

# The Reasons for Maintaining One's Heart

- I. The Existence of the New Heart:
  - A. The Need for a New Heart (Jn. 4:21-24)
  - B. The Gift of a New Heart (Ezek. 36:25-28)
  - C. The Disposition of the New Heart (Eph. 4:24b; Rom. 5:5)
- II. The Maintaining of the New Heart
  - A. The Call to Maintain One's Heart (Prov. 4:23)
  - B. The Growth of the New Heart (1 Pet. 2:1-3)

Does the New Heart Grow?

- The Fact of Growth (1 Tim. 3:6)
  - new convert (*neophytos*)      neophyte, newly planted, novice, beginner
- The Trajectory of Growth (1 Jn. 2:12-14)
- The Sustenance That Drives Growth (1 Pet. 2:1-3)

The Book of 1 Peter

The Growth of the New Heart

- I. Our Obligation – The Demand (2:1)
  - A. The Call for Us to Undress (2:1<sub>1-3</sub>)
  - B. The Old Clothes We Must Cast Away (2:1<sub>4-15</sub>)
    - malice      wickedness, evil intent
    - guile      craftiness or treachery
    - hypocrisy      pretense or outward show  
*hypokrites* (actor); *hypokrisis* (acting)
    - envy      ill-will, malice
    - slander      evil speech, defamation
- II. Our Need – The Word (2:2a-b)
  - A. The Nature of Our Need (2:2a)
    - long for      crave

{The Hindering of This Need}
  - B. The Nature of the Word (2:2b<sub>3-8</sub>)
    - of the word      spiritual (*logikos*)
    - pure      without guile, without deceit; undiluted or unmixed
- III. Our Intent – Growth (2:2c)
- IV. Our Motivation – God's Kindness (2:3)
  - tasted      to taste or to experience
  - kindness      good

“These very clear distinctions identify 3 stages of spiritual growth in God's family. ‘Fathers,’ the most mature, have a deep knowledge of the Eternal God. The pinnacle of spiritual maturity is to know God in His fullness (cf. Phil. 3:10). ‘Young men’ are those who, while not yet having the mature experience of knowing God in the Word and through life, do know sound doctrine. They are strong against sin and error because they have His Word in them. Thus they overcome the wiles of the devil, who makes havoc of children (cf. Eph. 4:14). Since Satan's efforts are in falsehood and deception, they have

overcome him. ‘Little children’ are those who have only the basic awareness of God and need to grow. All are in God’s family and manifest Christ’s character at different levels.”  
The MacArthur Study Bible.