

Open Heart Surgery

Gen 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination (*Heb.3336- conception*) of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

- Even from conception in his mind the origin of man's thinking was evil. Isn't it sad that within a very few generations man became so evil because he left God. Without God guiding his very steps his heart is open to anything. Something had to take His place.

Jer 10:23 O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: *it is* not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

Luk 11:24 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. 25 And when he cometh, he findeth *it* swept and garnished. 26 Then goeth he, and taketh *to him* seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and **the last** *state* of that man is **worse than the first**.

- Once evil has taken over a man's heart, the only way to remove it is to perform spiritual open heart surgery. Physical open heart surgery requires sharpened tools necessary to perform the operation successfully. A scalpel is to be so sharp that even touching the edge of it will likely cut you. Likewise spiritual surgery requires a similarly sharp instrument.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and **sharper** than **any** two-edged sword, **piercing** even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner (*Gk.2924- decisive, that is, discriminative*) of the **thoughts** (*Gk.1761- deliberation*) and **intents** (*Gk.1771- moral understanding*) of the **heart** (*Gk.2588- mind*).

- God's word is so sharp it can judge the debates between good and evil in our thoughts concerning moral decisions and attitudes we have toward others. So in order to operate on the heart, the surgeon first has to make sure his instruments are sharp enough to decisively cut through the outer layers of the body to get to the heart, thus the Bible is the scalpel that we all possess, whether we keep it sharp or allow it to go dull. It cuts away at the "sin that so easily besets us" (*Heb 12:1*). But how hard it is to operate on a hardened heart, especially if the scalpel is dull from not being sharpened.

Joh 12:40 He hath blinded their eyes, and **hardened their heart**; that they should not see with *their* eyes, nor understand with *their* heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. 41 These things said Esaias, when he saw His glory, and spake of Him.

- Just as the word of God hardened the hearts of some of His own people and the heart of Pharaoh, sadly, there are those even today whose hearts are hardened when it is read.

Exo 7:2 Thou shalt **speak** all that I command thee: and Aaron thy brother shall **speak unto Pharaoh**, that he send the children of Israel out of his land. 3 And I will **harden Pharaoh's heart**, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt.

2Co 3:13 And not as Moses, *which* put a vail over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished (*Eph 2:15*): 14 But their minds

were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil (*Gk.2571- a cover*) untaken away in the reading of the Old Testament; which *vail* is done away in Christ. 15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart.

Eph 2:15 Having abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in Himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

- Before a surgeon can fix a heart it first has to be opened. Likewise before a heart can be repaired spiritually it too has to first be open.

Luk 24:13 And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus (*Gk.1695-em-mah-ooce'*), which was from Jerusalem *about* threescore furlongs (*seven to eight miles*). 14 And they talked together of all these things which had happened. 15 And it came to pass, that, while they communed *together* and reasoned, Jesus Himself drew near, and went with them. 16 But their eyes were holden that they should not know Him. 17 And He said unto them, **What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?** 18 And the one of them, whose name was Cleopas (*Gk.2810- kleh-op'-as*), answering said unto Him, Art Thou only a stranger in Jerusalem, and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days? 19 And He said unto them, **What things?** And they said unto Him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people: 20 And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and have crucified Him. 21 But we trusted that it had been He which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, today is the third day since these things were done. 22 Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre; 23 And when they found not His body, they came, saying, that they had also seen a vision of angels, which said that He was alive. 24 And certain of them which were with us went to the sepulchre, and found *it* even so as the women had said: but Him they saw not. 25 Then He said unto them, **O fools, and slow (*Gk.1021- dull*) of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:** 26 **Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into His glory?** 27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Luk 24:31 And their **eyes were opened**, and they **knew (*Gk.1921- recognized*) Him**; and He vanished out of their sight. 32 And they said one to another, **Did not our heart burn within us, while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the scriptures?**

- See how opening scriptures opens hearts?

