

Have you given God your heart?

Introduction

- 1) What is the heart?
- 2) Why should I give my heart?
- 3) What and why are you holding back? / Hindrances
- 4) How much of your heart does God have?

What is the heart?

1) Dictionary definition

Oxford English Dictionary gives two interesting definitions of the heart.

- 1) “The muscular organ that pumps the blood around the body.”
- 2) “The central or innermost part”

Both these definitions also describe the spiritual heart of man. Our hearts are central to who we are; the heart is the source of our life. The heart dictates our emotions, our decisions and guides our conduct.

2) Biblical definition

Some say the spiritual heart of man is in his soul others say it is in mans spirit. Rather than debating the location I'd rather take a closer look at what the heart is.

In Proverbs the bible describes the heart as the Fountain of life.

Proverbs 4v23 (AMP)

23 Keep and guard your heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life.

Anything that enters the *door* of the *heart* will surly bare fruit in your (soul) life. The condition of your heart shapes your character and personality. The heart is central, it is the head quarter, it is the capital city, it is the control panel of man. And God is after the heart.

(The heart of the donut is the Jam.)

3) The hearts condition

It is important to know the hearts condition before God. Knowing what God thinks about you is more important than what others think about you. And what God says about you is more accurate than what you say about yourself. This is one of the things that made David precious in God's sight; he was always concerned with God's view. “He said things like search me oh Lord, “ “Where are you Lord?”

Jeremiah 17v9-10

*The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?
10 "I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward a man according to his conduct, according to what his deeds deserve*

Are we spending time on a daily basis to listen to the voice of the Spirit? What voice are you listening to? The voices in the world tell us we are good people at heart except the for a few rotten apples like Hitler, Bin Laden and so on, but most of us are good. And when an absolutely vile crime takes place, like a guy shooting up his school, the news is quick to blame it on him having some sort of abnormal mental issue. The Bible tells us we have inherited a sinful nature from Adam.

I was once said this to a Muslim and he passionately disagreed with me. He said "Are you saying that a little baby is a sinner". I said "Yes, he has inherited a sinful nature". He said "that's stupid babies are innocent", And I said "Just give it 5 or 6 years and you'll agree with me that babies also have the sinful nature"

Mark 7v20-23 (AMP)

20 And He said, What comes out of a man is what makes a man unclean and renders [him] unhallowed.

21 For from within, [that is] out of the hearts of men, come **base and wicked thoughts**, sexual immorality, stealing, murder, adultery,

22 Coveting (a greedy desire to have more wealth), dangerous and destructive wickedness, deceit; unrestrained (indecent) conduct; an evil eye (envy), slander (evil speaking, malicious misrepresentation, abusiveness), pride (the sin of an uplifted heart against God and man), foolishness (folly, lack of sense, recklessness, thoughtlessness).

23 All these evil [purposes and desires] come from within, and they make the man unclean and render him unhallowed.

The message translation says
all these are vomit from the heart. There is the source of your pollution.

I was evangelising to some people at a bus stop in Dalston junction. As I was speaking to a mother, her young daughter vomited on the pavement. I had to pause as she sick dribbled and dribbled out of her mouth. The fresh vomit was steaming as it was a cold day, and the smell was potent. I turned to everyone near by and I said, that's how God sees your sin.

Why Should I give my heart?

1) We NEED to

I think this question (Why should I give God my heart?) is only asked when we haven't become aware of our desperate predicament. We may view the Bible's description of our pitiful state as a symbolic concept, as a fairy tale.

We ask why should I give God my heart?

Does a drowning man say why do I need a lifeline? Or does a sick man say why do I need medication?

A drowning man may not ask for a lifeline if he believes he can swim though he can't, and the sick man might reject medication if he believed he was healthy.

As a drowning man requires a lifeline and as a sick man requires medication. A sinner is in desperate need for a saviour.

Unfortunately this is the predicament many of us are in. Our deceitful hearts have tricked us again. Only God can cure the sickness of the heart but we think we can. God wants to create in us a new heart of flesh but we don't see the problem with our old hearts of stone.

The Bible already tells us our hearts are deceitfully wicked. But we say, "Well I'm bad but not wicked". "In comparison to others I'm quite a lovely person".

It's like a midget boasting that he is taller than a dwarf; they've both fallen short.

Don't compare your self to others. When we allow the Spirit to examine our hearts in the light of God's standard (His Righteousness and Holiness) we would cry, "..., *Woe is me! For I am undone and ruined, because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!*" (Isaiah 6:5)

2) To live a righteous life

Ezekiel 36:25-28

25 Then I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness; and from all your idols will I cleanse you.

26 A new heart will I give you and a new spirit will I put within you, and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you shall heed My ordinances and do them.

