

# A HEART AFTER GOD

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In both the Old Testament (OT) and the New Testament (NT) the word “heart” is used to refer to the whole of the innermost part of the human, NOT merely the emotions.

The old covenant message was that the Laws were inscribed on tablets of stone

**Exo 31:18** And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.

however the new covenant message is now inscribed upon human hearts.

**Heb 10:16** This *is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;

**Heb 10:22** Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. (BY THE WORD)

A change from external to internal.

So it is from the internal dimension that all of God should be flowing in every sphere of our being.

**Luk 6:45** A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth the good. And an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth the evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

According to Strong's, the Hebrew word *lebab* (3824) is rendered: “*heart*” (as the most interior organ); “*being, think in themselves,*” “*breast,*” “*comfortably,*” “*courage,*” “*midst,*” “*mind,*” “*unawares,*” and “*understanding.*”

Strong's Greek Dictionary, states that the Greek word *kardia* (2588) is rendered: “*heart,*” i.e. (figuratively), *the thoughts or feelings* (mind); also (by analogy) the middle.<sup>1</sup>

Vine's Old Testament Dictionary

According to Vine's:

The Hebrew word **Lebab** (3824), rendered “heart” is the seat of desire, inclination, or will and can be the seat of the emotions. The “heart” could be regarded as the seat of knowledge and wisdom and as a synonym of “*mind.*” This meaning often occurs when “*heart*” appears with the verb “*to know,*” “*Thus you are to know in your heart..*” (Deut. 8:5, NASB); and “*Yet the Lord hath not given you a heart to perceive [know]..*” (Deut. 29:4, KJV; RSV, “mind”). Solomon prayed, “*Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad..*” (1 Kings 3:9; cf. 4:29). Memory is the activity of the “heart,” as in Job 22:22: “*...lay up his [God's] words in thine heart.*”

The “heart” may be the seat of conscience and moral character. How does one respond to the revelation of God and of the world around him? Job answers: “...my heart shall not reproach me as long as I live” (Job 27:6). On the contrary, “David’s heart smote him...” (2 Sam. 24:10). The “heart” is the fountain of man’s deeds: “...in the integrity of my heart and innocence of my hands I have done this” (Gen. 20:5; cf. V. 6). David walked “in uprightness of heart” (1 Kings 3:6) and Hezekiah “with a perfect heart” (Isa. 38:3) before God. Only the man with “clean hands, and a pure heart” (Ps. 24:4) can stand in God’s presence.<sup>3</sup>

## Vine’s New Testament Dictionary

### According to Vine’s:

The Greek word *kardia* (2588), rendered “heart” (English, “*cardiac*,”), is the chief organ of physical life (“for the life of the flesh is in the blood,” Lev. 17:11), occupies the most important place in the human system. By an easy transition, the word came to stand for man’s entire mental and moral activity, both the rational and the emotional elements.

In other words, the heart is used figuratively for the hidden springs of the personal life. The Bible describes human depravity as in the “heart”, because sin is a principle which has its seat in the centre of man’s inward life, and then ‘defiles’ the whole circuit of his action, Matt. 15:19, 20. On the other hand, Scripture regards the heart as the sphere of Divine influence, Rom. 2:15; Acts 15:9....

The heart, as lying deep within, contains “the hidden man,” 1 Pet. 3:4, the real man. It represents the true character but conceals it (J. Laidlaw, in Hastings’ Bible Dic.).

In the NT it denotes:

*the seat of physical life, Acts 14:17; Jas. 5:5;*

*the seat of moral nature and spiritual life, the seat of grief, John 14:1; Rom. 9:2; 2 Cor. 2:4;*

*joy, John 16:22; Eph. 5:19;*

*the desires, Matt. 5:28; 2 Pet. 2:14;*

*the affections, Luke 24:32; Acts 21:13;*

*the perceptions, John 12:40; Eph. 4:18;*

*the thoughts, Matt. 9:4; Heb. 4:12;*

*the understanding, Matt. 13:15; Rom. 1:21;*

*the reasoning powers*, Mark 2:6; Luke 24:38;

*the imagination*, Luke 1:51;

*conscience*, Acts 2:37; 1 John 3:20;

*the intentions*, Heb. 4:12, (cf.) 1 Pet. 4:1;

*purpose*, Acts 11:23; 2 Cor. 9:7;

*the will*, Rom. 6:17; Col. 3:15;

*faith*, Mark 11:23; Rom. 10:10; Heb. 3:12.

The heart, in its moral significance in the OT, includes the emotions, the reason, and the will.<sup>3</sup>

#### THE ISSUES OF HUMANITY THAT GRIEVES THE HEART OF GOD

**Gen 6:5** And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

**Gen 6:6** And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

God himself when He looked into the heart of man was brought to a place of dismay, regret and grief. There has to be a circumcision of hearts – the inner world of the man.

