter into all that He planned & purposed for us

'All have sinned' Rom 3:23 There is none that does good Ps 14:1 In Adam we all die 1Cor 15:22 2  
 Cor 5:17 'If any man be in Christ he is a new creation, old things have passed away behold all things have  
 become new' Man can't cleanse himself only through the shed blood at the Cross Some say  
 God accepts us as we are, yes but He loves us too much to leave us as we are. Ultimately, we  
 either our heart is set on supremely serving self or is set on supremely serving Christ

THE HEART IS EVIL Mark 7:20-23 'That  
 which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man for from within, out of the heart of man,  
 proceeds the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting & wickedness as  
 well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride & foolishness All these evil things proceed from within &  
 defile the man' 'I say to you , that  
 everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her, he's committed adultery with her already in his heart'  
 Matt 5:38 OUR THOUGHTS DON'T HAVE TO BE EXPRESSED IN ACTION FOR IT TO BE SIN The human heart  
 of pride, greed, selfishness is a picture of our world today, is it not

HEARTLESS examples Cain Gen 4:19, Matt 15:23 Priest & Levite Lk 10:31,32 Unjust Judge Lk 18:4 Those  
 who rebuked Blindness Lk 18:39 Spectators at Cross Matt 27:42 Failed help poor James 2:16

It is the source OF UNBELIEF & COVERTOUSNESS Heb 3:12, 2 Pet 2:14

A BITTER HEART Proverbs 23:7 'As a  
 man thinketh in his heart so is he' what you dwell on & despise in others is what we'll become My Mum  
 was a bitter woman as she allowed bitterness to control her It destroys relationships as we allow  
 unforgiveness to rule us Root of bitterness & unforgiveness Heb 12:5 defiles, destroys & robs us Matt  
 6:12; 14,15, 18:23-35 Eph 4:31,32 'let all bitterness...forgiving one another as Christ forgave you'

THE HEART IS HARD Don't  
 harden your heart Ps 95:8, Prov 28:14, Is 42:23-25, Heb 3:13, Mk 3:5 Consequence of  
 hard heart Rom 2:5, Dan 5:20 ie Pharaoh Ex 8:15, Zedekiah 2 Chron 36:13, Children Israel Neh 9:17,  
 Israel Jer 5:3, Zech 7:12, Pharisees Mk 8:17, Disciples Mk 16:14 STUBBORN Ecc 8:11

THE HEART IS DECIETFUL 1 Samuel 16:7 'God  
 sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearances, but the Lord looks at the heart' When  
 God looks on our hearts What does He see? a proud heart or a humble heart, a stubborn heart or an  
 obedient heart , an evil heart or one after Gods heart, a hard heart or a tender heart? Matt 15:8  
 'This people honors Me with their lips but their heart is far away from Me' Jer 14:14,  
 23:26, 17:9 'The heart is more deceitful than all else'

3 con men boarded a NY subway train they singled out a prosperous looking gentlemen Sitting next to  
 him they invited him to play cards Soon the unsuspecting victim was \$100 in the red The winner agreed  
 to take a cheque, once he had it in his hands, he acted conscience stricken & tore the cheque

up saying I never thought you'd lose so much so let's forget it Impressed with his generosity the loser insisted on writing another cheque Only later to find both cheques had been cashed Deceived!

The heart is the most deceitful thing there is & desperately wicked We can deceive ourselves; we can seek to justify ourselves, our actions thinking these things are the correct, not knowing any better  
 THE PROBLEM OF MANS HEART IS THE HEART OF MANS PROBLEM

THE HEART IS EXPRESSED VIA OUR WORDS Matt 15:18 'Evil words come from an evil heart & defile the man who says them' Nothing comes out of the mouth that isn't already in the heart James 1:26 ' If anyone thinks himself to be religious & yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man's religion is worthless' Titus 1;16 say with mouth/heart different 'They profess to know God, but by their deeds they deny Him'

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things & an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil things Matt 12:35 The good & bad treasure speaks of the man as he really is Matt 15:19 But of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies Knowledge doesn't change anyone You can know scriptures, do good works, attend church & religious ceremonies If heart is unchanged you're a Pharisee Matt 23:25-28 clean hands but not clean heart

A HEART BROKEN HEART Psalm 51:17 'The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit A broken & a contrite heart, God will not despise' In other words humbling yourself before God, dealing with sin & being grief stricken for hurt caused Luke 4:18 'He has sent me to bind up (heal) the broken hearted' Caused by past hurts, traumatic experiences that continue to erode our lives. A broken heart dried the bones but a merry heart is medicine – brings healing, restoration Samuel Chadwick 'God can do wonders with a broken heart if you'll give Him all the pieces' Isaiah 53:5 'By His scourging we are healed' repaired thoroughly, made whole

Traumatic experience in subconscious even though we want them to go it, haunts us & erodes like a cancer Hurt by people but never gotten over it, so it affects the way we live Like a beachball it bounces back up I remember working with a young lady who her father had dislocated her shoulder & everything she re hurt it It reminded her of the original act

Lord is near broken hearted Ps 34:18 Broken spirit 2 Cor 4:6-18 Broken things Mk 14;3-9, Jud 7:16-20 Matt 14:13-21,15;32-39 reflected in repentance, confession, apology, restitution, forgiveness, not retaliating, honoring others above self, prompt obedience, death to public opinion, keeping cool in crisis

