



The Heart of Man





Genesis 6:5 (NIV 1984)

The LORD saw how great **man**'s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his **heart** was only evil all the time.



GLUTTONY



LUST

GREED



ENVY

SLOTH

WRATH

PRIDE



God knows the heart of every man!

Do you know your own
heart?

WHO AM I ?

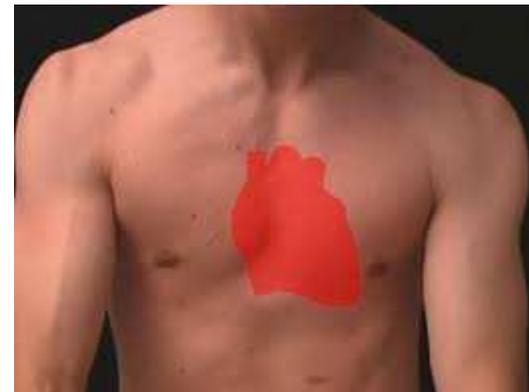


And if you are truthful you will find that the desires of this world have crept into your heart and unfortunately CONTROL you.

But the heart is a physical part of us that controls the blood flow through our veins to all parts of our body!

Why then does God refer to the thoughts of our heart?

We need to look at the Biblical perspective of the heart of man.





The Bible has much to say about the heart of man.

The word “heart” in the New King James Version of the Bible is found 835 times in 775 verses. (*Ref “E-Sword”.*)

God knows all of our hearts,

I Kings 8:39 (NKJV)

“For you alone know the hearts of all the sons of men.”

The question is, do you and I know our own heart?

How many times has each of us questioned ourselves over the years?



I suspect those who have never doubted themselves are a **tiny minority**.

We read passages in the Bible about deceiving ourselves.

Galatians 6:3 (NIV1984)

³ If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

James 1:26 (NIV1984)

²⁶ If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless.

And when we read this the questions become:

- “Am I being honest with myself”?
- “Who is the real me?”
- “Who am I?”
- “What is the true state of my heart, not what I think about it but what is its true state in reality?”



When the Bible speaks of **the human heart** it is speaking of

- The thinking of a man,
- A man's will,
- A man's emotions or feelings,
- A man's conscience,
- Or any given combinations of these.

However, the word may also have reference to the whole inner being of man combining all these elements into the one whole that makes up the man.

Each of these aspects of the human heart is worth taking a look at.

The Heart is the thinking aspect of man (THOUGHT)



Proverbs 23:7 (KJV)

⁷For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...

Matthew 9:4 (NIV1984)

⁴ Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, “Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?”

Matthew 15:19 (NIV1984)

¹⁹ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

We could find verse after verse in the Bible teaching the same thing about the heart being the place of thought, reasoning, and understanding within man.

Am I responsible for the way I think?



The Bible answers - **YES.**

Romans 8:6 (NKJV)

⁶ For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

And to counter this the Bible says - **Meditate on These Things**

Philippians 4:8 (NKJV)

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.



It is tough to change the way you think but I ask the question.

Is that not what we do when we repent?

Repentance is certainly a change of the will but it is also a change of the mind, a change of our thinking?

When we come to accept the Bible and its teaching we commit our self to a new way of thinking about the world and our relationship not only with God but also with his fellowman?

When we accepts the gospel we are saying I am going to let the Bible guide my thinking and I am not going to think about things the way I use to.

While we will never be perfect we can change our attitudes and the way we think.



The heart is the will of man. (WILL)

Now we know that God requires the repentance of man.

Luke 13:3 (NIV1984)

³ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.

Acts 17:30 (NIV1984)

³⁰ In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent.

It is hard to separate the **will** from **thought** but I think there is this much difference in it.

The **will** provides man with the determination to carry through with his **thinking**.

Daniel was told in a heavenly vision,

Daniel 10:12 (NKJV)

*¹² Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that **you set your heart to understand**, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words.*

Daniel willed or determined to understand and to humble himself. **“Set your heart”** means to **“will in your heart.”**





One cannot obey God whose heart is unwilling.

Exodus 35:5 (NKJV)

⁵ 'Take from among you an offering to the LORD. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the LORD: gold, silver, and bronze;

There were rulers who believed in Jesus but were unwilling to confess him lest they be put out of the synagogue.

The widow who put in two mites into the collection did so for she willed to do so.

No man has obeyed the gospel who did not first find it in his heart to do so, **will in his heart to do it.**



It is good to be a **strong willed** person **provided the will has been directed by proper knowledge and correct thinking.**

Only the strong willed:

Can go on a diet and stick with it.

Only the strong willed can successfully train for and run a marathon.

The list could go on and on of things which require a strong will to succeed.

Christianity is one of those things:

Without such guidance of the will the will can become a man's worst enemy for oftentimes it can be said of strong willed people that they are only stubborn people.

