

Examine
Your
Heart

Characteristics of the Heart

- **God has a heart and so do we**

Gen 6:5-6

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that *every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.* And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and *He was grieved in His heart.*

(1 Chr 17:19; Ps 33:11; I Pet 3:4)

- **We speak in our hearts**

Gen 17:17 – Abraham said in his heart

I Sam 1:13 – Hannah

Psalms 14:1 – the fool

(Gen 24:45; Deut 7:17; Deut 9:4; Deut 18:20-22; I King 12:26)

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Characteristics of the Heart

- **We know things in it**

Deut 8:5-6

"Thus you are to know in your heart that the LORD your God was disciplining you just as a man disciplines his son."

Ps 40:8

"I delight to do Thy will, O my God; Thy Law is within my heart."

(I Kings 10:2; I Sam 21:12; I Sam 2:35, I Chr 17:2, 2 Chr 6:7-8; I Kings 8:17-18; Josh 14:7)

- **Will & Motive live there**

1 Chr 22:19

"Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God; arise, therefore, and build the sanctuary of the LORD God, so that you may bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and the holy vessels of God into the house that is to be built for the name of the LORD."

(Deut 24:15)

Examine Your Heart

Characteristics of the Heart

• Attitudes & Emotions

Merry / Glad / Joyful

(Judges 18:18-22; Ruth 3:7; I Kings 8:66;
I Kings 21:7; Prov. 15:13; Prov. 15:15)

Sad (I Samuel 1:8)

Toward something (2 Sam 14:1)

Lost (2 Sam 17:10)

Afflicted (I King 8:38)

Sick (Jer 17:9; Prov. 13:12)

Enraged (II Ki 6:11)

Toward (II Sam. 14:1)

United (Ps 86:11; I Chron. 12:17; I Chron. 12:33; I Chron 12:38)

Fearful (John 14:27)

Divided (Ps 12:2)

Stirred (Exo. 35:26; Exo. 36:2; II Ki 12:4)

Willing (Exo. 35:5)

Righteous / Upright (Deut. 9:5)

Proud (II Kings 14:10)

Deep (Psalm 64:6)

Jealous & selfish (James 3:14)

Deceived (James 1:26)

Deceitful (Prov. 26:24)

Stubborn (Deut 29:17-20; Rom. 2:5)

Broken (Psa. 69:20)

Troubled (2 Sam. 24:10; John 14:21; I Sam 25:31)

Corrupted (Eccl 7:7)

Understanding (I Kings 3:9)

Wise / Discerning (I Kings 3:12; Prov. 10:8)

Prepared (II Chron 17-20)

Faithful (Neh 9:7-8)

Rejoiced (Psalm 19:8)

In Pain (Prov. 14:13)

Tranquil (Prov. 14:30)

Sincere (Acts 2:46; Eph 6:5-6; Col. 3:22)

Intent (Acts 8:22)

Not right before God (Acts 8:21; Psalm 66:18)

Grieved (Rom 9:2)

Purposeful (II Cor. 9:7)

Discouraged (Gal. 6:9; Eph. 3:13; Col. 3:21; Heb. 12:13; Luke 18:1)

Closed (I John 3:17)

Trained in Greed (II Peter 2:14)

Anxious (Prov. 12:25)

Fail (I Sam 17:32)

Love (I Peter 1:22)

Ponder (Luke 2:19)

Make melody (Eph. 5:19)

Devise (I King 12:33; Prov. 6:18)

Acknowledge (I King 2:44)

Exult (I Sam. 2:1)

Desire (Deut. 14:26)

Impressed with words (Deut. 11:18; Ps. 40:8)

Hate (Lev. 19:17)

Despise (II Sam 6:16)

Imaginations run riot (Psalms 73:7)

Melt with fear (Josh 14:8)

Examine
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Misconceptions about the Heart

- **“As long as I follow my heart God is pleased”**

Prov 3:5

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding”

Prov 19:21

“Many are the plans in a man's heart, but the counsel of the LORD, it will stand.”

