

What God Says About the Heart!

Introduction:

The word, **heart**, is used over 900 times in the Word of God so surely it must be important. In recent years modern medicine has achieved some of its greatest advances for most medicine, and techniques are new in the past 30 years or so.

Now among other things that prolong life is **a heart transplant...** the hope of a prolonged life through the medium of receiving a new heart. At the first reported transplant in December of 1967 the American populous was in a stir. At that time it was hailed as the one of the greatest advances of recent years. How would you like to have been in that man's shoes to be the first one who gave a surgeon the right to take out, remove and replace your heart?

God has been in that business for a long, long time even for centuries. Consider Ezekiel 36:26, 27. God has performed many heart operations on many millions of people who received spiritually, a new heart.

I. DIFFERENT USES OF THE WORD -- HEART

Consider with me that we use the word **heart** in a number of different ways. Generally we use it in three different ways -- 1) **the seat of affection**, so we speak of loving someone with all our heart, 2) **we use it to speak of zeal, courage or determination**, as we do something with all our heart, and we use it to speak of 3) **the physical heart in our bodies**.

We must understand what the Bible means by the word, *heart*.

A. There is the Physical heart:

Central organ of the vascular system, a muscle that propels the blood through the body by contractions and dilations. The heart is a large muscle, weighs about 3/4 of a pound, and has the most difficult job of any organ in the body. Hold out your hand, clench the fingers into a fist, let the fingers relax slightly, then squeeze them together powerfully. Imagine that you repeat this with your hand, 70 times every minute, without stopping, hour upon hour and you have done this since before you were born.

The heart is a pump that moves a stream of liquid known as the blood throughout the entire body. This blood carries with it life to all the cells throughout the body. The heart beats or contracts between 60 to 80 times a minute, 4,320 times an hour, 100,000 times a day, or 40 million times a year. It exerts enough energy every 24 hours to raise a 2 lb. weight 12 miles into the air, and it moves more than 10 tons of blood during this period.

The heart is a mighty work of a great God.

B. The Seat of affection:

We use the word heart to speak of affections, or emotions. We sometimes make a drawing of a heart to speak of our love and giving all we have.

Also we speak of some ones heart of courage, determination and zeal as someone gives their whole heart to something they do.

II. THE BIBLE TERM -- THE HEART:

The word heart is mentioned over 900 times in the Bible. *What is God speaking about?* The heart is the very center of man's being... that is true of the organ and also true of God's meaning of the word heart. As the heart (physical) is the key to life and death, so the heart as used in the Word of God is that which is the very center of man's life.

In Acts 8:21, Peter said to Simon the sorcerer, "*For thy heart is not right in the sight of God.*" Was he speaking of a diseased heart? Peter was speaking about the fact that Simon did not have his life yielded to God. His affections, his motives, his desires, were not according to the will of God.

A. The heart is the center of our personality:

1. With the heart, man thinks -- Heb. 4:12
2. With the heart, man reasons -- Mk 2:6-8
3. With the heart, man understands -- Matt 13:15
4. With the heart, man believes -- Rom. 10:9,10
5. The heart has emotions -- Matt. 22: 36-29
6. The heart wills, purposes, or determines -- II Cor. 9:7

B. Man must have a heart right with God:

Psa. 139:23-24 God looks on the heart; He knows what is in your heart.

III. THE NEED OF A NEW HEART:

Why do we need a new heart? Because the heart is hateful, full of evil, set to do evil and rebellious, prone to every kind of sin.. covetous, hateful, etc. Jere. 17:9

A. Your heart is a diseased heart:

Your inner most being, the real you, your inner most personality, what you are the center of your being - that part of you is diseased with sin and that is why we need a new heart. Jere 17:9; Matt 12:34; Matt. 15:19

Those who needed physical transplants or a new heart have a diseased heart, worn out, with no hope. They volunteered for a new heart with nothing to lose and everything to gain for death was imminent anyway.

D. L. Moody used to use this illustration: He would say, "*Suppose we could take your heart, place it in a glass cage and then suppose that everybody could walk by, look in that cage and see just what you are -- suppose everyone could see what you think, what you desire, what your motives are; all your secret thoughts.*" What would you do? Would you want to put drapes over the cage, or would you be willing to have any and all see your heart or would you admit you need a new heart?

God says that every person has a heart that needs to be change... ***that we desperately need a new heart!***

B. God Offers Us a new heart:

1. God wants to give you a new heart... God told Israel, Ezek 36:26-27... not the offer of a transplant of a new physical heart, but the implanting of a Divine nature.

- a. a spiritual heart transformation...
 - b. an infusing into man's life spiritual life that which he did not have ---
 - c. to be born again: Titus 3:5; Jh 3; II Cor. 6:16, II Cor. 5:17
2. God alone can give a new heart:
 - a. God alone can perform the miracle of a complete transformation of the heart... and thus of the life itself.
 - b. We become His workmanship, Eph. 2:8-10
 3. The old sinful heart is incurably wicked; hopeless;
 - a. can't be improved; can't just patch it up; can't just give medication;
 - b. the world tries -- education, environment, change, reformation, baptism, works, etc.
 4. We need a brand new heart; **can't walk right, talk right, act right, live right until you get a new heart.** Matt. 15:19
 5. This is what God is offering today -- **to whosoever will;** a new heart, a new life... made over, given a new heart.
 6. You can easily see that only God can do this, yes, only the Godhead three can perform this miracle.
 - a. It requires a skilled spiritual surgeon;
 - b. It requires one who can remove a diseased, corrupt, vile, wicked, degenerate heart.
 7. This offer from God is free -- fully provided for; Ezek 36:26-27
 Heb 8, 9; Jh 1:11-13; Isa. 55:1-2; Rom. 3:9-24; Jh 3:15; 3:36; 5:24;

IV. THE NEED OF A YIELDED HEART:

A. After salvation, we must protect our hearts: Prov. 4:23

1. A new heart requires constant care just as a new physical heart would require constant care, oversight, many restrictions, concerns, etc.
2. If you had a new physical heart, would you take extra care... protect it ??
 You would read over again... *Care for your heart; watch what you eat; take care of your heart.*

B. After our Salvation... we must yield our hearts:

1. Acts. 11:23; *"with purpose of heart cleave unto the Lord."*
2. Dan. 1:8 *"Daniel purposed in his heart..."*
3. I Pet. 3:15 *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts...."*
4. James 4:8 *"Purify your hearts ye double minded!"*
5. Eph. 6:6 *"Doing the will of God from the heart."*
6. Eph. 5:19 *"Singing and making melody from the heart."*
7. Deut 13:3; 30:6; Matt 22:37; Mk 12:30-33;
 Lk 10:27 ... *"Thou shalt love the Lord the God with all thy heart....."*
 I Sam 16:7; Rom. 10:9-10; I Cor. 6:19