

Heart Decrees & Life Decisions



Do you wonder why you often say one thing and actually do another? Have you become a pro at saying “Yes!” when deep down you mean, “No!” Do you ever want to kick your self for being a ‘repeat offender’ in the things that you vow you would never do *again*? Are you perplexed by your ‘double-minded’ ways and baffled by your continuing life cycles—many in opposing directions?

Well, the Holy Scriptures provides a spiritual prognosis for such human ailments: It’s called a **plain ole’ heart condition!** One of the main tasks of the Believer is continuously reconciling their heart to God’s Word. This becomes a daily, primary focus because the Lord God has already exposed the full measure of man’s heart—listen to His words in Jeremiah 17:9-10: *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.”* Here, the Lord is letting us know that the heart is the center of all controversy and confusion in our lives. We are deceived to think that we are ‘alright’ when our words and actions suggest other wise.

Because of man’s fallen state—his heart is deceitful and wicked. Even after conversion, the heart must be continually trained and disciplined by the daily mechanics of the Christian life: Word study and prayer! The heart cannot be left to rule without the Ruler and to decree without Deity. Our hearts must be daily educated with God’s Truth!

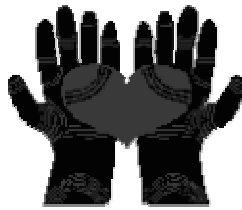
Out of my own personal struggle and search in the Scriptures, I have come to know that the heart is the place of **all** decision-making and final conclusions. It is the round-table where all personal convictions and spiritual matters are weighed. When the heart has cast its ‘yea’ or ‘nay’ on a matter, you will know it by what you do and what you speak!

In the wisdom of Proverbs, we see the heart as the ruling center in the lives of mankind. Through King Solomon’s writings he admonishes us to keep God’s laws and

commandments and **not** to forsake His mercy and truth. How is this accomplished? By ‘*writing them on the tables of thine heart.*’ (Proverbs 3:3)

This sounds deep and spiritual, but it is actually very basic. The heart is laid out like a Supreme Court. Issues of life, doctrines of faith, habits of will *all* circle round and round judiciously being argued and debated until a system of belief is established and a decree rendered. Without any appeal or resistance, we abide by these ruling dictates—acting and speaking accordingly.

For the saint, this passive posture is extremely detrimental. On the contrary, we must take an active role in our own defense by constantly expounding God’s Word and laying His precepts upon the mind of the court! If the heart is, indeed, the ruling center of all beliefs, then we must be diligent to overrule and override the dictates of our own heart with the Laws of God. Doesn’t this happen **automatically** with regeneration you ask? No! Nothing is automatic! In John 15, Jesus commands us to “abide” in Him and to allow His words to abide in us. The discipline of abiding means ‘to dwell, to stay, to settle in, to sink deeper.’ This takes daily spiritual exercise! And it is the only way that our lives will become *more* fruitful, our actions *more* productive and our hearts increasingly compliant to Christ! **The Word of God must be given preeminence!**



Psalm 37:31 supports this critical stance, “*The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom and his tongue talks of judgment. The law of His God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.*” The Psalmist also wrote: “*With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee...with my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth.*” (Psalm 119:10-13)

Heart-decrees produce life decisions. What we *truly* believe in our heart is precisely what we will say with our mouths. In Luke 6:45-46, the Lord Jesus fine-tunes this *hidden* relationship between the heart and the mouth. “*A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil of his heart brings forth that which is evil: **for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.***”

As a Christian, I must judge myself by this inner sanctuary. It boils down to basic Beliefs! What I meditate on, contemplate, ponder and ultimately BELIEVE, will be swiftly manifested in my Walk & Talk! My actions and speech will bear fruit as to whether I am *continually* applying the God’s Word to my life. What’s on the inside merely reflects on the outside.

Living in a 'corrupt and fallen world' has had grave effects on us all. Surely, we 'were born in sin and shaped in iniquity.' Only Christ looks squarely into every heart. He declares that what is **already** INSIDE, causes us to do and say the things we do: "Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man... but those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, they defile the man. (Matthew 15:11-20).

Solomon again instructs us from the Proverbs: "If you say, 'Surely we did not know this,' does not He who weights the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to His deeds?" (24:12) "My heart is pretty much okay," we say. But, honestly is that good enough?

Jesus is the Great Physician and His prognosis is true! He is the only One who can "cut away" the defiling elements and circumcise the fleshly places of our heart! When we consider what sin has produced in us, we must hasten to the Scalpel of God's Love and come under the Knife of His Truth. When we understand that we will never say or do differently than what already resides in us, we should earnestly seek Surrender to the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God—Jesus Himself! Daily applications of the Holy Scriptures, in increasing doses, is God's Timeless Prescription for man's heart condition!

Scripture records that King David was 'a man after God's own heart.' It is apparent from Psalm 19:12-14 that he maintained that kind of heart through constant check-ups before His God.

"Who can understand his error? Cleanse Me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me: Then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer."

The Lord laid this subject heavy upon me this month. I pray you will take heed to lay before God the conditions of your own heart. Allow His Word to surgically remove the hard areas and tenderly cleanse the subtle things. May our hearts and lives be conformed to the image and likeness of Christ!