

## *Heart Conditions*

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*All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.*

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## INTRODUCTION

Some have defined the heart as the “seat of affections”—but it is so much more than that. The heart is the supreme center for all communications, the premise for all motivational thinking, and the center for the thoughts and responses for all of our experiences in word and deed. It is the place where the emotions respond to, appreciate, or depreciate what they receive. The basis for all human operations, including the operations of the soul, the heart is the place where all of our decisions are made.

The Bible tells us that Nehemiah had a faithful heart (Nehemiah 9:8). First Samuel 4:13 speaks of Eli’s trembling heart, which was a result of his lifestyle. Hannah rejoiced in her heart when she found out that she would bear a son, whom she named Samuel (1 Samuel 2:1). First Kings 11:9 says that Solomon’s heart turned away from the Lord.

The most beautiful thing said about King

David is that he had a perfect heart (1 Kings 11:4). According to 1 Kings 14:8, David followed God with all of his heart. In Acts 13:22, David is described by God as “a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will.” Psalm 28:7 says David trusted God with all his heart. He trusted God with every motivation of every operation through divine inspiration made ready for application.

As never before, we have to make sure that we keep the issues of our heart right (see Proverbs 4:23). When we were saved, we were given a new heart and our human spirit came into being. This booklet will explain how conditions of the heart affect its role as the motivator, activator, and operator behind all the things that we do.

*Chapter One*  
NATURAL TENDENCIES

“Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

“From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment” (Isaiah 1:5-6).

The natural man’s heart is sick, according to Isaiah 1:5. This means it is diseased with self-exaltation (see Proverbs 13:12). Wounded, grieved, and weary from mental exhaustion, the natural heart may reveal a kind of schizophrenic testimony at times. This heart is also faint, having no strength because of the affliction from the Fall.

Furthermore, the heart is desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). We cannot imagine the scope of its wickedness. The natural man is sick from the bottom of his feet to the top of his head. People

whose hearts are deceitful and diseased have no strength to go on with God. Often, they withdraw into a shell. Proverbs 14:14 speaks of the backslider's heart. It is a faithless heart that has turned from God.

### *Hard and Corrupt*

The Word of God also teaches of the hardened heart that is insensitive and dull (Exodus 9:7). Probably the most destructive thing that can happen in anyone's life is for the heart to begin to harden. A person involved in immorality will either repent and get right with God or maintain his deceit and keep on sinning. The one who keeps living in sin is no longer convicted by the Word of God. He can look someone right in the face and lie because he has no convictions. Why? Because his heart is hardened.

Another characteristic of the natural heart is corruption (Proverbs 17:20). The natural heart is distorted, twisted, perverted, and dishonest. When any characteristic of the natural heart is allowed to enter into a marriage or friendship, the result is indescribable deceit.

For this reason, we must do everything we can to nourish and to build up our new heart by



taking in the Word of God and responding to Jesus Christ.

Think of what a heart in prayer can do. A church recently had a prayer service for their pastor who had a very serious heart condition. He went to the doctor after that and was found to be totally healed. "I will have to call this a miracle," the doctor said. That is what a heart in prayer can do.

### *The Problem of Self-Discovery*

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

"A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself" (Proverbs 18:1-2).

One of the things Satan tries to do is to promote a person's potential in Adam so that he discovers his natural heart with its natural gifts.

The natural heart is haughty, proud, and infected. Oh, the heartaches, problems, and pain that are caused because of infected hearts. So many hearts are infected with self-defense, skillful pride, human rationale, and empiricism.

"Therefore is my spirit overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is desolate" (Psalm

143:4). This verse speaks of a hurting heart. It belongs to someone whose motivation, activation, and energy for life have collapsed. Something has wounded this person, so he lives in his hurt and his wounds. He focuses on his needs, living in whatever the current problem is instead of his new heart.

We have all been with people who have been wounded, who speak and react from the perspective of their pain. The truth is that they are suffering from a heart condition that can be healed. Every one of us is subject to this kind of heart disease, and only God knows how to take care of it.

## *Chapter Two*

# WILLING TO BE BROKEN

“Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none” (Psalm 69:20).

“The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise” (Psalm 51:17).

These verses speak of the broken heart. It is broken because of our need for God, broken because of our Adamic nature, broken because of mistakes, broken because of sin.

It is precious to see a group of Christians gather together in a spirit of brokenness. I love when someone who was the victim goes to the guilty party in brokenness. That doesn't happen often.

When Jesus took our place on Calvary, in His brokenness, He said of those mocking Him, “Father, forgive them.” He was broken. He

gladly died for us, but His heart was broken. It was broken because of His love for all sinners.

### *Sensitivity Is the Key*

“Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins” (Psalm 73:21).

Grieved hearts cannot function well. When the Holy Spirit is grieved, He cannot move freely. Churches all over the world have services several times a week, but many grieve the Spirit and stop His operation. A church that does not love soul winning, a church without a vision for missions, a church that does not pray, a church that doesn’t love each other grieves the Spirit. We must be so sensitive to Jesus Christ so that we do not grieve the Spirit. His Spirit is so sensitive.

