

# The Heart of the Matter

By George Anderson

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Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Bible.

Any Scripture with **bold** or *italics* sections are emphasizes placed at the discretion of the author for the purpose of drawing the reader's attention to a particular truth.

## Forward by Forrest Wychopen

I've had the privilege of meeting *Brother George Anderson* through a Bible Forum where fellow believers discuss Biblical doctrines and various Bible study subjects. I was immediately impressed with his love for and steadfast devotion to the written word of God. I have been equally encouraged by his spirit of humility as he shares the various truths God has shown him through the 50 years of being a believer.

I've posted, in part, an essay he has compiled on matters of the heart. This particular study is relevant to each believer who truly has a desire to abide in a deeper walk with Christ. In addition, it serves as a reminder for each of us to shield our heart with Biblical truth, "*for the days are evil.*"

For the full course study on the heart, as well as other study resources, I invite you to visit Brother George's website at: [www.thywordistruthkjv.com](http://www.thywordistruthkjv.com)

Praying you will benefit from this study on the heart,

Brother Forrest

## “The Heart of the Matter”

After reviewing hundreds of verses in the Bible on the heart no reasonable person can deny that the Scriptures clearly testify to its *existence*. It is also quite apparent that not only does the Bible affirm the *existence* of the heart; it also has a whole lot to say about its *purpose* and *function*.

We live in evil times and our culture is, without a doubt, one of the most ***corrupt*** and ***deceptive*** in the recorded history of mankind. The Bible describes the times we now live in by comparing them with two other particularly evil times:

**Luke 17:26** And as it was in the days of NOE, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man.

**27** They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and the flood came, and **destroyed** them all.

**28** Likewise also as it was in the days of LOT; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

**29** But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and **destroyed** them all.

An examination of the verses in the Bible regarding the spiritual, moral, and physical condition of the people living in those past times reveals an amazing and startling similarity to conditions in the world at this present time and the deplorable state of the vast majority of the people living on the earth today!

**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**.

**Genesis 6:11** The earth also was **corrupt** before God, and the earth was **filled with violence**.

**12** And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was **corrupt**; for **all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth**.

**Genesis 13:13** But the men of Sodom were **wicked** and **sinners** before the LORD **exceedingly**.

**Genesis 18:20** And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is **great**, and because their **sin is very grievous**;

*Wickedness, evil, and violence* are nothing new in the world; they have been in existence on this earth since the fall of Adam and Eve. However, the Bible records two [2] specific times in man's history when wickedness was exceedingly great; when evil abounded continually in the hearts of men and women; and when violence so filled the earth that God brought forth terrible judgment upon the earth and upon the people who committed all of the above sins.

In Noah's time God flooded the whole earth with water and destroyed every living thing [with the exception of Noah and his family] that breathed upon the earth because of man's terrible sinful state.

In the case of Sodom and Gomorrah God rained down fire and brimstone from heaven upon those wicked cities and the surrounding areas and killed every man, woman, and child in them [with the exception of Lot and his two daughters] because of the wicked and grievous sins of the people.

As for today - a comparison of just three (3) of the many popular areas of endeavor: (ENTERTAINMENT -TV, Movies, Radio, Magazines, etc. – The sad lack of character in the majority of the participants and perverse and corrupt content; SPORTS - The obnoxious character of many of the participants and the mean spirited manner in which the games are played; and SCHOOLS - The content of the curriculum and the lack of morals and character of the teachers and administrators) with the same institutions of the 1940's and 1950's will demonstrate an obvious and alarming decline in the spiritual and moral character in the people of these United States, to say nothing of the rest of the world.

The popular approval today of the common practice of fornication and the nearly unanimous opinion of adultery as being just an unimportant and harmless offense, is indicative of our spiritual and moral state. The general acceptance by more and more people of Sodomy and Lesbianism as an "acceptable alternative lifestyle" and the fact that anyone who objects to these sins or speaks out against them is now subject to ridicule, censure, and in many western nations – possible prosecution, punishment, or jail, clearly demonstrates that we are living in a very corrupt world.