A FORGIVING HEART Col 2:14 'bearing with one another & forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone just as the Lord forgave you so also should you' Mal 4:6 'Restore the hearts of the fathers to their children & the hearts of the children to their fathers lest I come & smite the land with a curse'

A HUMBLE HEART Col 2:12,13 'To those of you who have been chosen of God, holy & beloved put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness & patience' James 4:6, 2 Chron 2;14

A NEW CLEAN HEART Ezek 36:25-27 'I will sprinkle clean water on you & you will be clean, I will cleanse you from all your filthiness' & all your idols will give you a new heart & put a new spirit within you & will remove the heart of stone from your flesh & give you a heart of flesh And I will put a new spirit within you' KEY here is removal heart of stone Replaced new soft heart Clean heart Ps 51:10

Upright in heart have joy Ps 32:11 righteousness Ps 36:10 glory Ps 64:11 gladness Ps 97:11 Blessings Love Lord with ALL heart 'A sound heart is the life of the flesh' Prov 14:30 diligent heart Prov 4;3

RENEWED, WHOLE HEART 1 In love Duet 6:5, 30:2, Matt 22:18 2 Obedience Ps 119:2,34 3 Trust Prov 3:5 4 Prayer Jer 29:13 5 Repentance Matt 22:37, Acts 8:37, Joel 2:12 6 Not Hidden Jer 20:12, Matt 22:18, Mk 2:8 7 Renewed Ezek 11:19, 36:26 8 Seek 2 Chron 11:16 9 Faithful Neh 9:8 10 Steadfast Jer 24:7 11 Bears Fruit Lk 8:15 12 Godly fear Duet 5:29

Seek God with all heart Duet 4:29 Jer 29:13 1 Chron 22:19 Obey Him with all our heart Duet 26:16-19 1 Kings 8:61 Serve Him with all your heart Jos 22:5 1 Sam 12:20 2 Chron 31:21 Repent with all your heart 1 Sam 7;3 Joel 2:12 Love God with all your heart Duet 6:4,5 30:6 Matt 22:37 Rejoice with all your heart Zeph 3:14 Give thanks with all your heart Ps9:1 86:12

When half- hearted like saying sorry but not meaning it fully Token words I love you with most of my heart What's Gods commitment to you? He sent Jesus He's given you everything you need if ask Him

Effects every area life, school, home, family, job, relationships, friend's, recreation Give it your all Love the story in Mk 12 the widow who gave all she had 2 small coins

Cleanliness is next to Godliness (William Booth) OT before went holy place, clean hands Cleansed from sin not gems Not a oncer Matt 5:8 'Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God'.

PURE in mind, our talk & our actions Fruit pure heart These are the ones who will walk with God

Old painting was offered at auction It was so discolored & grimy that nobody paid attention to it except one artist Taking into the light he carefully examined it & offered a modest price which was accepted Months later the same painting featured in a an art exhibit What happened – the skilled craftsman had removed the smoke, dirt, grim from its surface so that the colors were restored to their original state

Dauids instruction to his son Solomon 'know the God of your father & serve Him with a whole heart & a willing mind for the Word searches all hearts & understands every intent of our thoughts If you seek Him, He will let you find Him, but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever '

David was speaking out of experience, out of sorrow for his sin & as one who followed God with all his heart 1 Kings 14:8 As the deer pants after the water brooks so my soul pants for thee O God Ps 51:17

## GOD KNOWS THE CONDITION OF OUR HEARTS

Our response 'You shall love the Lord with all your Heart, with all your Soul, with all your Mind & with all your Strength' Mk 12:30

With our whole being – love of God in our hearts that constrains us to yield ourselves completely to Him It's a love relationship

SEARCH ME O GOD Ps 139:23 change the heart & you change the whole person Charles Spurgeon once had a dream one in which this person reached down inside of his heart to find percentages of love for his denomination, money, pleasure, food, ease, man & God To find 7% was right motive It changed him that day as he realigned his motives, his heart Spurgeon credits that day to the success in his ministry TIME TO SEARCH OUR HEARTS, OUR DESIRES, OUR MOTIVES, OUR PRIORITIES

2 Chron 16:9 'The eyes of the Lord move to & fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His'

Comparison of 2 Hearts Saul & David, Judas & Peter one had evil heart the other heart after God God dealt very harshly with Saul 1 Sam 15:10-29 & Judas Mk 14:18-21

## CHARACTER V PERSONALITY

Character

is what God knows a person really is like, personality is what we think a person is like, by what we see Sometimes there may be a great difference between the two A seemingly vivacious, friendly, extroverted person may in reality be very insecure, weak willed & deeply hurt On the other hand a seeming nobody may in reality be a humble, spiritually deep Godly person of God Tests of character Are they humble in all circumstances? How do they handle frustrations? Do they react to criticism? Do they seek Gods glory above their own?

Personality is our outward behavior Latin for 'persona' which means the mask or the front We try to mold our personalities for people to see Our inward behavior comes from our character The word character Greek 'charassein' meaning to engrave Referring to our inner disposition our real nature of our actual being

A salmon & jellyfish begin life in much same way a small blob of jelly goes into a larger blob of jelly tossed to & fro with the current of the sea The salmon on the other hand develops backbone & strength (character) until it becomes strong enough to swim against the tide, swimming upstream & jumping rapids against the flow of the water

Change My Heart O God Not change their heart LORD CHANGE MY HEART

