

Clean Heart, Right Spirit: Create & Renew

Maintaining a clean heart allows us to host the Holy Spirit and seek God's will above our own.

Guard Your Heart Review

Heart Definition (Source Olive Tree Strong's Dictionary)

Inner man, mind, will, soul, understanding inner part, knowledge, thinking, reflection, inclination, resolution, determination (of will), conscience, the headquarters of appetites, emotions, and passions.

Proverbs 4:20-27

New Living Translation

20 My child, pay attention to what I say.

Listen carefully to my words.

21 Don't lose sight of them.

Let them penetrate deep into your heart,

22 for they bring life to those who find them,
and healing to their whole body.

23 Guard your heart above all else,
for it determines the course of your life.

24 Avoid all perverse talk;
stay away from corrupt speech.

25 Look straight ahead,
and fix your eyes on what lies before you.

26 Mark out a straight path for your feet;
stay on the safe path.

27 Don't get sidetracked;

keep your feet from following evil.

4 Strategies to Guard Your Heart

1. **Perverse talk, corrupt speech.**
2. **Wandering eyes, a failure to look straight ahead and see what's coming.**
3. **A failure to map out the straight path to God for your life and stay on it!**
4. **Getting sidetracked and following after what God calls evil, breaking the Lord's commandments (a failure to love Him with all of our heart).**

Sin & Repentance

The Sin

2 Samuel 12:7-9

New Living Translation

7 Then Nathan said to David, "You are that man! The Lord, the God of Israel, says: I anointed you king of Israel and saved you from the power of Saul. 8 I gave you your master's house and his wives and the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. And if that had not been enough, I would have given you much, much more. 9 Why, then, have you despised the word of the Lord and done this horrible deed? For you have murdered Uriah the Hittite with the sword of the Ammonites and stolen his wife.

The Repentance

Psalms 51:7-10

New Living Translation

7 Purify me from my sins,[a] and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

8 Oh, give me back my joy again;
you have broken me—
now let me rejoice.

9 Don't keep looking at my sins.
Remove the stain of my guilt.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Renew a loyal spirit within me.

Where the Heart Goes, The Spirit Follows

2 Samuel 11:1

New Living Translation

David and Bathsheba

11 In the spring of the year,[a] when kings normally go out to war, David sent Joab and the Israelite army to fight the Ammonites. They destroyed the Ammonite army and laid siege to the city of Rabbah. However, David stayed behind in Jerusalem.

When your heart is out of position you begin to crave the wrong things.

- If David had been where he was supposed to be, he would have been in a position to celebrate the victory and give glory to God. Which would have kept his heart on God.
- But because it was the season for conquest and laying siege (taking what belongs to someone else), he took Uriah's wife when he should have been taking the city of Rabbah.

When your heart craves sinful things it causes your spirit to oppose God and His desires.

- The dirtier the heart, the more unwilling the spirit of a man is to obey God.
- When the heart loses function (to love God), the spirit loses the desire to please God.
- Love is only proven through obedience.

John 14:15

New Living Translation

15 "If you love me, obey[a] my commandments.

The condition of our hearts is made known through the words of our mouths. Words bring to life our spirit's intentions and desires, whether they be good or evil.

2 Samuel 11:2-4

New Living Translation

2 Late one afternoon, after his midday rest, David got out of bed and was walking on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking a bath. 3 He sent someone to find out who she was, and he was told, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." 4 Then David sent messengers to get her;.....

2 Samuel 11:14-15

New Living Translation

David Arranges for Uriah's Death

14 So the next morning David wrote a letter to Joab and gave it to Uriah to deliver. 15 The letter instructed Joab, "Station Uriah on the front lines where the battle is fiercest. Then pull back so that he will be killed."

God Corrects/Disciplines David

2 Samuel 12:9-14

New Living Translation

9 Why, then, have you despised the word of the Lord and done this horrible deed? For you have murdered Uriah the Hittite with the sword of the Ammonites and stolen his wife. 10 From this time on, your family will live by the sword because you have despised me by taking Uriah's wife to be your own.

11 "This is what the Lord says: Because of what you have done, I will cause your own household to rebel against you. I will give your wives to another man before your very eyes, and he will go to bed with them in public view. 12 You did it secretly, but I will make this happen to you openly in the sight of all Israel."

David Confesses His Guilt

13 Then David confessed to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."

Nathan replied, “Yes, but the Lord has forgiven you, and you won’t die for this sin.
14 Nevertheless, because you have shown utter contempt for the word of the Lord[a] by doing this, your child will die.”

A Broken Heart, A Sorrowful Spirit

David’s heart had become filthy, soiled with sinful desires and actions. His spirit was no longer loyal to God, he was in error and disobedience. So what was his prayer for his filthy heart and wrong spirit?

Psalm 51:7-10

New Living Translation

7 Purify me from my sins,[a] and I will be clean;
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

8 Oh, give me back my joy again;
you have broken me—
now let me rejoice.

9 Don’t keep looking at my sins.
Remove the stain of my guilt.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God.
Renew a loyal spirit within me.

Psalm 51:16-17

New Living Translation

16 You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one.
You do not want a burnt offering.

17 The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit.
You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

Psalm 51:10-12

New Living Translation

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God.
Renew a loyal spirit within me.

11 Do not banish me from your presence,
and don't take your Holy Spirit[a] from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and make me willing to obey you.

John 16:5-15

New Living Translation

The Work of the Holy Spirit

5 "But now I am going away to the one who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going. 6 Instead, you grieve because of what I've told you. 7 But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate[a] won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment. 9 The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me. 10 Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. 11 Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged.

12 "There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. 14 He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.'

- It is the spirit of God that enables a man to perform his will
- By maintaining a clean heart we can host the Holy Spirit. A clean heart seeks God's will above its own.

Getting Unstuck

A clogged heart slows down your spiritual progress.

Exodus 19:1-11

New Living Translation

The Lord Reveals Himself at Sinai

19 Exactly two months after the Israelites left Egypt,[a] they arrived in the wilderness of Sinai. 2 After breaking camp at Rephidim, they came to the wilderness of Sinai and set up camp there at the base of Mount Sinai.

- We can be out of bondage but still in the wilderness, away from God's tangible presence. STUCK!

3 Then Moses climbed the mountain to appear before God. The Lord called to him from the mountain and said, "Give these instructions to the family of Jacob; announce it to the descendants of Israel: 4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians. You know how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now if you will obey me and keep my covenant, you will be my own special treasure from among all the peoples on earth; for all the earth belongs to me. 6 And you will be my kingdom of priests, my holy nation.' This is the message you must give to the people of Israel."

- God's servant sought after Him.
- Tell my people to obey me I have a purpose for them.

7 So Moses returned from the mountain and called together the elders of the people and told them everything the Lord had commanded him. 8 And all the people responded together, "We will do everything the Lord has commanded." So Moses brought the people's answer back to the Lord.

- The people agreed to obey God together!

9 Then the Lord said to Moses, "I will come to you in a thick cloud, Moses, so the people themselves can hear me when I speak with you. Then they will always trust you."

Moses told the Lord what the people had said. 10 Then the Lord told Moses, "Go down and prepare the people for my arrival. Consecrate them today and tomorrow, and have them wash their clothing. 11 Be sure they are ready on the third day, for on that day the Lord will come down on Mount Sinai as all the people watch.

- Wash yourselves and be ready!