The catalogue of personal sins and offenses are too numerous to list here but the following roster is a representative sample of just a few: The rise in crime in general (murder, rape, assault, robbery, extortion, theft, fraud, embezzlement, etc., etc., etc.); the general acceptance of almost all forms of pornography; the dramatic increase in sex crimes against children; the increase in the use of drugs and alcohol; the increase in divorce; the perverting, corruption and abandonment of traditional marriage and the corresponding destruction of the family. All these sins clearly demonstrate that our present world abounds in **wickedness** and is **only evil continually**.

As to the earth being "filled with violence", we live in one of the most violent countries in the world and in one of the most violent times in recorded history. Murder is commonplace and is being committed for petty reasons; violence in the government schools has risen dramatically; rape is often treated lightly in the so-called "criminal justice system"; the rape of minors and young children is on the increase; and people are assaulted daily for little or no reason. The list of offences could go on and on. However, the offenses listed above are only those which are being committed by individuals. The offenses committed by governments [states] in the last century have exceeded individual offenses by far.

The following quote demonstrates just how ***violent*** our present world really is:

*"In practice, communism is nothing less than sheer barbarism that makes even the horrors of Nazism pale in comparison. Professor Rudolph J. Rummel of the University of Hawaii outlines that barbarism in his book "Death by Government," a comprehensive detailing of the roughly **170 million people murdered by their own governments during the 20th century**. From 1917 to its collapse in 1991, the **Soviet Union murdered about 62 million of its own people**. During Mao Zedong's reign, **35,236,000, possibly more, Chinese citizens were murdered**. By comparison, Hitler's Nazis managed to **murder 21 million** of its citizens and citizens in nations they conquered. Adding these numbers to the **60 million lives lost in war MAKES THE 20TH CENTURY MANKIND'S MOST BRUTAL ERA.**"*

*(Are academic elites communists? By Walter E. Williams - August 16, 2006)*

Please keep in mind that the above quote is limited to just the Communist, Fascist, and Nazi atrocities. If we were to include the number of murders, rapes, tortures, and persecutions committed by Dictatorships (on the right & left) and Democracies (of all stripes) in Africa, Asia, and the Americas; and then add the atrocities committed by Muslim Nations throughout the continent of Africa, the Mid East, Asia Minor, Asia, and Indonesia; and if we were to add to the list of offenses - the cruel enslavement of millions upon millions of people by all of the governments listed above; we can easily say that in the last century the true scope and volume of violence perpetrated by individuals and governments upon the people of this earth is incalculable, and in regards to numbers – far exceeds any known time in the recorded history of mankind.

While American women and abortionists are "free" to exterminate millions of unborn babies, it takes decades to execute a serial killer. While the foulest, most disgusting, dirty, filthy, obscene and truly offensive language is commonly in use throughout the public square, the Ten Commandments are prohibited from being displayed. While teachers are "free" to espouse practically any perverse idea or concept that may come into the heart and mind of degenerate individuals in the so-called "public" (i.e. government) schools, we are prohibited from quoting even one verse from the Bible or freely expressing our faith. While Christian parents overwhelmingly have a deep concern about the genuine welfare of their children, the so-called "family" courts, government social service agencies, and government schools are continually intruding into legitimate family issues and concerns and interfering with parents exercising their lawful (God-given) Constitutional rights.

But why go on with the litany of the obvious moral and spiritual corruption sweeping our country and the world? (And even more tragically – God's church) We have reached the point in the history of the world where conditions are such that it is "easy" to practice evil; as a matter of fact we are *encouraged* (by: the schools, the media, entertainment, etc.) to do so. At the same time it is getting much more difficult with each passing day to walk after the Lord God and to serve Him according to the truth; as a matter of fact we are either being *discouraged* (by: churches, schools, media, entertainment, etc.) from doing so, or are even being *forbidden* (by: churches, courts, schools, government agencies, etc.) to do so!

Throughout recorded history every State (government) that has ever been in existence has embraced and promulgated an "official" or "approved" Religion.

Although [throughout history] some States may have *tolerated*, to some degree or another, some religions (other than the “official” religion), the fact is that most States, most of the time, have used the power of the State to persecute or destroy any religion other than the State (government) “approved” religion.

The disturbing fact is that in most of the world today people’s *hearts* have become so *darkened* and they have become so *blind* that they have embraced a religion without even knowing or acknowledging that it is a religion. That religion is called Humanism – from which many other State (government) “official” religions have emanated [Communism, Fascism, Nazism, Socialism, etc.].

