



THE CONDITION OF THE HEART PART 1 - DECEITFUL & DESPERATELY SICK

If there is one simple truth we must all receive through the revelation of the Spirit it is this; The spiritual condition of our heart will determine everything about our transformation.

Before we begin this spiritual journey of becoming a Christlike follower, ideally one of the most important elements of truth we are to know, through revelation, is the condition of the human heart.

If we don't receive this revelation before we begin our relationship with Christ, then at some stage during the journey, we must be open to God revealing the true condition of our own heart.

The reason this is essential is that the state, or condition, of our heart will determine whether we hear, see, receive, believe, accept, understand, and come to know and be all that Christ has intended for us to become.

So, with this in mind, let's embark on a journey together through this resource, unpacking from the beginning the condition of the human heart. Let's uncover together how important it is that we grasp the significance of the heart, through the work of the Holy Spirit, becoming the vibrant, fertile soil the seed of the Word flourishes in.

Genesis 3:1-7 gives us the reason why the heart is in the condition it is in and Jeremiah 17:9 describes the condition of the heart, due to the fall of mankind in the garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:1-7 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.' " The



serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.”

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?”

Due to Adam and Eve partaking of the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they both died spiritually, just as God said it would happen. Their hearts had become contaminated with iniquity and sin.

Although they were still alive physically, their hearts had been poisoned with death, separating them from God. The spiritual state of their hearts was changed in an instant from life to death. We see the death position expressed through their behaviour towards God from this moment on.

It is from this reality and truth, that Jeremiah now describes the condition of every human beings heart when conceived.

Let's unpack this heart that is more deceitful than all else and desperately sick.

The word deceitful means: guilty of or involving deceit. Deceiving or misleading others.

Is it any wonder some of the last words Jesus spoke to His disciples before He left them was... “See to it that no one misleads you”.

Matthew 24:4 And Jesus answered and said to them, “See to it that no one misleads you.”



It can be so easy to believe this is the condition of someone else's heart rather than our own. This is the heart condition of the truly evil people in the world, right? The murderers, rapists, pedophiles, compulsive liars, manipulators etc., this is the condition of their hearts, and their hearts alone, right? No, this deceitful and desperately sick heart is the condition every single person is born with.

If we don't know the true condition of our own hearts through revelation, we will make the fatal mistake of believing we are good at our core. We know we're not perfect, that we make mistakes, but our hearts are not deceitful and desperately sick. We believe that at our deepest most inner place we are good.

This is why Jeremiah says, "Who can understand it?"

This is not primarily about others, but rather us. If we don't believe or understand this about ourselves, when this is our true state, we are calling God a liar.

We believe we are inherently good, but this is contrary to God's words of Spirit and Life.

Romans 3:9-12 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin; as it is written, "There is none righteous, not even one; There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one."

This is a sobering reality, and one that man emphatically struggles to believe and receive, due to the deceitfulness embedded within him. Man being male and female as the Scriptures teach. Because our heart is deceitful and desperately sick, we have no capacity within ourselves to receive this truth and we aggressively reject and deny this truth. To the point of becoming aggressive and physically abusive toward the one preaching the truth.

The problem lies in the deepest recesses of the human heart, which David describes as



the hidden place. This is why many are unaware of their true state because it lives and lies in the hidden recesses of our very being.

We begin to be made aware of our true heart condition when either, the Word of God is testified and begins to expose this inner heart posture or when our self-centered expectations are not met. We see a great example of this in Luke 9 with James and John.

Luke 9:51-55 When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem; and He sent messengers on ahead of Him, and they went and entered a village of the Samaritans to make arrangements for Him. But they did not receive Him, because He was traveling toward Jerusalem. When His disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But He turned and rebuked them, and said, "You do not know what kind of spirit you are of; for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them." And they went on to another village.

You do not know what kind of spirit you are of?

These are the words of Christ to His two disciples James and John. Not one single person who has been born of the image of Adam, is without this deceitful and sick heart, no matter what their relationship to Christ is. As Romans 3:23 says, we have all fallen short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

The enormity of what Jesus Christ went through to reconcile man unto the Father, should give us an indication of the breadth and depth of the heart problem created by the fall. The heart state of man was and is evil and it required a perfect sacrifice to redeem it.

Ephesians 2:1-5 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of



the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ by grace you have been saved.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between reading of a reality in the scriptures and knowing the reality which the scriptures testify of?
2. Have you have considered that you were born with a heart that is deceitful and desperately sick? Explain why or why not?
3. Why does this primarily start with us before it is about anyone else?
4. Why does revelation of the spirit play such an essential role in the knowledge of our true heart condition?
5. What do you believe it would have been like being James and John and having Jesus tell you, you don't know what kind of spirit you are of?

Watch the accompanying You Tube video here: <https://youtu.be/jz90yte8Wqc>