Mar 16:13 And they went and told *it* unto the rest: neither believed they them. 14 Afterward He appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and **upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart (*Gk.4641- destitution of [spiritual] perception*)**, because they believed not them which had seen Him after He was risen.

Luk 24:44 And He said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning Me.

- If Jesus' own apostles' hearts could be hardened, even after they witnessed the miracles which He did among them, could it not be said that the average Christians of today can

have their hearts hardened? How can we not then understand that the average person living a worldly existence will have a heart that isn't open, thus right, before God? Notice what Jesus said to the Pharisees concerning **their hearts**.

Mat 12:34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for **out of the abundance of the heart** (*Gk.2588- the thoughts or feelings [mind]*) **the mouth speaketh**. 35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. 36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37 For **by thy words** thou shalt be justified, and **by thy words** thou shalt be condemned.

Mat 15:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth **come forth from the heart**; and they defile the man. 19 For **out of the heart proceed evil thoughts**, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: 20 These are which defile a man: but to eat with unwashed hands defileth not a man.

- Sometimes people say things without thinking ahead of time what they are about to say. But usually what's said was what was on their mind to say initially anyway. Even things spoken that are of an evil nature have to be surgically removed with a true understanding only found in "the sword of the Spirit" (*Eph 6:17*). Notice what Peter had to say to Simon the sorcerer because of Simon's request to possess what only an apostle could.

Act 8:21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for **thy heart is not right in the sight of God**. (*His scalp was yet dull.*)

- The word of God can also soften hearts through proclaiming it. Notice the example of the **greatest heart surgery ever performed at one time** on 3,000+ people.

Act 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, Whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. 37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked (*Gk.2660- to pierce thoroughly*) in their heart (*Gk.2588- thoughts and feelings [mind]*), and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call. 40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward (*Gk.4646- warped, perverse*) generation. 41 Then they that **gladly received his word** were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about **three thousand souls**.

Act 2:46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their food with gladness and singleness (*Gk.858- simplicity*) of heart, 47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Act 4:32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one (*Gk.3391- agree*) heart and of one soul: neither said any *of them* that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

- This was a successful open heart surgery performed by Peter using the sharpest scalpel of all time, the word of God (*Heb 4:12*). With it he convicted the hearts of those who crucified the very Christ they anticipated to save Israel. But that same scalpel still exists today and we are the ones appointed to be the surgeons that are to operate with it. It will either convict or condemn the hearts we use it on. Even our own. If our own hearts aren't thoroughly pierced through with word of God we need to take a step back and ask ourselves why. Does anyone have "ought against" (*Mat 5:23*) me or do I have ought against another? Jesus went on to say in that passage that we are to "first be reconciled with thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift" (*Mat 5:24*). In other words, get your heart right with your brother before God because otherwise God will not accept your offering. Again, the word of God judges the condition of the heart.

Act 5:29 Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. **30** The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, Whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. **31** Him hath God exalted with His right hand *to be* a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. **32** And we are His witnesses of these things; and *so is* also the Holy Ghost, Whom God hath given to them that obey Him. **33** When they heard *that*, they were **cut** (*Gk.1282- to saw asunder, to exasperate*) *to the heart*, and took counsel to slay them.

- Cutting the heart can either convict or infuriate it depending on whether it is soft or hard. But when a heart is unable to be reached with the truth found in the word of God, it becomes impossible to break in order to be remolded by it.

Rom 9:21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

- All of humanity is born innocent. From that innocence man progresses to maturity and thus the knowledge of sin. At that point God has the right to deem some good and others evil according to their obedience to His will. The choice rests on the individual, when they come to the point of understanding the difference between good and evil. Once a person's choice is made only then will God make His decision to accept or deny them. Notice Steven's fate when he convicted the hearts of his listeners.