Just as most of the countries that were in existence at the time of its founding, the United States had an “official” religion at its founding also - *Judeo-Christian*. However, unlike the other States (governments) it wasn’t an *organized* religion - it had no “official” headquarters or clergy.

In the Western world, as the various State (government) “official” religions (Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican, Presbyterian, etc.) have been changed, ignored, or abandoned, Humanism with one or more of its attendant *isms* has filled the void left behind.

Through the influence of the schools (K-12 & college); the media (Print, radio & television); government agencies (local, state & federal); and the courts (local, state & federal), our culture, and as a consequence our Country, has been radically changed from one that was based on Judeo-Christian law, precepts, and principles to one that is based on the subtle religion of Humanism. (Check out the substitution of unreasonable, untested, and failed “*Psychological solutions*” in the present day Court systems [especially the “Family Court”], in place of the tried, tested, reasonable, and proven Laws that guided our country from its founding up to the turn of the twentieth century.)

The religion of Humanism has succeeded in:

- *Searing* the **consciences** of most people, in regards to good and evil.
- *Occupying* the **minds** of most people with the superficial things of this world.
- *Alienating* most people’s **hearts** from God and God’s word.

The world is at war with God’s people, and that war is being waged on two (2) fronts. In Communist, Fascist, (Dictatorships) and Islamist (Muslim) countries the war against God’s people is prosecuted mainly in physical terms (murder, torture, physical persecution). In Democracies and Socialist countries the war is much more subtle – to the degree that most Christians aren’t even aware of it - (economic and social discrimination, fear, intimidation, coercion, ridicule, and government harassment are some of the weapons used). But it is still a war!

Humanism (with all the other *isms*) is diametrically opposed to the Bible, the God of the Bible, God’s people, and everything that God’s people believe. An examination of 25 basic beliefs held by all true Bible believers (listed below) will demonstrate that Humanists do not believe or accept even one of these 25 basic Bible precepts and, if given the opportunity, they will not only vehemently deny every single one of them, but try to prevent others from believing in them!

1. **God** – The Triune Godhead as presented in the Bible.
2. **Satan** – As an existing being – The father of evil.
3. **Angels** – As existing.
4. **Devils** – Demons & evil spirits as existing.
5. **Creation** – The Biblical account.
6. **Man** – As possessing three parts – a Body, a Soul, and a Spirit.
7. **The Soul** – As existing and being 1 part of the 3 parts of man.
8. **The Spirit** – As existing and being 1 part of the 3 parts of man.
9. **Evil** – As Existing - The Biblical concept of.
10. **The Heart** – As the seat of a person's thoughts, imaginations, affections, will, etc.,.
11. **Sin** – The Biblical Account of the fall – The sinful nature of all mankind.
12. **Redemption** – All of mankind's need for Salvation.
13. **Signs, wonders, miracles** – As recorded in the Bible.
14. **World wide Flood** – The Biblical Account.
15. **Division of Mankind** – Into three basic races: Shem, Ham, and Japeth.
16. **Accountability** – That individuals are responsible for their own actions – not society.
17. **Judgment** – That a time will come when God is going to judge all of mankind.
18. **Heaven** – As a place of Eternal Life with God.
19. **Hell** – As a place for Eternal Punishment.
20. **Hebrews – Jews – Israel** – As being God's earthly chosen people.
21. **Jesus Christ** – As being the ***bodily manifestation*** of the Godhead. As being the ***fullness*** of the Godhead bodily. As the ***Creator*** of the world and the universe. As the Jewish ***Messiah***. As the ***only Saviour*** of mankind and the world. As ***Rising*** from ***the dead***. As the ***Head*** of the ***Church*** – which is His body here on earth. As the ***King of Kings and Lord of Lords***.
22. **The Blood Atonement** – That Jesus Christ's Blood paid the price for sin – sins.
23. **Born Again** – That a person needs to be born again in order to enter into Heaven.
24. **The Church** – Christ's Bride – The Pillar and Ground of the Truth.
25. **Marriage** – God's Institution – Between one man and one woman.

Through out the so called evangelical- fundamental Christian world Humanism has slowly and subtly made its way into the "Christian" Colleges, Seminaries, Bible Schools, and Institutes. Most of the "mega-churches" pattern themselves after the "Madison Avenue Model" with a heavy emphasis on the earthly, carnal, and materialistic aspects of life.

