

The Change of Heart

Introduction

1. A Change of heart to do what is right is required before one can hope to be saved.

Hebrews 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Exodus 14:5 Now it was told the king of Egypt that the people had fled, and the heart of Pharaoh and his servants was turned against the people; and they said, "Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?"

Acts 16:14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.

2. Evil hearts must be changed.

Jeremiah 17:9-10 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.

A. Since God looks upon the heart, a change to do what is right is needed to be accepted by God.

1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

3. Heartfelt religion within itself is not sufficient because all religion is in a sense heartfelt - both good and bad. Saul is an example of this.

Acts 26:9-10 Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. This I also did in Jerusalem, and many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them.

Acts 23:1 Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."

4. Since the heart is the source of all conduct, we need to study this very important lesson. Notice what is said concerning our heart.

Proverbs 4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.

Matthew 12:34 Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

The Heart Is the Source of Good and Evil

1. Remember both kinds of acts can be and generally are “heartfelt”
2. Solomon was right when he wrote:

Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, but his heart is not with you.

A. Jesus also said:

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

Matthew 5:28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

- 1) Therefore, it isn't any wonder then that a person's conversion must first begin in the mind. That is where sin begins with each individual.

The Process of Change

1. **The Heart (*mind*) is made up of three main areas. These are **INTELLECT, EMOTIONS, and WILL.****

A. **Intellect: (knowledge; intelligence)**

1) **This is made up first of all on how man THINKS (his estimates; or how he forms an opinion on something).**

Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, but his heart is not with you.

Matthew 22:42 "What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David."

2) **It is also made up of how one UNDERSTANDS (reasons).**

Matthew 13:15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.'

Ephesians 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

Ephesians 3:3-4 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),

3) Thirdly it is made up of how one BELIEVES (to rely on; trusts).

Acts 16:34 Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, **having believed in God** with all his household.

John 12:42 Nevertheless even among the rulers **many believed in Him**, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue;

Romans 10:10 For **with the heart one believes unto righteousness**, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

James 2:19-20 **You believe** that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe-- and tremble! But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead?

James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

B. Emotions: (attitude; strong feeling - such as fear, sorrow, joy, anger, or love. It is one's outlook or disposition toward something)

1) This is made up first of all by one's DESIRE (the intensity of wanting).

Romans 10:1 Brethren, **my heart's desire** and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.

1 Peter 2:2 as newborn babes, **desire the pure milk of the word**, that you may grow thereby,

2) It is also made up of how one LOVES (affection or cherish).

Matthew 22:37 Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

3) Thirdly it is made up of how one TRUSTS (the confidence they have in someone or something).

2 Timothy 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;

2 Corinthians 3:4-5 And we have such trust through Christ toward God. Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God,

**a) A good example of this is Abraham and Isaac.
Hebrews 11:17-19**

C. Will: (action - caused by a determination to do something)

1) This is made up of how one PURPOSES (intends or proposes to do something).

2 Corinthians 9:7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 8:11-12 but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have. For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.

2) It is also made up of how one DETERMINES (to mark out a plan; to set a boundary of what one is going to do).

1 Corinthians 7:37 Nevertheless he who stands steadfast in his heart, having no necessity, but has power over his own will, and has so **determined in his heart** that he will keep his virgin, does well.

Acts 11:29 Then the disciples, each according to his ability, **determined to send relief** to the brethren dwelling in Judea.

3) Thirdly it is made up of how one OBEYS (which is the yielding to the authority of).

Romans 6:17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet **you obeyed from the heart** that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

1 Peter 3:20-21 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, **but the answer of a good conscience toward God,**) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: **(KJV)**

The Need for Today

- 1. There is a crying need for the entire change of heart in men today as the Eunuch had in Acts 8:37:**

Acts 8:37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

- 2. Too many conversions today only effect the intellect, or the emotions and the intellect, or just the emotions of the heart.**

A. The WILL of the heart never was changed.

- 1) That is why people come into the church and never make a change of life!**

- 3. There must be the change of **intellect** (mind; knowledge), a change in **emotions** (attitude; feelings), and then a change in **WILL** (the action).**

- 4. Have you determined within your heart today to make the changes that are necessary unto salvation?**

A. If so, won't you please come and do as God has asked for you to do. Your salvation depends upon your decision.