Let us look at the various factors of the inner life which we call the heart that grieves the heart of the Father, which needs internal adjustment.

#### **What kind of heart do you have?**

Understanding heart Pr. 8:5

Lying heart Acts 5:4

Obedient heart Rom 6:17

Lustful heart Rom 1:24

forward heart Pr 11:20

merry heart Pr 15:13

perverse heart Pr 12:8

wise heart Pr 16:21

proud or haughty heart Pr 16:5, Pr 18:12

clean heart Pr 20:9

hardened heart Ex 14:17

perfect heart 1 Chr 28:9

brokenhearted Is 61:1

deceitful heart Jer 17:9

pure heart Ps 24:4

fearful heart Is 35:4

faithful heart Neh 9:8

wicked heart Dt 15:9

### Prov 4:23-27 - exegesis

Pro 4:20 My son, listen to my words; bow down your ear to my sayings.

Pro 4:21 Let them not depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart.

Pro 4:22 For they *are* life to those who find them, and health to all his flesh.

**Pro 4:23** Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

Pro 4:24 Put away from you a wicked mouth, and devious lips put far from you.

Pro 4:25 Let your eyes look right on, and let your eyelids look straight before you.

Pro 4:26 Ponder the path of your feet, and all your ways *will be* established.

Pro 4:27 Do not turn to the right hand nor to the left; remove your foot from evil.

- Govern your speech (v. 24)
- Guard your sight (v. 25)
- Guide your steps (v. 27)

### Keep =

nâtsar

naw-tsar'

A primitive root; to *guard*, in a good sense (to *protect, maintain, obey*, etc.) or a bad one (to *conceal*, etc.): - besieged, hidden thing, keep (-er, -ing), monument, observe, preserve (-r), watcher (-man).

### HEART LIFE = THE THOUGHT LIFE/INTELLECT/EMOTIONS/WILL

The thought life, governs, regulates and controls the life of an individual.

Pro 23:6 Do not eat the bread of *him who has* an evil eye, nor desire his dainty foods;

Pro 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.

**Your thoughts—positive, negative, good, or bad—control your attitudes. Your attitudes are the sum total of your thoughts. Your attitudes lead to your actions.**

- If we get our thought life adjusted and aligned we will walk in the fulfilment of our Father's divine plan as His representative company in the earth.

- If our lineage emerges from Judah then it is after that order that we must become a people after God's own heart. That's the characteristics of a Davidic company.

**Act 13:21** And afterward they asked *for* a king. And God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of *the* tribe of Benjamin, *for* forty years.

**Act 13:22** And when He had removed him, He raised up David to them to be their king; to whom He also witnessed and said, I have found David the *son* of Jesse to be a man after My own heart, who shall fulfil all My will.

**Act 13:23** Of this *man's* seed God has raised to Israel, according to *His* promise, a Saviour, Jesus;

- The heart/thought/ways of God infused within the life of a son in the earth that stands erect, postured and firm having the right attitude –WHY? because the realm of his inner whole is conditioned and bowed to the ways of his Father's heart.
  - The transformation process is when the inner part of our entire being is renewed to prove, make known the ways of our God – that which is in His heart/DNA.
- Rom 12:2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, in order to prove by you what *is* that good and pleasing and perfect will of God.

#### Pr 4:23 DILIGENCE=

mishmâr

*mish-mawr'*

From **H8104**; a *guard* (the man, the post, or the *prison*); figuratively a *deposit*; also (as observed) a *usage* (abstractly), or an *example* (concretely): - diligence, guard, office, prison, ward, watch.

#### The Word is the antidote in bringing the inner realm of the man to the righteous and holy standard that our Father intends and expects us as His sons to Live by.

**Psa 119:7** I will praise You with uprightness of heart when I have learned Your righteous judgments.  
(conditional)

**Psa 119:8** I will keep Your Precepts; do not forsake me completely.

**Psa 119:9** *BETH*: With what shall a **young man cleanse his way**? By taking heed according to **Your Word**.

**Psa 119:10** With **all my heart I have sought You**; do not let me wander from Your Commandments.

**Psa 119:11** I have **hidden Your Word in my heart**, so that I might not sin against You.

#### HIDDEN=

tsâphan

*tsaw-fan'*

A primitive root; to *hide* (by *covering over*); by implication to *hoard* or *reserve*; figuratively to *deny*; specifically (favorably) to *protect*, (unfavorably) to *lurk*: - esteem, hide (-den one, self), lay up, lurk (be set) privily, (keep) secret (-ly, place).