Act 7:51 Ye stiff-necked and **uncircumcised in heart** and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers *did*, so *do* ye. **52** Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of Whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: **53** Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept *it*. **54** When they heard these things, they were **cut to the heart**, and they gnashed on him with *their* teeth.

- Steven was martyred for the heart surgery he performed that day. Those that Steven spoke to were Jews that were born into the Old Covenant. But the fact that he referred to them as uncircumcised in heart shows that they were Jewish physically but not spiritually.

Rom 2:28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither *is that* circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: **29** But he *is* a Jew, which is one inwardly; and **circumcision** (*Gk.4061 from 4059- to cut around*) *is that* **of the heart**, in the spirit, *and* not in the letter; whose praise *is* not of men, but of God.

Mat 5:8 **Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.**

- Only those who have been successfully operated on by the word of God, the “spiritual Jew”, will stand before Him with “a good conscience” (*1 Pet 3:21*), in Person, after the judgment.

Col 2:10 And ye are complete **in Him**, which is the Head of all principality and power:
 11 **In Whom** also ye are circumcised with the circumcision **made without hands** (*spiritual in nature like the kingdom Daniel spoke about to Nebuchadnezzar- Dan 2:45*), in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the **circumcision of Christ**:
 12 Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *Him* through the faith (*Gk.4102- persuasion*) of the operation (*Gk.1753- efficiency*) of God, Who hath raised Him from the dead.

- But before God can operate on any heart it first has to be softened to be molded. In order for that to happen, it has to become as one belonging to a little child.

Luk 9:46 Then there arose a reasoning among them, which of them should be greatest. 47 And Jesus, **perceiving the thought of their heart**, took a child, and set him by Him,

Mat 18:1 At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? 2 And Jesus called a little child unto Him, and set him in the midst of them, 3 And said, **Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.** 4 Whosoever therefore shall humble himself **as this little child**, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

- Jesus understood that His disciples had yet to humble themselves as little children. Thus the object lesson. To have the heart and innocence of a child is necessary first for God’s word to work at repairing the spiritual damage done from being exposed to sin.

 Mat 6:21 **For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**

- Jesus spoke of those whose focus was elsewhere when it should have been on what they were doing when worshipping. They were all word and no deed.

Mat 15:8 **This people draw nigh unto Me with their mouth, and honoureth Me with their lips; but their heart is far from Me.**

- As Christians, we are all to have our swords (*scalpels/Bibles*) sharp enough to be able to get to the heart of the matter when it comes to convincing the world around us of the lost state that it is in.

2Co 3:2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men: 3 *Forasmuch as ye are* manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

1Pe 3:2 While they behold your chaste (*Gk.53- modest*) conversation (*Gk.391- behavior*) coupled with fear. 3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward *adorning* of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; 4 *But let it be* the **hidden man of the heart** (*the inner person we were all born with that can’t be touched by the stain of sin*), in

that which is not corruptible, of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

- In the context this passage was addressed to **Christian wives**. But it also pertains to every saint.

- What condition is your heart in? Is it right with **God**? Is it too hard to be pierced with the word of **God**? Or is it humble as a child's? Can it be opened by the truth found in the word of **God**, the **Bible**? Or is it "hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (*Heb 3:13*)?

#1. Have you heard?

Eph 1:13 In Whom ye also *trusted*, **after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation**: in Whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

#2. Do you believe?

1Th 2:13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, **when ye received** the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received *it* not *as* the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh (*operates*) also in you that **believe**.

#3. Have you repented?

Mar 2:17 ...**They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

Rom 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Rom 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

#4. Have you acknowledged Christ as the Son of God, Who alone can save you?

Act 8:37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

#5. Have your sins been washed away?

Mar 16:16 **He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**

#6. If you've done all these things, have you remained faithful (or do you continue to have a "heart" problem)?

Romans 6:4 "...we also should walk in newness of life."

#7. (If you do have a heart problem, maybe it's because you aren't growing.)

2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him *be* glory both now and forever. Amen.

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