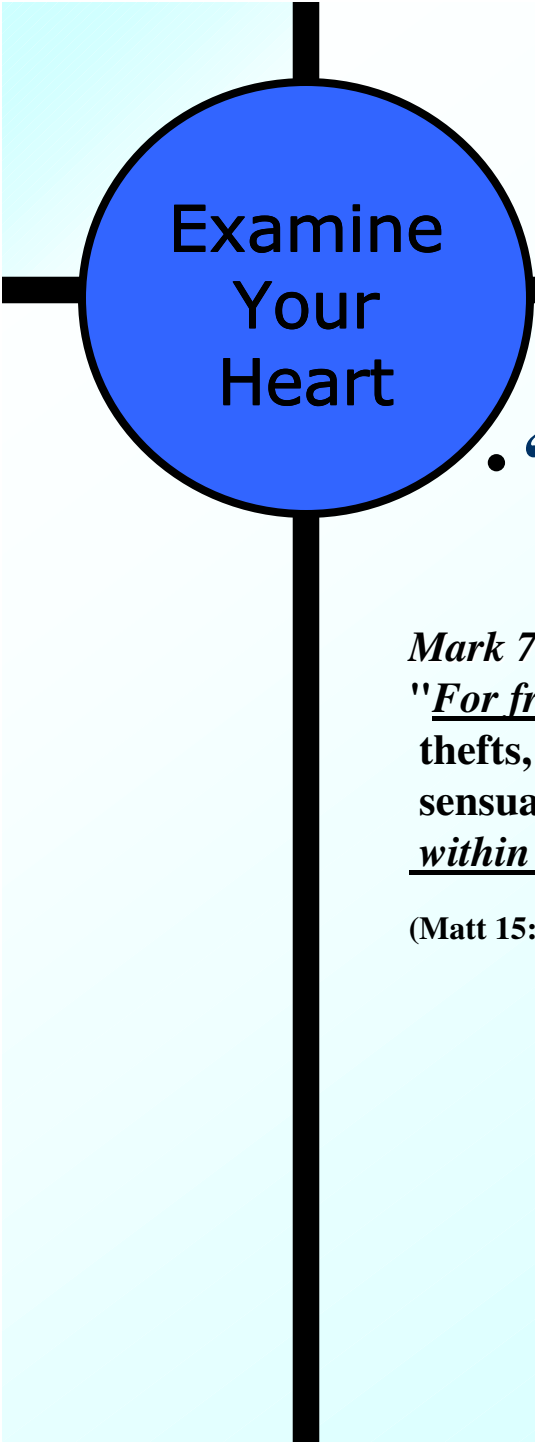
Prov 23:19

“Listen, my son, and be wise, and direct your heart in the way.”

Jer 10:23

“I know, O LORD, that a man's way is not in himself; nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.”

(Judges 18:18-22; I John 3:20; Num 15:39; Prov. 28:26)



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Misconceptions about the Heart

- “It doesn’t matter what I’m thinking,...it doesn’t hurt anyone”

Mark 7:21-23

"For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man."

(Matt 15:19-20; Deut 15:9-10)

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Misconceptions about the Heart

- **“No one knows what’s in my heart.”**

1 Kings 8:39

“then hear Thou in heaven Thy dwelling place, and forgive and act and render to each according to all his ways, whose heart Thou knowest, for Thou alone dost know the hearts of all the sons of men,”

Ps 44:20-21

“If we had forgotten the name of our God, or extended our hands to a strange god; Would not God find this out? For He knows the secrets of the heart.”

Heb 4:12

“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

(Psalms 19:14; I Sam 16:7)

Examine
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Dangerous Heart Conditions

• **Pride & Arrogance**

Hosea 13:6

“As they had their pasture, they became satisfied, and being satisfied, their heart became proud; therefore, they forgot me.”

Ps 62:10

“Do not trust in oppression, and do not vainly hope in robbery; if riches increase, do not set your heart upon them.”

Deut 8:11-14

“Beware lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments and His ordinances and His statutes which I am commanding you today; lest, when you have eaten and are satisfied, and have built good houses and lived in them, and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and gold multiply, and all that you have multiplies, then your heart becomes proud forget the LORD your God who brought you out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”

Prov 16:5

“Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; Assuredly, he will not be unpunished.”

(Prov 11:20; Prov 18:12; Prov 21:4; Prov 28:14; Psalm 101:5)

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Dangerous Heart Conditions

• Hardening of the Heart

Heb 3:12-19

“Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”

Jer 5:23-24

“But this people has a stubborn and rebellious heart; they have turned aside and departed. They do not say in their heart, "Let us now fear the LORD our God, who gives rain in its season, both the autumn rain and the spring rain, who keeps for us the appointed weeks of the harvest.”

Acts 7:51

“You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.”

(Deut. 15:7; Lev. 26:41; Psalm 17:10; Jer 9:14)