28 And you shall dwell in the land that I gave your fathers: and you shall be My people and I will be your God.

If we want to live a righteous life God must be in control. Just like an army conquers a capital city (the strong hold) in order to control a country. God must take over our head quarters. If God is at the centre he can control our conduct. He can accomplish his will in our lives. God wants to sit enthroned on our hearts like a dictator, His will is our command, but this is not the case. We want a democratic system, we're not sure if God has our best interest at heart. We want him in charge sometimes; most times we want to be in the driving seat.

God desires to change us from the inside out. We are Pharisaic in our ways, we know how to look like white washed tombs, though internally we are a mess. We know how to look like we are submitted to Christ on the outside but the inside is a different picture. We spend time and invest our money into looking presentable before men, but not before God.

I hope this message encourages you to go home and spend time with the Lord. Yes you're a Christian, but you haven't given God your all and neither are you striving to. If God's intention for you being saved was for you to just enter heaven, He would immediately rapture you as soon as you said the sinners prayer. God wants to live through you and express His glory in your life. As a born again child of God my concern is not entering heaven, my concern is entering heaven gloriously.

Dr Tozer once said

“We'll hardly get our feet out of time into eternity and gaze on eternity, before we bow our heads in shame and humiliation and say ‘MY God Look at all the riches there was in Jesus Christ and I have come to the judgment seat almost a pauper’”

What and why are you holding back?

We sing “Lord I give you my heart, I give you my soul, I live for you alone...”
But how much land have you given God to possess in your heart?
How much of your soul/life does he have?
Do you really live for Him alone (even every breath)?

I have outlined three reasons why we may be holding back from God

1) Pride

I heard someone say, a prideful man can never see God because he only looks down. This statement is very true, whether its down, as in looking down at others or whether its down due to low self esteem.

The Bible tells us that God resists the proud. We often come to God thinking we are somebody's. We live in an age where the TV and magazines are filled with feel good messages. L'Oreal tells us “because your worth it”, worth what? You are made of the same dust as Hitler, you possess the same sinful nature. Humble your self before the mighty God who took pity on your wretched soul and stretched his hands on the cross to save you.

Pride is basically being self-centred. Cs Lewis illustrated a picture of pride and it was a picture of a man trying to wash himself unsuccessfully. You can buy all the self-help books you like, but only Christ can solve your problem. You need to admit that you are helpless to receive God's help. And after receiving God's salvation we must retain an attitude of humility, not one of, “I'll take it from hear now God”. We want to reach a place of independency, of adult-hood. We want to be all grown up, but the Bible lets us know we must grow down.

(Only Children enter heaven)

2) Fear

We often feel that if we give all absolutely to God, he'll mess up our life. We are afraid he may cramp our style.

“Look what God did to Ezekiel the prophet, He made him lie on his side for months

as a sign to the Israelites.

Look at Joseph his brothers betrayed him and he was left in Prison

Look at Steven He was stoned to death

Look at Paul, he was beat in every city, or a lot of the city's he went to preach in.

I personally have a friend who's in his early twenties and God has called him to go to Sudan to reach the lost souls.

If I give God all of myself, will he mess up my life like that?"

If I stood here and said the Christian walk is a bed of roses I'd clearly be lying. In fact if your Christian walk has been a bed of roses, you need to examine yourself.

Jesus said, "if the world hates you keep in mind that it hated me first"

Jesus said "take up your cross and follow me"

Jesus said "Woe to you when all men speak well of you, in the same way they spoke of the false prophets" ... ouch

But also keep in mind that Jesus said he came to set the captives free and to give life more abundantly.

So will Jesus mess up your life? Well, If you've given him your life it's his to mess up anyway. And if you don't give him your life, your more than likely to mess up your own life anyway. God does discipline those he loves, but we are to rejoice in our trails and tribulations because all things work out for the good of those who love Him.

Remember that we serve a loving and caring God; One of God's names is Jehova El Roi , which means the Lord sees. We Worship a God that sees and knows our needs. He sees our worries. He's not insensitive. So we need not fear. We need not hold back from God. Perfect love casts out fear.

3) Lack of Trust (which is linked to fear)

We doubt if God has our best interest and we doubt that he has the power t complete the work he started in us.

How much of your heart does God have?

Hebrew 11 tells us of the great cloud of witnesses that have gone before us. Think of the great men in the Bible,

Paul, Elijah, Moses, David, Enoch ...

think of the great men of God in history.

These men sought God for themselves

How much of YOUR HEART have YOU GIVEN God?