

# THE MATTER OF THE HEART

*The heart of the matter is the matter of the heart.*

The Bible mentions the word 'heart' almost 1,000 times.

No matter how intentional we are to please God, we cannot live beyond what is in our heart.

As far as God is concerned, the condition of our heart matters to God.

*The heart of the matter is the matter of the heart.*  
Our biggest problem is not external but internal.  
All of us have a heart problem.

## **What does the Bible say about the condition of the human heart?**

**Jeremiah 17:9** – *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?*

**Genesis 6:5** – *And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*

Also read **Romans 1:21; Mark 7:21-22 and Matthew 6:21**

**We may not be aware of it but God is after our heart.**

God sees and works in our heart.

God stirs things in our heart.

**1 Samuel 16:7** – *But the LORD said to Samuel, the LORD does not see as man does. For man sees the outward appearance, but the LORD sees the heart.*

**Jeremiah 17:10** – *“I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”*

**Proverbs 21:2** – *Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the heart.*

Our life, our decisions, where we are heading in life, are all reflections of what is going on within our hearts.

**Proverbs 23:7** – *For what man thinks in his heart so is he.*

**What man thinks in his heart that he will become.**

*If you sow a thought, you will reap an action.*

*If you sow an action, you will reap a habit.*

*If you sow a habit, you will reap a character.*

*If you sow a character, you will reap a destiny.*

Our heart is the most fertile soil on planet Earth. Whatever you sow in your heart will eventually bear fruit, will affect your future and will have a repercussion to your eternal destiny.

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## **We need to be diligent in looking after our heart.**

**Proverbs 4:23** – *Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*

The heart is the core of who you are as a person. Your heart is essentially you.

With your heart you choose between good and evil.

If our heart is pure, then everything stemming from our life is pure.

If our heart is impure, then everything stemming from our life is impure.

Your actions and decisions are results of what is in your heart.

Jesus says this very clearly in **Matthew 12:35**, “*A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.*”

## **Jesus pointed out the fallen condition of our hearts.**

### **Mark 7:21-23**

<sup>21</sup> *For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,*

<sup>22</sup> *thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.*

<sup>23</sup> *All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”*

The Fall has affected us at the deepest level; our mind, emotions and desires have been tainted by sin – and we are blind to just how pervasive the problem is.

## **God can create a new heart within us.**

**Ezekiel 36:26** - *And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.*

## **Some principles to consider in maintaining a clean heart.**

### **1. Pray for God to cleanse your heart.**

Read Psalm 51:10-13.

When we have a clean heart, we start seeing things the way God sees them.

### **2. Draw near to God.**

**James 4:8** – *Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.*

The key to being close to God is – **to get close to God.**

Read Matthew 11:28-30

### **3. Keep His Word close to your heart.**

**Psalm 119:11** – *I have stored up (kept) your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.*

- **God's Word cleanses our hearts.**

**John 15:3** – *You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.*

- **God's Word brings healing to our hearts.**

**Psalm 107:20** – *He sent His word and healed them.*

- **God's Word is our key to defeat the enemy.**

Read Matthew 4:1-11

### **4. Let Jesus be the desire of your heart.**

**Psalm 37:4** - *Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

The only one who can heal and restore our broken and ailing heart is not the one who broke it but the one who made it.

We can only love and serve others greatly when we love God and serve God with a pure heart.

*Remember your heart matters to God!*