At this point in time in the history of God's church the emphasis by most of the highly regarded church "leaders" in the western world and God's people in general is on emulating the world - duplicating and instituting its systems within the church i.e. the Body of Christ. *Worldliness* (Humanism in disguise), with all of its attendant evils and pitfalls, is in. Godliness, (as defined by Scripture) is out!

Worldly methods, programs, and systems dominate the churches of the day, so that "success" is measured by *size* and *numbers*: (the *size*, beauty, and grandeur of church buildings; the *size* of "Christian" college campuses; the *size* of the "ministry" of renowned evangelists and preachers; and then the *number* of congregants; the

*number* of "decisions for Christ"; the *number* of baptisms; the *number* of dollars collected; and the *number* of missionaries supported, etc. etc.)

Today "*faithfulness*" to God and His word is measured by the *number* of church services attended; the *number* of homes visited; the *number* of Bible tracts passed out; and the *number* of souls led to the Lord, etc. etc.) In addition to the foregoing, "*faithfulness*" to God and His word is also measured by God's peoples' *participation* in the many varied church activities: (*participation* in the choir; *participation* in the "song service"; *participation* in the "nursery"; *participation* in the "Sunday School"; *participation* in the "bus ministry"; *participation* in the "pre-school ministry", etc. etc. etc.)

In and of themselves, there is nothing wrong with most of the above activities. (Although a "pre-school ministry" for working mom's is a stretch!) The problem is that these "*programs*" and "*activities*" have replaced the word of God and the Holy Spirit in the churches. Christians no longer look to the Holy Scriptures for the truth **John 17:17**, and God's people no longer rely on the Holy Spirit to guide them into all truth **John 16:13**.

According to the Scriptures, there are many things that God's people must do to have *fellowship* with God and to maintain that *fellowship* (**1Corinthians 1:9**;

**Ephesians 3:9**; **Philippians 2:1**; **1John 1:3**; **1John 1:7**). Some major things are listed below:

- Fear God (**Deuteronomy 5:29**; **1Samuel 12:24**; **Psalms 86:11**; **Proverbs 23:17**)
- Love God (**Deuteronomy 6:5**; **Joshua 22:5**; **Matthew 22:37**; **Mark 12:30**)
- Love the brethren (**1Peter 1:22**; **1Peter 3:8**; **1John 3:14**)
- Love our neighbor (**Matthew 22:39**; **Mark 12:33**; **Luke 10:27**)
- Love God's word (**Psalms 119:159**; **Zechariah 8:19**; **2Thessalonians 2:10**)
- Hide God's word in our heart (**Psalms 119:11**)
- Keep God's word (**Psalms 119:67**; **Psalms 119:67**; **Psalms 119:101**)
- Avoid sin (**Psalms 4:4**; **Psalms 66:18**; **Psalms 119:1**; **Isaiah 59:2**)

Please note that most of the activities and programs that are encouraged, promoted, and emphasized today are not among the things listed above. Again, according to the Scriptures, we are to serve God with our whole heart (**Deuteronomy 10:12**; **Deuteronomy 11:13**; **Joshua 22:5**; **1Samuel 7:3**; **1Samuel 12:20**; **1Chronicles 28:9**). And there are many things that God's people can do to serve God, but we better be sure [absolutely sure] that we are serving Him according to the TRUTH [The Bible = Scripture = God's words]. **1Samuel 12:24** Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with **all your heart**: for consider how great things he hath done for you. **Psalms 33:4** For the word of the LORD is right; and **all His works are done in truth**. **John 3:21** But **he that doeth truth** cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

It is time for God's people to heed the many warnings about the heart. It is about time for God's people to embrace the Scriptural teachings on the heart, and put into practice (obey) the admonitions and commands regarding it. It is way past time for

God's people either to believe God's word and the record God has left us or reject it. (1Kings 18:21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, **How long halt ye between two opinions?** if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.)