“Remove from me reproach and contempt; for I have kept thy testimonies” (Psalm 119:22).

A heart that is easily wounded isn’t looking unto Jesus Christ, it isn’t looking unto Calvary. As we care for our hearts, we may say at times, “My heart is overwhelmed” (Psalm 61:2). In saying this, David painted a unique picture of our supreme center for motivation: the place where all the operations of our soul take place, the place where all the motives for human operation

begin, and the place where methods are adapted and established to produce control of the mind. This is the heart—intellectually and experientially the essence of life.

These details of the heart are so crucial. Everything we do comes out of either our new heart or our old heart. Some substitute the word “mind” for heart, but the heart *is* the issue. All of our thinking is the result of what goes on in our hearts.

### *Established in Convictions*

“Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring me an offering: of every man that giveth it willingly with his heart ye shall take my offering” (Exodus 25:2).

I love when the Word of God speaks of those who have willing hearts. Think of how Jesus taught the disciples to pray: “Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10). I would ask you to ponder on that. “Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.” That represents a willing heart, a willing heart to lay down our lives, a willing heart to bless our enemies.

“My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise” (Psalm 57:7).

A “fixed heart” means that I do not have to

“review” my convictions: My convictions are *established*. I had a conviction years ago that I would not practice ungodly behavior or dwell on ungodly thoughts. Those issues are fixed. There is no temptation to do those things. I discovered years ago that my convictions would take care of my future in certain areas of life as I grew. A fixed heart reveals a godly maturity in spiritual adulthood.

### *Chapter Three*

## STANDING IN AWE OF GOD

“Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart” (Psalm 119:111).

“My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God” (Psalm 84:2).

The word “rejoicing” means being completely happy and peaceful within because we see the power of God, the grace of God, and the wisdom of God in everything.

God loves to see that we are hungry and thirsty and have a heart that longs for Him. There may be times you have to spend away from the Body of Christ, but God loves the fact that your heart longs to be there. Maybe you have to spend time in the world because of work, or perhaps sickness keeps you away, but you still have a longing heart to be there—God loves this. Assembling ourselves together is the

most beautiful thing in the world, and God gives us a heart that longs to be with the Body.

### *The Right Kind of Fear*

“Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.

“I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore” (Psalm 86:11-12).

This passage refers to a heart that “fears” God’s name or character. This kind of “fear” speaks of holding God in the highest esteem, giving Him the greatest measure of respect. It is a holy reverence. Whenever God’s name is mentioned, no matter what condition he is in, this kind of heart responds.

The word “glorify” speaks of reflecting God’s nature, to reveal something about His attributes. To have a life that glorifies Christ is to have a life that brings in the Finished Work side of Christ, the victorious, triumphant side of Christ, wherever we go.

If you are teaching someone and you impart your carnal nature to them, and then they reproduce your nature, who is being glorified? You are, of course—not God. You are the one they are responding to.



First Corinthians 11 refers to the woman as the glory of the man. That is the principle of us glorifying Christ. The man reflects the nature of God to his wife, and the woman reflects the godly nature of the man. When we glorify Him, we fulfill His purpose for our lives on earth.

### *Responding to His Nature*

“Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word” (Psalm 119:161).

Years ago, there was an older lady in our church we called Grammy Emery. She really was quite a spiritual person, and she would constantly go to prayer meetings. She broke some bones in her hand one day, and God healed her on the spot.

Once, several of us were riding in a car when she began to say, “Hallelujah, praise God.” Then, she asked us to stop the car. She wasn’t acting weird or strange, but she got out and just stared at the sky in awe of God. She lived very simply in her own world with God, and she was in awe of Him.

When we see the oceans, the forests, and the stars, or when we see what God does in the regeneration of the New Birth at salvation, we

should stand in awe of God. When we see what He has done in the Church of Jesus Christ, we should stand in awe.

### *Stirred by His Words*

“I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops of the night” (Song of Solomon 5:2).

It is a great thing to have your heart awakened by the sound of God’s voice. The Holy Spirit stirs the heart, and when Christ contacts it, the heart is awakened to be what God wants it to be. The power of God and His still, small voice cause the heart to be awakened.

Faith purifies the heart and soul of a Christian who understands the doctrine of the heart. His heart acts in faith toward God and is obedient to the grace of God.

## CONCLUSION

“But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7).

God does not look upon the outward man. No, He always examines the heart. He is searching the hidden man for meekness (1 Peter 3:4), and that godly inner man is a pearl of great price.

Whatever we do, we must take care of our hearts. It doesn't do any good to take care of the mind unless the heart is right. When we live in indecision, it is because our heart isn't clear. It does no good to try to have the emotions healed until the heart is right, because they will not be healed until the heart is healed.

We need to have a heart after God, a heart that trusts Him. Thank God that in David, God

saw the motives and desires and accredited it all to his “perfect” heart. God saw that David’s heart was right and after Him completely. Because of that, God’s benediction on David’s life was that he was a man with a perfect heart.