

THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sunday, February 27, 2022
RENEWAL OF THE HEART

Message Summary:

In the message this week, Pastor Jordan Carter taught us about how to renew a clean heart within ourselves. The story of the selection of David as the future king of God's people clearly tells us that God cares about our heart. In the Bible, the heart reflects our most authentic self. It is the seat of our character. It is the composite of our inner man (mind, will, emotions and understanding) from which we choose or ignore decisions, where our choices are motivated by desire. The condition of our heart shows us our posture toward God. For this reason, we must guard our heart with all diligence. The integrity of our heart determines the direction of our life. We must guard our hearts and expel any external forces that attempt to toxify it. To do that we have to seek God. To understand God is to seek God, to befriend Him and commune with Him without an agenda. When we are quick to learn, open to learn and faithful to apply what God teaches us - from this POSTURE God can clean out our heart and renew us to experience life more abundantly.

Key Scriptures:

- **[1 Samuel 16:7 NKJV]** But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but **the LORD looks at the heart.**"
- **[Psalm 51:10-12 NKJV]** 10 **Create in me a clean heart**, O God, And **renew a steadfast spirit** within me. 11 Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.
- **[Proverbs 27:19 NKJV]** 19 As in water face reflects face, So a man's **heart reveals the man.**
- **[Proverbs 4:23 NKJV]** 23 **Keep your heart** with all diligence, For out of it [spring] the issues of life.
- **[Jeremiah 29:13 NKJV]** 13 And you will seek Me and find [Me], when you search for Me **with all your heart.**

Discussion Questions:

1. According to the Bible, what is the heart?
2. Why do you think the condition of your heart is so important to God?
3. How do you guard your heart?
4. What is the posture of your heart toward God and where do you need to be renewed?

Life Application:

This week as you study the key scriptures, consider what Pastor Jordan said, "The integrity of our heart determines the direction of our life. We must guard our hearts and expel any external forces that attempt to toxify it." Examine your heart. Is there anything that immediately comes to mind when you think of what is trying to toxify your heart? Maybe it's too much news or social media. Maybe it's constant negative thinking. Maybe it's fear for the future. Maybe it's a habit that takes your attention away from God and keeps your heart cluttered. Whatever it is, God wants to help you clean out your heart so you can be restored and renewed. How do you do this? The answer is found in Psalm 27:8 NKJV: "When You said, 'Seek My face,' My heart said to You, 'Your face, LORD, I will seek.'" You must run to God. Seek His face with your whole heart. When you bow your heart to God, everything that is trying to take his place in your heart must retreat. Pray the prayer of David from Psalm 51 over your heart, and ask God to create in you a clean heart.