



FEBRUARY 1, 2026 | Dr. Jimmy Stewart

Jesus Changes Everything *Hardness to Repentance*

Scripture: Hebrews 3:12–15; Acts 3:19; Ezekiel 36:25-27, Proverbs 4:23

Spotlight: A softened heart responds when God speaks.

Summary: Sin does not usually harden a heart all at once—it happens gradually when God’s voice is ignored. Hebrews warns believers to stay alert, encourage one another daily, and respond today when God speaks, before hearts grow calloused by unbelief. Acts reminds us that repentance is not merely feeling sorry, but turning to God so that sins are wiped away and spiritual refreshment comes from His presence. Ezekiel gives the hope-filled promise that what we cannot change on our own, God can: He removes hearts of stone and replaces them with soft, responsive hearts by His Spirit.

Jesus changes everything by turning hardened hearts into repentant ones— hearts that hear, respond, and obey when God speaks.

I. Check Your Heart. Warn Each Other. Hard Hearts Kill.

Hebrews 3:12–15 NLT

12 Be careful then, dear brothers and sisters. Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God. **13** You must warn each other every day, while it is still “today,” so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God.

14 For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ.

15 Remember what it says: “Today when you hear his voice, don’t harden your hearts as Israel did when they rebelled.”

II. Repent and Receive a New Heart.

Acts 3:19 NLT

Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away.

Ezekiel 36:25–27 NLT

25 "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. **26** And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. **27** And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

III. Guard Your Heart, Faithful to the End.

Proverbs 4:23 NLT

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

Malachi 2:15 NLT

Didn't the Lord make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? Godly children from your union. So **guard** your **heart**; remain loyal to the wife of your youth.

Philippians 4:7 NLT

Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will **guard** your **hearts** and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ. Hebrews 3:14

Some of us in this room love God—but if we're honest, our hearts have grown cold and hardened. Not rebellious, just resistant. Conviction comes, and we explain it away. The Spirit nudges, and we delay. Over time, what was once tender has become hard.

But hear this good news: **Jesus changes everything.**

God does not shame hardened hearts—He heals them. He promises to remove the heart of stone and replace it with a heart that is alive, responsive, and willing to obey.

The Bible says, "Repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away, and times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."

Repentance isn't loss—it's relief. It's not God pushing you away; it's God inviting you closer.

So if the Holy Spirit is speaking to you right now—don't ignore Him. Don't delay. This moment may be the grace of God calling your name.

If you need to turn back to the Lord...

If you need a softened heart...

If you need forgiveness, renewal, or salvation...

Right where you are, right now, today, open your heart to Him. Respond while you can still hear His voice. Repent. Believe. Trust & Obey.

**Jesus changes everything—and He's ready
to begin that work in you today.**

Next Steps:

"Don't delay—repent while you can still hear His voice. Visit with one of our encouragers today."

Life Application:

1. What are some ways a heart can slowly become “hardened” overtime, unnoticed?
2. Is there an area of your life where you know God has been speaking, but you’ve delayed responding?
3. According to Hebrews 3:13, how does daily encouragement from other believers help guard your heart?
4. Acts 3:19 connects repentance with “times of refreshing.” What refreshment might you be missing by holding on to sin?
5. When you hear the phrase “repent and turn to God,” what emotions or thoughts surface in you—resistance, relief, fear, hope, joy?
6. Ezekiel 36:26 says God gives a *new heart* and a *new spirit*. Do you need God to do heart transplant work rather than behavioral change? In what areas?
7. How can you cultivate a lifestyle of quick repentance instead of delayed obedience?
8. Who in your life has permission to lovingly warn you when they see your heart drifting?
9. What would it look like this week to respond immediately the next time God’s Spirit brings conviction or prompts a response from you?
10. What is one specific step of repentance God may be calling you to take *today*?