

Follow-up Studies: Hindrance—The Heart

The Bible speaks of the heart as the governing center of the whole man—intellectual, physical, and psychological, and thus a man's heart makes him what he is and gives rise to all his thoughts and actions. It is imperative that a young disciple be taught to guard his heart, to keep it sensitive and open to God's Word.

Introduction

- 1 Samuel 16:7—God looks at the heart.

Problems of the heart

- Jeremiah 17:9—Deceitfulness: in the sense of feelings and impulses. Deceitful with regard to discerning the truth, or what is best.
- Mark 7:20-23—Sinfulness: the heart is the source of sin, as well as evil desires.
- Hebrews 3:12—Hardening: hearts can become hard, become unbelieving (doubt) and turn away from God.

The remedy

- Jeremiah 29:13—Seek God with all our heart. This verse is not just for non-Christians!
- Psalm 51:17—Cultivate a penitent, contrite heart, which responds quickly to God's Word.
- Psalm 119:11—Hide God's Word in our hearts.
- Proverbs 3:5-6—Trust in the Lord with all our hearts.
- Ezekiel 11:19-20—The Lord has placed his Spirit in our hearts to lead us in the right way.

Conclusion

- Proverbs 4:23—Above all else, guard your heart! It is the source of our spiritual life.
- Suggested: Genesis 6:5, 2 Chronicles 16:9, Psalm 51:10, Proverbs 14:12, 28:26, Ezekiel 18:31, 1 John 3:20.

Practicals

- Pray for a pure heart.
- Confess sin; be humble.
- Write out Bible verses that pertain to your heart.