

# BEWARE OF THE HARDENED HEART

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**BLESSED  
IS THE ONE WHO  
ALWAYS TREMBLES  
BEFORE GOD, BUT  
WHOEVER HARDENS  
THEIR HEART FALLS  
INTO TROUBLE.**

**PROVERBS 28:14**

## HEBREWS 3:15

As has just been said: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.”

## MARK 6:45-52

Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>46</sup> After leaving them, he went up on a mountainside to pray. Later that night, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and he was alone on land.

## MARK 6:45-52 (CONT'D)

He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. Shortly before dawn he went out to them, walking on the lake. He was about to pass by them,<sup>49</sup> but when they saw him walking on the lake, they thought he was a ghost. They cried out,<sup>50</sup> because they all saw him and were terrified.

## MARK 6:45-52 (CONT'D)

Immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.” <sup>51</sup> Then he climbed into the boat with them, and the wind died down. They were completely amazed, <sup>52</sup> for they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.

# QUESTION

Is it possible that unbelief can come from  
hardness of heart?

## HARDENED (SYNONYMS)

Unfeeling, deadened,  
desensitized and unyielding.



## QUOTE

A hardened heart can never be a thankful heart. -PD

# DEFINITION

**Insidious:** proceeding in a gradual, subtle way, but with a harmful effect.

## EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF A HARDENED HEART:

- It is hard to celebrate or hard to cry
- It is hard to be genuinely concerned
- Passion is replaced by routine
- It is increasingly harder to believe the best in others

## MATTHEW 9:36

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

## QUOTE

A hardened heart impairs our ability to perceive or understand.

## MARK 8:17-18

Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: “Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? <sup>18</sup> Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don’t you remember?”

# SCRIPTURAL EVIDENCE OF A HARDENED HEART:

1. Unable to see or perceive
2. Unable to comprehend
3. Unable to hear or listen
4. Unable to remember

## EZEKIEL 36:26-27

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.



# 7 SIGNS OF A HARDENED HEART

## 1. Hopelessness

1. **Jeremiah 8:12** Are they ashamed of their detestable conduct? No, they have no shame at all; they do not even know how to blush. So they will fall among the fallen; they will be brought down when they are punished, says the LORD.

## 2. Worry

## 3. Insensitivity

1. **Isaiah 6:10** Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”

# 7 SIGNS OF A HARDENED HEART

4. Dry devotional life
5. Unhealthy fear
6. Sinful patterns
7. Stubbornness

## MARK 6:45

Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd.

# IDOL

Anything that takes our attention or priority  
away from God.

## WAYS TO SOFTEN OUR HEARTS:

1. Walk humbly before the Lord and Others
2. Have two way conversations with God
3. Seek His face and not His hands
4. Be Thankful

## QUOTE

Remember a strong heart is a soft heart  
and a hardened heart is a weak heart.

- unk