

Spiritual Heart Disease

Right now you may be suffering from the worst type of heart disease!

But there is a cure!

What is spiritual heart disease?

The Word of God, the Christian Bible, uses the “heart” as a metaphor to refer to the seat or centre of our affections, emotions and attitudes.

Proverbs 3:1-3 [New King James] *“My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you. Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart,”*

When speaking about our remembering the commandments of the Creator God.

Matthew 6:21 [New King James] *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

The Biblical reference to the heart in this example is our motives, our personal reasons for doing what we do.

What does God consider to be a healthy spiritual heart?

Jesus Christ Himself answers this question.

Matthew 5:8 [New King James] *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”*

The Greek word translated “**blessed**” is “*makariōs*” that is expressing that brings a fulfilled happy life, **it describes a joy which is completely independent of all the changes in life around us.**

John 16:22 [New King James] *“Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.”*

An inner joy in our heart that no-one or no circumstances can take from us.

This is the end result of a heart that is pure.

Therefore a diseased heart is an impure heart!

An impure heart is the number one killer among the people who are being called by the Creator God to become Christians at this time, [**John 6:44**].

The reason is that the Creator God **cannot** and **will not** allow anyone into His Kingdom, His created family, with this contagious disease.

An impure heart has a selfish, getting attitude which is contrary to God’s way of life, [Acts 20:35; Matthew 5:44-45; Matthew 20:28].

1 Samuel 16:7 [New King James] *“But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not look at his appearance or at his physical 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.’”*

The attitude behind our actions is sometimes more important than the actions themselves, and it is this attitude of “heart” that the Creator God sees, [Psalms 139:1-2].

The Creator God is at this time choosing human beings for future offices as kings and priests, positions in His spiritual government in the soon-coming Kingdom of God, [**Revelation 1:4-6; Revelation 5:9-10**].

God has **not** changed the way He decides who His kings and priests shall be.

God is still looking upon the “heart,” upon our hearts.

The condition of our hearts will determine whether we are chosen to reign with Jesus Christ beginning at His Second Coming, [**Revelation 20:6**].

An insidious disease

A person with a physical heart disease can seem healthy enough for a time, their symptoms may seem mild, a shortness of breath, a little pain in the chest.

In the same way, someone with spiritual heart disease can look and act alright for a while. They can seem fine on the surface, but God is looking upon the heart, and God is **not** fooled.

Galatians 6:7-8 [New King James] *“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.”*

Eventually the spiritual malady becomes apparent.

Eventually any spiritual heart disease, unchecked, will destroy the whole person.

Deuteronomy 6:5-6 [New King James] *“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.”*

God tells us that He wants us to love Him with all our hearts. God wants us to have our affections, our hearts, locked into Him and His way of life.

More than deeds required

Why are our motivations and attitudes so important to God?

Why does the spiritual condition of our heart make so much difference to our whole eternity?

The answer goes back to one who was very great, but who wrecked his potential, the archangel Lucifer.

We can read the tragic story of this former created cherub at God’s throne in **Isaiah 14**.

What caused Lucifer to turn against the Creator God in a spirit of assassination?

What went wrong?

What was the first thing mentioned?

Isaiah 14:12-14 [New King James] *“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! **For you have said in your heart:** ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’”*

It was Lucifer’s attitude of heart that caused him to become the enemy of the Creator God.

The first thing that went wrong with Lucifer was spiritual heart disease!

Lucifer’s whole attitude changed.

Ezekiel 28:12-15 [New King James] *“Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.’”*

This is no physical king but Lucifer the anointed cherub who was at the very throne of God.

Ezekiel 28:17 [New King James] *“**Your heart was lifted up** because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendour; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, that they might gaze at you.”*

The iniquity [Hebrew “*evel*” meaning perverseness, and wickedness] **verse 15**, Lucifer’s hate-filled heart drove him to evil actions.

