



Outer Growth - Heart

For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 6:21

Human heart - Matthew 15:19

Eyes/ears - Deuteronomy 29:4, Isaiah 6:10, Mathew 13:15, Acts 28:27

Attitude - John 16:6

Remember - Numbers 11:5, Luke 17:32

Thinking/Thoughts - Matthew 9:4, Luke 5:22, 24:38, James 2:4

A famous quote by Pliny, the Elder, says, "Home is where the heart is." Still, the physical place we live in is similar to our soul. All of us have and value certain things above others in our lives. However, what is in our hearts that we treasure? Does God, His Son, have a place inside our hearts?

There is a song by a group that starts with the opening line, "I'm only human of flesh and blood I'm made. Human: born to make mistakes." The heart is the center of human life, surrounded and supported by other internal and external body parts and the physical senses. However, the soul compliments the body and vice versa. How a person operates depends upon the inside of their heart.

What we think and how we consider will affect the heart. The feelings, dispositions, and tendencies, be also upon the earth as in the compatible sphere of your inner life, will be ethically bound to the ground, and *vice versa*. Worldly-mindedness is a common and fatal symptom of hypocrisy, for by no sin can Satan have a surer and faster hold of the soul. The

worldly man is wrong in his first principle. Therefore all his reasonings and actions there must be immoral.

The human heart has the potential to contain the shameful catalog which follows is less than that in St. Mark seven, verses twenty-one to twenty-two, which consists of thirteen items, while this verse consists of seven only. These are produced or created by the human will, of which the heart is the symbol. Evil thoughts are the preparation of all other sins and have a pernicious influence on the character. We are very much what we think. If our minds focus on the chief object presented to our inward sight, then it will shape our disposition and life. High and noble thoughts elevate and purify, while low and mean thoughts debase and pollute. The wickedness in a human spring from within, and they become guilty of it. A person admits the tempter and succumbs to the seductions is their own will that is at fault, encouraging the evil imagination and not at once resisting, despising, and repelling it. For believers, Psalms fifty-one verse ten should be the daily quote during prayer and devotion when asking God for forgiveness because we never know if we sin. We should understand Proverbs twenty-four, verse three: we do not know what the day will bring, so followers of Christ must prepare prayerfully with God before starting with their commute.

Murders are taking the life of others with malice. The malice seat in the heart, and the murder proceeds from the heart. Every hatred was a degree of the same temper which moved Cain to murder his brother. The hatred for someone for a cause or due to an incident may be by accident or the desire to create a tragedy. The one who indulgeth hatred for his brother lays himself open to the influence of such passions as may hurry him to slay his brother.

Adultery and fornications can contaminate the heart, which begins with a simple thought. The intent is more strongly marked not the passing glance, not even the momentary impulse of desire, but the continual gaze deliberately cherished till it becomes a passion. Victory over those longings of the heart must address with painful exertions. But believers must do them. Everything in God's Word is to save us from our sins, not commit them. All senses

and powers should keep us from those things which lead to transgression.

Theft is the taking and carrying away the goods of others without their knowledge or consent. Thefts are caused by coveting the property of others. They proceed, therefore, from the heart and violate at the same time two commandments - the tenth commandment in thought and the eighth commandment in the act. A false witness is giving an incorrect testimony. Concealing the truth or stating what we know to be false violates the ninth commandment. It proceeds from a desire to injure others, to take away their character or property, or to do them injustice.

Blasphemy proceeds from opposition to God, hatred of his character in Romans eight, verse seven, and from a desire that there should be no God. It progresses from the heart.

The first verse that mentions eyes and ears with the heart in the Old Testament is in Deuteronomy. The heart receives fulfillment from experience with the eyes in what they see or the ears in what they hear. Many people have their hearts full of things concerning matters that these two senses have encountered. Some have their hearts filled with good life stories, while others harbor the opposite.

Saul, for example, took it to heart when the people were chanting his name and David's regarding the number of people they killed in public, as in First Samuel eighteen, verse seven. For the former king to see and hear it from the people, especially the ladies, causes him to have his heart feel with animosity against David. The following verse generates Saul to react with a question that infuriates him to the point that he wants to kill David. King Saul's example demonstrates what the eyes and ears could do to the heart in a situation like that.

The danger to the heart of a person is attitude. Jesus, in this verse of St. John sixteen, verse six, was speaking to the disciples that he must depart and go to be with His Father, and their heart was filled with sorrow. The hazard is not what comes into our hearts but the response to what comes out of it. As believers, we must guard our hearts to react in a way that pleases God. Nothing hinders our joy in the Lord than taking to heart the ungodly messages through

our senses that are a part of the world and the sorrow of the world which comes from it.

Rebekah, mother of Esau and Jacob in Jacob's stolen blessing in Genesis twenty-seven, verse five, heard when her husband Isaac spoke to Esau regarding bringing some venison and making savory meat for him. She tells her youngest son Jacob about what was said by the Father to the older brother, then instructs him to go out into the field and do the same to bring the meat back to her. Rebekah's mental outlook was to get the food to prepare for her younger one and give it to Isaac ahead of the eldest, Esau. The heart filled with the motive to rob an inheritance blessing from another shows the danger of such an attitude. Believers should be careful of such activity from the heart.

The heart is constantly full of memories. There is the memory of both good and bad things. The past experiences that each human being recalls now and then span from when they were born until now. The caution here is the heart. Each memory recall can reproduce the emotional feelings that may involve good or not-so-good things.

An example is when the Israelites came out of Egypt on the journey to the promised land. They left the place of bondage and began traveling into the wilderness. During the trip on foot, the Israelites did not have the adequate necessities they did back in Egypt. However, their stomach begins to affect the heart reminding them of past experiences in verse five of chapter eleven in Numbers. "We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlic." "Remember Lot's wife" is one of the shortest verses in the Bible. Tied third in the New Testament and overall in God's Word. The verse reminds us of the memory of Lot's wife hearing the explosions in the background with her and her family ahead fleeing away from Sodom and Gomorrah. What made her turn back to look when the angels warned them 'not to look back' during their visit before the destruction took place? She remembered the luxury of living in her heart leaving, even though the city had ungodly corruption.

The thoughts or the way of thinking is a threat to the heart that can cause the soul to sin and

separate from God. The mind influences the heart, which thinks about things or someone, good or evil. Believers must beware that sin could occur with a simple thought and should guard their minds and stay active in the Word of God. Too much thinking can lead to having the wrong attitude or experiencing mood swings.

An example of thoughts was Saul. In First Samuel, chapters twenty-one through twenty-two, the king finds out David visits Ahimelech and the priests with Doeg, the Edomite present, the chief herdsman who belongs to Saul in verse seven. The thoughts of Saul become evident in verses six to eight in chapter twenty-two. After Doeg, the Edomite reveals in the presence of Saul about David and finds out he has a sword. He expresses his thoughts in verse thirteen.

Saul kills Ahimelech plus the eighty-five priests based on his thinking and does not give any consideration for reconciliation. Saul receives the facts and story from other sources, showing how the heart can instantly do evil against others with no remorse. Believers must guard their minds against such an approach because there are two sides. We cannot investigate or hear one without the other. God is just, and we should have the heart to be the same when listening to a problem from both ends.

The heart is the most significant part of the human being. Without it, there would be no life at all. We live, breathe, and use our senses and operate. However, with the heart, we discover we were born in sin, as in Psalms fifty-one, verse five. The central part of God's people must guard against anger, lust, and greed, which are the big three the enemy uses against believers of God in an attempt to separate them.