### The word of God brings alignment and separation

Heb 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.

If there is anything that we have to passionately pursue in this journey with God – Is that we must create an insatiable hunger for the Word of God.

It is bedrock of our life's journey in Christ.

**When our thought life or heart life is aligned to the word it will produce a life that is governed, controlled and led by the Holy Spirit:**

Mat 12:32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the *world* to come.

Mat 12:33 Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by *his* fruit.

Mat 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.

Mat 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.

### Looking at David as our case study, we can look at 4 areas of his life that portrays for us that he certainly was a man after God's own heart:

#### **1. Converted – Ps 51:5, (Rom. 3:9-12, 23), Psalm 32:1-2,**

- *Our walk with our Father is one of recognition that we cannot attain this holy and pure walk with him unless we are first converted.*
- *I am not just speaking of the initial stages of salvation but a postured converted lifestyle daily.*
- *Our walk with God is not based on our good works but rather our Faith in God's provision.*
- Eph 2:8 For by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God,
- Eph 2:9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.
- Eph 2:10 For we are *His* workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them.

Hence each of us need to **examine** ourselves to see that which is located in our hearts

2Co 13:5 examine yourselves, whether you are in the faith, prove your own selves. Do you not know your own selves, that Jesus Christ is in you, unless you are reprobates? (Rejected and unapproved;.

## Examine=

peirazō

pi-rad'-zo

From [G3984](#); to *test* (objectively), that is, *endeavor, scrutinize, entice, discipline*: - assay, examine, go about, prove, tempt (-er), try.

It is the engrafted word in our hearts that will bring us to stand on the Holy Mountain of God

**Jas 1:21** Therefore putting aside all filthiness and overflowing of evil, receive in meekness the implanted Word, which is able to save your souls.

**Jas 1:22** But become doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

## So what is the fruit or external display of one whose heart is circumcised !

- a growing sensitivity to and turning from sin – 1 Jhn1: 5-10

**1Jn 1:5** And this is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

**1Jn 1:6** If we say that we have fellowship with Him and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

**1Jn 1:7** But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

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

**1Jn 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**1Jn 1:10** If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us.

- growing in obedience to Christ and in love for His people – 1 jhn 2:1-11
- growing knowledge of and love for God's truth as revealed in His Word ([1 John 2:21-27](#))

**1Jn 2:21** I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

**1Jn 2:22** Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

**1Jn 2:23** Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: *(but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.*

**1Jn 2:24** Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.

**1Jn 2:25** And this is the promise that he hath promised us, *even* eternal life.

**1Jn 2:26** These *things* have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.

**1Jn 2:27** But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

- learning to turn from self-seeking and instead to seek the things of God (Luke 9:23-24)

Luk 9:23 And he said to *them* all, *If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*

Luk 9:24 *For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.*

- Is not apathetic or complacent concerning the things of God. Rev 3:15-19

Rev 3:15 I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I would that you were cold or hot.

Rev 3:16 So because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

Rev 3:17 Because you say, I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing, and do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,

Rev 3:18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold purified by fire, so that you may be rich; and white clothing, so that you may be clothed, and *so that* the shame of your nakedness does not appear. And anoint your eyes with eye salve, so that you may see.

Rev 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten; therefore be zealous and repent.

## **2. be Spirit-filled**

David was anointed for a greater purpose than that of tendering sheep which was the process in preparing him.

God will use our jobs. Businesses, home life etc. to streamline and prepare us for the greater journey ahead.

There has to be a shift in our hearts to that of a heavenly order where it can by no means rust or rot away. This is the position of the heart. The condition or focus of the heart will show in our attitudes and behaviours.

## **Matt 6:19-22**

Mat 6:19 Do not lay up treasures on earth for yourselves, where moth and rust corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal.

Mat 6:20 But lay up treasures in Heaven for yourselves, where neither moth nor rust corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.

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

Mat 6:22 The light of the body is the eye. Therefore if your eye is sound, your whole body shall be full of light.

- A heart that's yielded and humbled before the Lord becomes the entry point through which the Lord will anoint that man or woman for Kingdom service

## **1 Sam 16:13**

1Sa 16:13 And Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the spirit of the Lord came on David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

1Sa 16:14 But the spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from Jehovah terrified him.

-a heart that is not configured and conditioned by the word of God to live integral and upright can be negatively impacted upon in that the Holy Spirit can leave us.

### Ps 51:10-11

Psa 51:10 **Create** in me a clean heart, O God; and **renew** a right spirit within me.

