

Sunday 28 December
Clay McGregor

“Growing together, pt.4

- Softening the heart.”



Key scriptures & points

1. *2 Corinthians 1:22*, the heart is where the Holy Spirit abides within a true believer.
2. *1 Peter 3:15*, the heart is where authentic submission to God takes place.
3. *Romans 10:9-10*, the heart is where saving belief is formed.
4. *Zechariah 7:12*, the problem is our hearts are hard.
5. *Matthew 13:1-19*, a hard heart is not fertile ground for God’s word.
6. *Mark 8:17, Acts 28:25-27, Ephesians 4:18*, a hard heart hinders understanding.
7. Genesis 3, our hearts have been hard since the fall, a product of fallen humanity.
8. Emotional wounds harden our hearts.
9. Elevating mind over heart and thinking with unrenewed minds hardens our hearts.
10. *Ezekiel 11:19*, God promises to replace our heart of stone with a heart of flesh.
11. Knowing God intimately softens our hearts.
12. *2 Thessalonians 2:13, John 17:17*, The Holy Spirit sanctifies and softens our hearts through His word and presence.
13. Submitting our head under our hearts softens our hearts and positions us to live by faith, not by sight.
14. *Matthew 6:14, Colossians 3:12-14*, Forgiveness of past hurts softens our hearts.
15. *1 Corinthians 13, 1 John 4:19, Romans 5:5*, God’s love softens our hearts.

Questions

1. What did you hear from God in this message?
2. How do you feel when you don’t understand scripture or teaching from the church?
3. What do you think holds you back from understanding?
4. What hardens our hearts? What might be hardening your heart?
5. What softens our hearts?
6. What is the Spirit prompting you to do with what you have received from this message and discussion?

Prayer

- Pray for each other, that God would examine our hearts to reveal to us our true condition and what may be resisting Him.
- ...that He would soften our hearts as we seek and soak in His presence.
- ...and for the will to submit our minds and other faculties under the leadership of our hearts.

Have a question about or thought on something in this message? Get in touch with Clay, he’d love to hear from you, clay@therock.org.nz