

In Prov. 23:26 the Lord tells you and me, "My son, give me your heart." Is this something precious or enormous that He asks of us?

**What is the heart:**

It is our entire being.

It is the battlefield of our souls.

It is the source of sin – because we sin in thought, deed and word.

It is the source of life. Prov. 4:23 – Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

**However, our heart by its very nature is bad:**

Gen 6:5 – The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.

Job 15:12 – WHY has your heart carried you away?

Jer. 17:9 – The heart is deceitful above all things, and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

Matt 15:18 But the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man 'unclean.'

James 1:8 – He is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.

**The Lord wants our hearts for Him to live in and purify**

Deut. 5:29 – Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children for ever!

Jer. 17:10 – I the LORD search the heart.

Jer. 24:7 – I will give them a heart to know me.

Esek. 11:19 – I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.

**The Lord does not look at what we are or what we say or do, but He looks at our hearts**

1 Sam 16:7 – But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

1 Chron. 28:9 – And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts.

Lev. 19:17 – Do not hate your brother in your heart.

2 Sam. 6:16 – As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal, daughter of Saul, watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she despised him in her heart. And the Lord punished her so that she had no children until the day of her death.

Ps 15:2 – He whose walk is blameless and who does what is righteous, and who speaks the truth from his heart.

Ps 28:3 – Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who do evil, who speak cordially with their neighbours but harbour malice in their hearts.

**If the Lord does not come and live in our hearts, our hearts will harden**

Ex. 7:13 Yet Pharaoh's heart became hard and he would not listen to them, just as the LORD had said.

Mark 6:52 For they had not understood about the loaves; their hearts were hardened.

We can therefore also not understand God's prophecy if our hearts are hardened because we are covered by a veil. 2 Cor. 3:15 – Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.

**The scriptures mention a few cases where the Lord gave individuals and his people a new heart**

1 Sam. 10:9,10 – As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul's heart, and all these signs were fulfilled that day. When they arrived at Gibeah, a procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came upon him in power, and he joined in their prophesying.

1 Kings 3:12 – I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.

Esek. 18:31 – Rid yourselves of all the offences you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O house of Israel?

Esek. 36:26 – 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.

My own case where I asked for a kind heart – and the vision thereafter.

2 Cor. 3:3 – You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not in ink but with the spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

**We should realise that our hearts are bad, that we are double-minded and that in our hearts we sin. That is why we should task ourselves to know our hearts.**

1 Kings 8:38 – and when a prayer or plea is made by any of your people Israel – each one aware of the afflictions of his own heart, and spreading out his hands toward this temple.

**Even with regard to the earth** (sold out under sin) the Lord had to change its heart.

Matt. 12:40 – For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

**The devil is sly and sows weeds in our hearts**

John 13:2 – The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.