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Dangerous Heart Conditions

- **Giving only part of your heart to God**

King Solomon *I Kings 11:4-6*

Jeroboam *I Kings 15:3*

Jehu *II Kings 10:30-31*

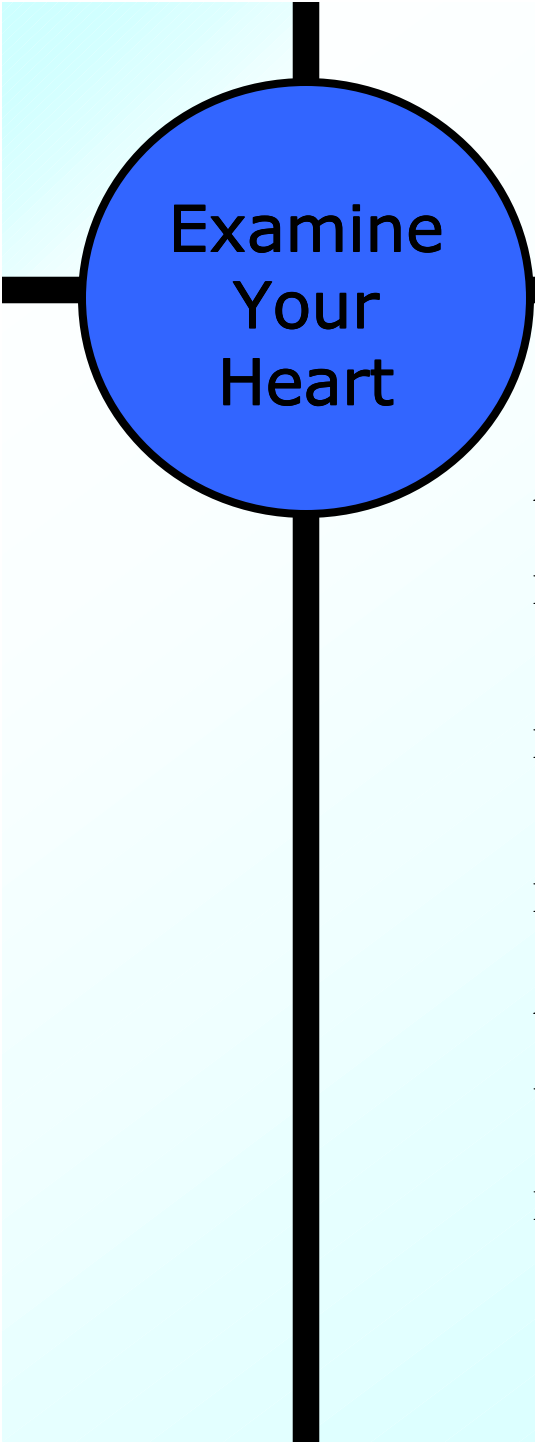
Amaziah *II Chron 25:1-28*

Abijam *I Kings 15:3*

David's instruction to his son Solomon,...

1 Chr 28:9

"As for you, my son Solomon, know the God of your father, and serve Him with a whole heart and a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts, and understands every intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will let you find Him; but if you forsake Him, He will reject you forever."



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Dangerous Heart Conditions

- **Gradual Decline – Warnings Signs**

Are your spiritual thoughts shallow and infrequent?

Do you study just what you “need to” or only as much as you think you “need to know”?

Do you make decisions without consulting God’s word or praying for God’s guidance?

Does secret sin reign in your heart?

Are you ungrateful while in abundance?

What’s coming out of your mouth?

Is there anger, envy, or adultery in your heart?

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How should our hearts be?

- **Totally Committed to God**

Deut 6:5

"And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

Matt 22:37

"And He said to him," You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."

(Josh 22:5; II Kings 23:3; Mark 12:33; II Chron 6:14; I Kings 15:14; James 4:7-8; Deut. 10:12
Deut. 11:13; Deut. 26:16; II Kings 22:18; II Kings 23:25)

2 Chr 16:9

"For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolish in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars."

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How should our hearts be?

- **Like David's heart**

1 Kings 14:8

“...,and tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you-- yet you have not been like My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart, to do only that which was right in My sight;”

Obedient

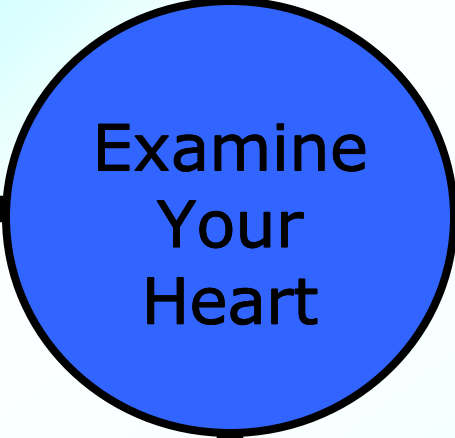
Ps 119:10-11

“With all my heart I have sought Thee; do not let me wander from Thy commandments. Thy word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against Thee.”

Humble

Ps 131:1

“O LORD, my heart is not proud, nor my eyes haughty,...”



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How should our hearts be?

- **Like the heart of Jesus**

Matt 11:29

"Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls."

1 Pet 3:14-16

"But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame."

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Hearts can be changed

- **Hezekiah**

2 Chr 31:20-21

“And thus Hezekiah did throughout all Judah; and he did what was good, right, and true before the LORD his God. And every work which he began in the service of the house of God in law and in commandment, seeking his God, he did with all his heart and prospered.”

2 Chr 32:25

“But Hezekiah gave no return for the benefit he received, because his heart was proud; therefore wrath came on him and on Judah and Jerusalem.”

2 Chr 32:26

“However, Hezekiah humbled the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the LORD did not come on them in the days of Hezekiah.”

