

THE “HEART” OF MAN, WHAT IT IS, WHAT IT DOES.

(April/1999 – EKB)

Both in the Old Testament and New Testament the **“heart” of man is the innermost wellspring of the life of a person**, *Pro 4:23, Mat 12:35*.

1Pet 3:4 describes it as the “hidden person of the heart.”

Before conversion, the “heart” of man is bound up in wickedness. *Jer 17:9, Ezk 36:26, Mat 15:18,19, Mat 12:34,35, 2Pet 2:14, Eph 4:18, Rom 1:21*

During conversion to faith in Christ, there is a change in the “heart” of man, and a process of cleansing occurs and continues. *Ezk 36:25-27, Ac 15:9, Mat 12:35(NKJV), Lk 6:45*.

After conversion, the believer is still urged to continue seeking after a “heart” that is completely pure in God’s eyes and free from sin. *Jam 4:8, Pro 4:23, Mat 5:8, Ps 51:10, 1Tim 1:5, Jam 3:14, 2Chr 16:9, Ps 139:23, Pro 23:26, 2Tim 2:22, 1Pet 1:22*.

The “heart” functions in:

1. **expressing emotions:** *Rom 9:2, 2Cor 2:4, Eph 5:19, Jn 16:22, 1Tim 1:5, Jn 16:6, Jn 14:1, Ac 21:13*.
2. **thinking and reasoning:** *Mk 2:6, Mat 9:4, Lk 24:38, Heb 4:12, Lk 2:19, Mat 13:15, Pro 23:7*.
3. **choosing and making decisions:** *Ac 11:23, 2Cor 9:7, Rom 6:17*.
4. **the working of conscience:** *Ac 2:37, 1Jn 3:20, Rom 2:15, Heb 10:22*.
5. **believing and having faith in the Word of God:** *Mk 11:23, Rom 10:9,10, Heb 10:22, Lk 24:25, Ac 8:37(NKJV)*.
6. **love towards God:** *Mk 12:30, Rom 5:5, 1Tim 1:5*.
7. **being the place within us where God’s laws are written:** *Rom 2:15, Heb 8:10, Ps 40:8*.
8. **the place in man where the seed of God’s Word is sown:** *Lk 8:12,15*.
9. **being the dwelling place of Christ in the believer:** *Eph 3:17*.
10. **being the place of the Holy Spirit in the believer:** *2Cor 1:22*.

From these references to the operations of the “heart”, it appears that **the “heart” comprises of the soul**, (emotions, mind and will – see No 95, pages 2,3), **and the spirit** (spiritual revelation or “intuition”, communion with God and conscience – see No 95, pages 2,3).

The believer in Christ has the ability **to direct his/her heart towards God**. *Jn 14:27, Pro 4:23, Jn 14:1, Mk 12:29, Jam 4:8, Pro 23:26*.

When God looks on a person, He does not see as we do, but **He looks on the heart**. *1Sam13:14, 1Sam 16:7, Ac 13:22, Ps 139:23, Lk 16:15, Rom 8:27, 1Thes 2:4, Rev 2:23*.

When You said, “Seek My face,” **my heart said to You, “Your face, Lord will I seek,”** *Ps 27:8*.