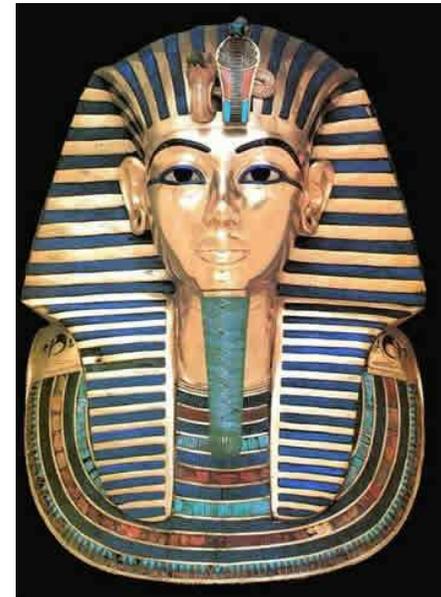
Pharaoh is an excellent Bible example.
Pharaoh hardened his heart time and again.
The will in his heart was to do his own will, not God's.



Samuel speaking to Saul said,

1 Samuel 15:23 (NKJV)

*²³ For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft,
And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of the LORD,
He also has rejected you from being king.”*



We must **have the will to do God's will** but we must make certain it is **His will** and **not our version of what we would like his will to be.**

The heart is a man's feelings or emotions. (EMOTION)



Genesis 6:6 (NKJV)

⁶ And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart.

Grief is ascribed to God's heart on this occasion but is also ascribed to man's heart,

"Your heart should not be grieved." (Deut. 15:10 NKJV)

The heart sorrows,

"Even in laughter the heart may sorrow." (Prov. 14:13 NKJV)

Joy resides in the heart,

"My servants shall sing for joy of heart, but you shall cry for sorrow of heart." (Isa. 65:14 NKJV)

Rejoicing takes place in the heart,

"Your heart will rejoice." (John 16:22 NKJV)



In fact, all of the following emotions can be found in the heart:

- gladness (Psalms 4:7),
- desires (Psalms 20:4, 73:7, Prov. 6:25),
- is troubled (Psalms 25:17),
- trust (Psalms 28:7),
- broken (Psalms 34:18),
- suffers turmoil (Psalms 38:8),
- fails one (Psalms 40:12),
- is pained (Psalms 55:4),
- is proud (Psalms 101:5),
- hates (Psalms 105:25),
- is wounded (Psalms 109:22),
- is distressed (Psalms 143:4),
- despises (Prov. 5:12),
- is anxious (Prov. 12:25),
- is bitter (Prov. 14:10),
- is merry (Prov. 15:13),
- is haughty (Prov. 18:12),
- envies (Prov. 23:17),
- delights (Prov. 27:9),
- anguishes (2 Cor. 2:4).





So if we love God we love God with all our HEART.

So we should also love God with our emotions (1 Cor. 16:22) but to make the emotions alone the whole heart of which the Bible speaks is not good and will easily lead to destruction.

We should love God with out Thoughts / Will and Emotions (A balanced approach)

So, yes, love God with your emotions but never set emotions on a throne and allow them to rule as king in your relationship with God for there is far more to a man's heart according to the Bible than just emotions.



The heart is a man's conscience. (CONSCIENCE)

When Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost the Bible says the following of the many who heard:

Acts 2:37 (NKJV)

*³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were **cut to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"*

They felt guilty. Their **conscience** was bothering them.



God knows the heart of every man!

Do you know your own

heart? How is your heart when it comes to your:

- THOUGHT
- WILL
- EMOTION
- CONSCIENCE



IT IS TIME FOR A HEART CHECK UP

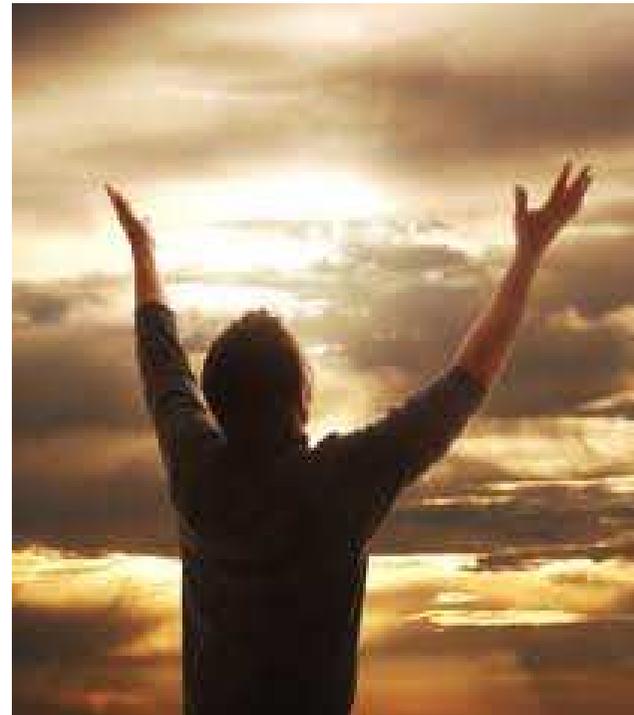


Matthew 6:21 (NKJV)

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

God is ready to WORK with a heart that is surrendered to Him!

Are you ready to SURRENDER?





Before you do let me encourage you with this

A **surrendered heart** and a **dedicated life** leads to ABUNDANT LIFE

And when we lead an abundant life the result is:

WHO AM I ?



References

1. Bible Gateway - <http://www.biblegateway.com>
2. <http://epages.wordpress.com/2010/01/25/the-heart-of-man-from-a-biblical-perspective/>

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