

# Journey Through the Bible

## A New Heart and a New Spirit

### Message 3: A NEW HEART (2): Knowing the Heart in God's Economy

#### Outline:

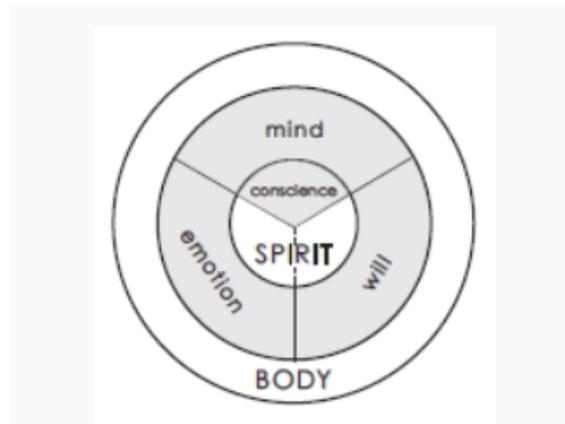
- I. God's eternal purpose, His ultimate intention, is to have a Body, a corporate vessel to contain Christ and to express Christ—Gen. 1:26; 2:7-9; Eph. 3:9-11:**
  - A. God's New Testament economy is to dispense Christ as the life supply to God's children that the church might be built up—1 Tim. 1:4; Gen. 2:9-14, 18, 21-23.
  - B. God created us as vessels to contain Christ; the Bible divides this vessel into three parts—the spirit, the soul, and the body—Rom. 9:23; 1 Thes. 5:23.
  - C. Through regeneration Christ came into our spirit; now we need Christ to continually expand from our spirit into our soul until every part of our soul is transformed into His image— 2 Tim. 4:22; 2 Cor. 3:18.
- II. The heart is a gateway between our spirit and our soul, joining the spirit to the soul; if the heart does not open the gate and allow the spirit to be released, the Spirit has no way to spread into the soul—vv. 15-16, 18; Eph. 3:16-17:**
  - A. Our heart is composed of all the parts of our soul—mind, emotion, and will—plus our conscience, the main part of our spirit—Gen. 6:5; John 16:22, 6; Acts 11:23; Heb. 4:12; 10:22; 1 John 3:20.
  - B. The soul is the person himself, but the heart is the person in action; the heart is the acting agent, the acting commissioner, of our entire being.
  - C. The heart is the entrance and exit of life, the "switch" of life—Prov. 4:23:
    1. When the heart agrees, life can pass through; when the heart does not agree, life cannot pass through—Luke 8:15; Eph. 4:18.
    2. Though life has great power, this great power is controlled by our small heart.
  - D. The exercise of the spirit works only when our heart is active; if man's heart is indifferent, the spirit is imprisoned within and is unable to show forth its capability.
- III. The problems with the believers' growth in life are not mainly with their spirit but with their heart; we must be adjusted in the four parts of our heart in order to have a heart that is proper—Psa. 78:8:**
  - A. When life grows out from within us, it first passes through our conscience—1 Tim. 1:5:
  - B. When life grows out from within us, the second place through which it passes is the emotion—Mark 12:30; John 14:1; Col. 2:2; Prov. 15:15:
  - C. The third part through which the growing out of life passes is our mind—Heb. 4:12:
  - D. Fourthly, the growing out of life passes through our will—Heb. 3:7-8; 4:12:

**Focus:** The fulfillment of God's economy in us and through us greatly depends on our cooperating with the Lord to have a proper heart so that His life can flow through us and grow in us in an unhindered way.

## READING EXCERPT

### THE FOUR PARTS OF THE HEART—MIND, WILL, EMOTION, CONSCIENCE

What, then, is the heart? The heart is not a separate part in addition to the soul and the spirit but a composition of all the parts of the soul and the first part of the spirit. It includes the mind, the will, and the emotion plus one part of the spirit, the conscience. The shaded area in the following diagram illustrates the parts composing the heart.



Man does not have more than three main parts in his whole being. As a human being, we have a body, soul, and spirit. We do not have a fourth and separate part such as the heart.

Now we need to confirm that the mind, the first part of the soul, is a part of the heart. Matthew 9:4 says, "Why are you thinking...in your hearts?" Therefore, in the heart one can think. Since the thinking processes are in the mind, this proves that the mind is a part of the heart. Genesis 6:5 says, "The thoughts of his heart." The thoughts are something of the mind, but Genesis 6:5 mentions the thoughts of the heart. The same is seen in Hebrews 4:12, which speaks of "the thoughts...of the heart." These three passages are ample proof that the mind, an organ of the soul, is a part of the heart.

The will is seen in Acts 11:23, which speaks of "purpose of heart," or "purpose in the heart." Purpose is a function of the will, but in Acts it is something of the heart. This shows that the will is also a part of the heart. Hebrews 4:12 speaks of the "intentions of the heart." The intentions correspond to the purposes, which are of the will. Again, this proves that the will is a part of the heart. There are more verses, but these two are enough. To quote the scriptural standard, only two witnesses are required.

The emotion is found in John 16:22, which says, "Your heart will rejoice." To rejoice is an element of the emotions, but here the Lord said that the heart rejoices. Therefore, this confirms that the emotion also is a part of the heart. In the same chapter the Lord said, "Sorrow has filled your heart" ( v. 6 ). Sorrow also is something of emotion. So these two verses verify that the emotion also is a part in the heart.

Concerning the conscience, Hebrews 10:22 says, "Having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience." So we see that the conscience has much to do with the heart. If we are going to have a pure heart, we must have a conscience that is without offense. Our conscience has to be

sprinkled in order to have a pure heart. Thus, without a doubt, the conscience is a part of the heart. First John 3:20 mentions that "our heart blames us." To blame is the function of the conscience. So this verse proves that the conscience also is a part of the heart.

Scriptural ground has thus been given to prove that all the parts of the soul and the first part of the spirit—the four parts being the mind, the will, the emotion and the conscience—composed together equal the heart.

**Questions:**

1. What is God's New Testament Economy? How does God accomplish this? Use verses to support your answer.
2. What are the different parts of our heart that need to be adjusted? Share an experience of the Lord touching you in a particular area of your heart.

## Scripture Reading:

Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.

Gen. 2:7 Jehovah God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.

Gen. 2:8 And Jehovah God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there He put the man whom He had formed.

Gen. 2:9 And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Ezek. 36:26 I will also give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take away the heart of stone out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.

Prov. 4:23 Keep your heart with all vigilance, / For from it are the issues of life.

2 Cor. 3:15 Indeed unto this day, whenever Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart;

2 Cor. 3:16 But whenever their heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

2 Cor. 3:17 And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

2 Cor. 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.

Eph. 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,

Eph. 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

Eph. 3:18 May be full of strength to apprehend with all the saints what the breadth and length and height and depth are

Eph. 3:19 And to know the knowledge-surpassing love of Christ, that you may be filled unto all the fullness of God.

Eph. 3:20 But to Him who is able to do superabundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power which operates in us,

Eph. 3:21 To Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all the generations forever and ever. Amen.