To successfully combat the subtle corrupting influence of humanism, each individual Christian must:

1. Examine ourselves – whether we are “in the faith”.

**2Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?**

2. Prove our own selves – that we are not “reprobates”.

**2Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; **prove your own selves.** Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?**

3. Study God's word for God's approval –*rightly dividing* the word of truth.

**2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself **approved unto God**, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.**

4. Study God's word to answer – those who are sincerely searching.

**Proverbs 15:28 The **heart** of the righteous **studieth to answer**: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.**

5. Study God's word according to God's principles - using God's outline.

**Isaiah 28:9-13 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. **10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:** **11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. **12 To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear. **13 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.********

6. Keep thy *heart* with all diligence – To avoid the snares, the pitfalls, and the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil.

**Proverbs 4:23 **KEEP** thy **heart** with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.**

In order to be faithful to God in everything we must continually *examine* our hearts concerning our motives, and we must constantly *monitor* our hearts to assure

ourselves that we are walking after and serving the Lord God according to His truth. The importance of "*keeping*" one's heart is perhaps, at this point in the history of the church, the most neglected Biblical precept given by God to His people and laid out in the in His Holy word.

**PROVERBS 4:23** says, **Keep thy heart with all diligence**; for out of it are the issues of life.

The fact that the writer of Proverbs 4:23 was King Solomon (the wisest man who ever lived) reveals to us just how **deceitful** the heart really is. Solomon knew that this proverb was true, and yet [with all his wisdom] he failed to keep it himself!

#### 1. WE MUST **EXAMINE** OUR HEART

**2Corinthians 13:5** **Examine yourselves**, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? (What are we to examine? – **Our heart!**)

**Psalms 26:2** **Examine me**, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my **heart**.

#### 2. WE MUST **WASH** OUR HEART FROM **WICKEDNESS**

**Jeremiah 4:14** O Jerusalem, **wash thine heart from wickedness**, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?

#### 3. OUR HEARTS MUST BE **SPRINKLED** FROM AN EVIL CONSCIENCE

**Hebrews 10:22** Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our **hearts sprinkled** from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

#### 4. WE MUST **PREPARE** OUR HEARTS TO **SEEK** THE LORD GOD

**2Chronicles 19:3** Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and hast **prepared** thine **heart to seek** God.

**2Chronicles 30:18** For a multitude of the people, even many of Ephraim, and Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun, had not cleansed themselves, yet did they eat the passover otherwise than it was written. But Hezekiah prayed for them, saying, The good LORD pardon every one

**19** That **prepareth** his **heart to seek** God, the LORD God of his fathers, though he be not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary.

#### 5. WE MUST **SET** OUR HEART TO **SEEK** THE LORD GOD

**1Chronicles 22:19** Now **set your heart** and your soul **to seek** the LORD your God; arise therefore, and build ye the sanctuary of the LORD God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and the holy vessels of God, into the house that is to be built to the name of the LORD.

**2Chronicles 11:16** And after them out of all the tribes of Israel such as **set their hearts to seek** the LORD God of Israel came to Jerusalem, to sacrifice unto the LORD God of their fathers.

6. WE MUST **PREPARE** OUR HEARTS UNTO THE LORD GOD

**1Samuel 7:3** And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and **prepare your hearts** unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.

**1Chronicles 29:18** O LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of the heart of thy people, and **prepare their heart** unto thee:

**Job 11:13** If thou **prepare** thine **heart**, and stretch out thine hands toward him;

**Psalms 10:17** LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt **prepare their heart**, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:

7. WE MUST **RETURN** UNTO THE LORD GOD WITH ALL OUR HEART

**1Samuel 7:3** And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do **return** unto the **LORD** with all your **hearts**, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.

**1Kings 8:48** And so **return** unto **thee** with all their **heart**, and with all their soul, in the land of their enemies, which led them away captive, and pray unto thee toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, the city which thou hast chosen, and the house which I have built for thy name:

**2Chronicles 6:38** If they **return** to **thee** with all their **heart** and with all their soul in the land of their captivity, whither they have carried them captives, and pray toward their land, which thou gavest unto their fathers, and toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house which I have built for thy name:

**Jeremiah 24:7** And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the **LORD**: and they shall be my people, and I will be their **God**: for they shall **return** unto **me** with their whole **heart**.

8. WE MUST: **PURPOSE** IN OUR HEARTS TO **CLEAVE** UNTO THE LORD

**Acts 11:23** Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with **purpose of heart** they would **cleave** unto the Lord.

