

## The Right Heart

Luke 8:15 – “But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.”

There are two things to know about what makes a right heart.

A. **A right heart is a noble heart.** A noble heart is an unpolluted heart. It is one that is not weighed down with sin and the cares of this world, but that has a higher end in sight. In this case, the higher end is bearing fruit to God’s glory.

How do we keep our hearts unpolluted?

### 1. Keep it clean

Ps. 51: 10 “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”

A clean heart keeps away from the sin of the world, and when it does fail, a clean heart repents quickly and completely, holding nothing back.

### 2. Keep it honest

Ps. 15: 1-2 “Lord, who may abide in your tabernacle?...He who...speaks the truth in his heart...”

Speaking the truth in our hearts is being honest with God, with ourselves, and with one another. It is not shading the truth or making up a web of lies and deceit.

Eph. 4: 25 “Therefore, putting away lying, let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.”

### 3. Keep it broken

Ps. 51: 17 “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart – these, O God, You will not despise.”

A broken heart is devastated over sinning against the Lord. It goes hand in hand with a clean heart.

A broken heart is also a humble heart. It does not seek popularity and glory. It is willing to decrease so God can increase.

**B. A right heart is also a good heart.** A good heart is an undivided heart. It is one that is completely devoted and will not waiver. It does not have faith at one moment and unbelief the next moment.

What keeps a heart undivided?

#### 1. Keep believing

Rom. 10:10 “For with the heart one believes unto righteousness...”

A believing heart is one that is committed to what God says, despite what things look like. We can know if we believe with our hearts (not just our minds) when we act on what we believe. If we are not doing or living out what we claim to believe, it is only head belief.

Mark 11: 23 “For assuredly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.”

#### 2. Be generous

Matt. 6: 21 “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Perhaps there is nothing that tests the heart like money. There's an old expression that "every man has his price." It is very likely that the Lord tests us with money or the lack of it to see what is in our hearts, to see if we will serve God or Mammon (v. 24, Deut. 8:2).

We cannot be controlled by what we are willing to give away. Mary of Bethany had an alabaster box of fine and expensive ointment that she broke open and poured on Jesus feet (John 12:3). She showed she loved Christ first and was not controlled by her worldly possessions.

### 3. Stop worrying

Matt. 6: 25 "Do not worry about your life..."

Worry produces fear and unbelief. It blocks faith. We can't please God without faith. When we worry we are like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed, and we are double minded (James 1: 6-8). A double minded person is unstable and does not receive from the Lord.

Phil. 4: 6-7 "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

When we worry, our hearts are unguarded. Satan can then come in and steal the word God has planted in our hearts.

### 4. Stay thankful.

Ps. 9:1 "I will praise you, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works."

Ps. 103: 1 "Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!"

Col. 3:16 “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

The bible has much to say about thankfulness. It is so important, we are told to abound in it. It attracts God, repels the devil, and gets our minds off of ourselves. It brings God glory.

When our hearts are right, they are unpolluted and undivided. It gives the seed of the word the right soil to produce fruit.

These things keep a person steadfast when the three prior tests come. This means this heart maintains the word when Satan comes to steal it, when temptation and testing comes to stop it, or when the cares, riches, and pleasures of this life come to choke it.