God places so much emphasis on our attitude because if our heart is not right, nothing else will be right either.

Matthew 15:19 [New King James] *“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.”*

The lesson to learn is to clean up the heart, then proper deeds will follow.

The religious leaders of Jesus Christ’s day never quite learned this lesson.

They considered in their hearts that all their good deeds by themselves earned them a great reward, but the attitude of their heart was wrong.

Their motivation was one of get or self-grandiosement, they wanted other people to think well of them.

Matthew 6:5 [New King James] *“And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward.”*

The hypocritical religious leaders made long prayers in public, **not** because they wanted to talk to their Creator God, but wanted people to consider that they were righteous and special.

Jesus Christ soundly condemned their motives, [**Matthew 23:27-28**].

We today should take a lesson from those religious leaders.

Is our religion nothing more than an attempt to make ourselves look good to other people?

Failing to remember that the Creator God is looking at our heart, which is invisible to other human beings.

God's own heart

The underlying cause of the world's problems is spiritual in nature.

It is a problem of acute spiritual heart disease, of hearts set against God's way of life, unconverted and unchanged hearts.

Before we can assist Jesus Christ to establish God's way of life on earth after His Second Coming, we have to have a complete change of heart, a spiritual heart transplant.

Acts 13:22 [New King James] *“And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.’”*

King David was called a man after God's own heart.

1 Kings 11:4 [New King James] *“For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David.”*

The Hebrew word translated “loyal” is “*shâlam*” meaning to reciprocate completely, made ready, whole.

David made big mistakes, but when he did, his heart, or conscience, made him see his errors.

From deep inside, David wanted to go God's way. Since he was still flesh and blood he sometimes failed, as we all do, **but in his heart David wanted to obey and please God.**

God knew that he could still work with and through David, even after he had sinned, because David's heart was right.

King David's attitude of heart is clearly shown in the Psalm he wrote after Nathan the prophet revealed to him the sin he had committed with Bathsheba and her husband, [**Psalms 51:1-17**].

Notice the motivation behind this confession and the seeking of God's forgiveness and the cleansing of his heart, [verse 10].

Psalms 51:12-15 [New King James] *“Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You. Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise.”*

The deep desire that David had in his heart was that others should come to know the Creator God and worship Him.

A person with a clean heart wants to please God and sees the intent behind God's laws and how they can, when positively applied to life, can only bring every good thing.

Matthew 5:28 [New King James] *“But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”*

Jesus Christ showed that obedience to the perfect laws of the Creator God begin in the heart.

Even though a man might **not** physically commit the act, since his attitude is that of wanting to commit adultery, the lust becomes the same as the actual deed, [**Proverbs 23:7**].

To acquire a pure heart, we have to go to the source of all purity and righteousness

We cannot make our hearts pure by ourselves, we need God's help through the active presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

When it comes to purifying our hearts, God does **not** do repair surgery, He performs a spiritual heart transplant, [**Psalms 51:10-11**].

On our part we have to want a new heart from the Creator God and accept it.

We must allow our new, Godly heart lead us and give us a new life.

Romans 6:1-8 [New King James] *“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, **that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.** For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,”*

Baptism, by complete immersion, is the outward sign of a new heart, as our old attitudes were buried in the waters of baptism, and we begin a new life, the old one being crucified.

Matthew 5:8 [New King James] *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”*

In the ultimate sense, we will literally see God in His coming Kingdom, when we are changed to spirit beings, [**1 John 3:1-3**].

Note especially what we are commanded to do in **verse 3**.

This purification of our hearts involves our complete life being surrendered to the Creator God, as a *“living sacrifice.”*

Romans 12:1-2 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

This renewing of our mind is the complete transplant of our minds and the receiving the very mind [heart] of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:1-8 [New King James] *“Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfil my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”*

Only then will we see God.

Job 19:25-27 [New King James] *“For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, Whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!”*

Does our heart yearn within us?