9. OUR HEARTS MUST BE **ESTABLISHED**

**Psalms 112:8** His **heart** is **established**, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies.

**Hebrews 13:9** Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the **heart** be **established** with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

**James 5:8** Be ye also patient; **stablish** your **hearts**: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

#### 10. OUR HEART MUST BE SINGLE

**Acts 2:46** And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and **singleness** of **heart**,

**Ephesians 6:5** Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in **singleness** of your **heart**, as unto Christ;

**Colossians 3:22** Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in **singleness** of **heart**, fearing God:

#### 11. OUR HEART MUST BE SET UNTO GOD'S WORDS

**Deuteronomy 32:46** And he said unto them, **Set your hearts** unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law.

#### 12. OUR HEART MUST BE SET TO UNDERSTAND

**Daniel 10:12** Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst **set thine heart** to **understand**, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words.

#### 13. WE MUST GUIDE OUR HEARTS IN THE WAY

**Proverbs 23:19** Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and **guide thine heart** in the way.

#### 14. WE MUST WALK BEFORE THE LORD IN TRUTH

**1Kings 2:4** That the LORD may continue his word which he spake concerning me, saying, If thy children take heed to their way, to **walk before me** in **truth** with all their **heart** and with all their soul, there shall not fail thee (said he) a man on the throne of Israel.

**1Kings 3:6** And Solomon said, Thou hast shewed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he **walked before thee** in **truth**, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of **heart** with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

**2Kings 20:3** I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have **walked before thee** in **truth** and with a perfect **heart**, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.

15. WE MUST **OBSERVE** GOD'S **LAW** WITH OUR WHOLE HEART

**Psalms 119:34** Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy **law**; yea, I shall **observe it** with my **whole heart**.

16. OUR HEART MUST BE **OBEDIENT** TO GOD'S **VOICE**

**Deuteronomy 30:2** And shalt return unto the **LORD** thy **God**, and shalt **obey his voice** according to all that I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all thine **heart**, and with all thy soul;

17. WE MUST **OBEY** GOD'S **DOCTRINE** FROM OUR HEART

**Romans 6:17** But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have **obeyed** from the **heart that form of doctrine** which was delivered you.

18. GOD'S PEACE MUST **RULE** IN OUR HEARTS

**Colossians 3:15** And let the **peace** of God **rule** in your **hearts**, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

19. WE MUST **SPEAK** THE **TRUTH** IN OUR HEARTS

**Psalms 15:2** He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and **speaketh the truth** in his **heart**.

20. WE MUST **NOT HARDEN** OUR HEARTS

**Deuteronomy 15:7** If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, **thou shalt not harden thine heart**, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:

**Psalms 95:8** **Harden not your heart**, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

**Hebrews 3:8** **Harden not your hearts**, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

**Hebrews 3:15** While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, **harden not your hearts**, as in the provocation.

**Hebrews 4:7** Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, **harden not your hearts**.

21. WE MUST **STAND STEADFAST** IN OUR HEARTS

**1Corinthians 7:37** Nevertheless he that **standeth stedfast** in his **heart**, having no necessity, but hath power over his own will, and hath so decreed in his heart that he will keep his virgin, doeth well.

## 22. OUR HEART MUST NOT TURN BACK TO OUR OLD SINFUL WAYS

**Psalms 44:18** Our **heart** is not turned back, neither have our steps declined from thy way,

## 23. WE MUST PURPOSE IN OUR HEART NOT TO BE DEFILED

**Daniel 1:8** But Daniel purposed in his **heart** that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

## 24. WE MUST RELY ON GOD TO STRENGTHEN OUR HEARTS

**Psalms 27:14** Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine **heart**: wait, I say, on the LORD.

**Psalms 31:24** Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your **heart**, all ye that hope in the LORD.

**Psalms 73:26** My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my **heart**, and my portion for ever.

## 25. WE MUST TRUST IN THE LORD GOD

**Psalms 13:5** But I have trusted in thy mercy; my **heart** shall rejoice in thy salvation.

**Psalms 28:7** The LORD is my strength and my shield; my **heart trusted** in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

**Psalms 33:21** For our **heart** shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.

**Psalms 64:10** The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in **heart** shall glory.

**Psalms 112:7** He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his **heart** is fixed, trusting in the LORD.

**Proverbs 3:5** Trust in the LORD with all thine **heart**; and lean not unto thine own understanding.