

Where's Your Heart?

One of the most challenging tasks we face is the control over our emotions. It's easy to get wound up when we see folks' driving habits, or the lack thereof, or when someone says something rude to us or even accuses us of something we know nothing about. In Ephesians 4:26 Paul writes to the church and tells them, "Be angry, and yet do not sin." Anger is an emotion that we often struggle to control, just like happiness, fear, and disgust. A lot of our basic emotions can be linked together, or one can be an effect of another, such as fear can escalate to anger like surprise can escalate to happiness. Retrospectively surprise can also turn to disgust and anger. Many psychologists believe that our emotions influence our thoughts, decisions, and our relationships. Let us understand, our hearts are the core of our emotions, thus our hearts will influence our thoughts, decisions, and relationships.

What the Bible Teaches About the Condition of the Heart:

1. With Others
2. With Worship

With Others

Galatians 6:1-2 NASB 1995

¹Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; *each one* looking to yourself, so that you too will not be tempted. ²Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ.

Colossians 4:5-6 NASB 1995

⁵Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. ⁶Let your speech always be with grace, *as though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.

James 2:1-4 NASB 1995

¹ My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with *an attitude of personal favoritism*. ² For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, ³ and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, "You sit here in a good place," and you say to the poor man, "You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool," ⁴ have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?

Galatians 6:9-10 NASB 1995

⁹ Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. ¹⁰ So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith.

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With Worship

Colossians 3:16-17 NASB 1995

¹⁶ Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms *and* hymns *and* spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷ Whatever you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

James 5:15-16 NASB 1995

¹⁵ and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

I Corinthians 11:26-29 NASB 1995

²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. ²⁷ Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly.

II Corinthians 9: 6-7 NASB 1995

⁶ Now this *I say*, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each one *must do* just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Romans 10:14-15 NASB 1995

¹⁴ How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!"

Romans 10:17 NASB 1995

¹⁷ So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

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RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION OF FAITH:

1. **HEAR the GOSPEL ~ Romans 10:17**
So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.
2. **BELIEVE ~ Hebrews 11:6**
But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that cometh to God must believe that He is and He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.
3. **REPENT ~ Luke 13:3**
I tell you nay; but except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish.
4. **CONFESS ~ Matthew 10:32-33**
Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.
5. **BE BAPTIZED ~ Acts 22:16**
And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.
6. **BE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH ~ Revelation 2:10**
Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.