Psa 51:11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

- The Holy Spirit within us 1 Cor 3:16/ 1 Cor 6:19 enables us to respond from within as a people who are aligned and living in Truth according His commandments and ways.
- A heart with unconfessed sin manifest with bitterness and unforgiveness that chokes and restrains the purpose that God has for one's life.
- A good question to ask is, "If the Holy Spirit were to withdraw from my life, how long would it take me to miss Him?"
- The purity of the inner life produces fruit that speaks of this inner life with Christ.

### Gal 5:22-23 – the seed is the condition of the heart vs the fruit which is seen in our attitudes and behaviours.

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith,

Gal 5:23 meekness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

### **3. spend time alone with God.**

- One can glean from the many Psalms written by David that he had devoted his life whilst in the fields worshipping God and using that time to develop his personal intimate time with God.
- It was the inner condition of his heart – as a deer longing for the water brooks that brought him great favour even though he made many mistakes – The turning point here however was that he had - **A REPENTANT HEART.**
- **We have to be intentional in bringing our thoughts, attitudes and bodies in submission to spending time alone with God:**
  - If you're married with children at home, you probably will have to fight to make time to spend alone with the Lord. If you're single, you'll have to fight to use the time you have alone for spiritual growth rather than to yield to temptation
  - If we want to be men and women after God's heart, we must spend consistent time alone with Him. Some people can't stand to be alone. They fill every moment with noise from the radio or TV. They feel a need to be around people constantly. But you won't grow in the things of God unless you spend time alone with Him

**LETS LOOK AT 4 PRACTICAL WAYS THAT WE CAN USE IN BEING DISCIPLINED IN THIS AREA:**

1. **Read sound biblical resources BUT above all** – Give much focus to the reading of God's word.
2. **Learn to pray.** Use alone time to commune with God. Read and pray the Psalms, which reflect David's communion with God. Study the Lord's prayer and Paul's prayers as models.

**2Ti 2:15** Study earnestly to present yourself approved to God, a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth.

**2Ti 2:16** But shun profane, vain babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness.

3. **Learn to worship** - Our public worship on Sundays should be an overflow of our private worship. Learn to adore God and marvel at His love in your time alone with Him.

**Mat 6:5** And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, They have their reward.

**Mat 6:6** But you, when you pray, enter into your room. And shutting your door, pray to your Father in secret; and your Father who sees in secret shall reward you openly.

**Mat 6:7** But when you pray, do not babble vain words, as the nations. For they think that in their much speaking they shall be heard.

**4. Learn to think**

- You can't think if you're never alone with God. Learn to evaluate life in light of His Word. Think through current events, things you read, things others say, your current circumstances, your goals, and your family needs in light of God's truth.

**4. obedient in small things.**

- To David's brothers the keeping of the sheep could have been seen as menial and unimportant yet in David's obedience to the small, insignificant things God was preparing him internally for what would manifest externally as a man after God's own heart.

**1Sa 17:28** And his oldest brother Eliab heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab's anger was kindled against David. And he said, Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the naughtiness of your heart. For you have come down to see the battle.

- To others he was a boy looking after the sheep of his father but within his heart God was developing the heart of a Shepard that would gather the flock of Israel back to God.
- A giant slayer but in the eyes of others he was just some insignificant youth,

**1Sa 17:33** And Saul said to David, You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him. For you are but a youth, and he is a man of war from his youth.

**1Sa 17:34** And David said to Saul, Your servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock.

1Sa 17:35 And I went out after it and struck it, and delivered *the lamb* out of its mouth. And when it rose against me, I caught *it* by the beard, and struck it and killed it.

1Sa 17:36 Your servant killed both the lion and the bear. And this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God.

- To others David just played the harp but yet God was developing him internally to skilfully play the harp that would eventually bring him to a place of prominence in administering grace through the playing of the harp to mad man Saul.
- This is the heart attitude that God is wanting to develop in us --by and through the Holy Spirit and His word.
- This is not an overnight, quick fix or immediate doing but a process that is developed over time that builds an internal discipline and connectedness with God.
- Therefore our hearts cannot be weighed down with all unnecesasary issues.
- It has to be conditioned and configured to the very image and likeness of God.

Obedience in small things may not seem like much, but it's like the small strands that are woven together to make a rope. We all tend to sit around wishing that God would use us for some important task, like slaying Goliath, not realizing that it's obedience in the small, everyday tasks God sets before us that weave together to make the rope that enables us to bring down Goliath. The moral fibre which enables us to attack and defeat the huge problems in life is made up of the strands of obedience in the little moral choices that confront us daily: integrity, controlling wrong thoughts, guarding our speech, controlling anger, submitting to authority.

#### References:

1. NKJV bible
2. Strong's concordance
3. Vine's dictionary