



## **THE CONDITION OF THE HEART PART 4 - UNDERSTANDING STARTS IN THE HEART**

So far in the first three resources we have looked at;

1. The heart is deceitful and desperately sick
2. A Brand new heart, a brand new creation
3. Give your whole heart to the Lord

In part four we are going to unpack how “Understanding starts in the heart”.

***Matthew 13:15 “For the heart of this people has become dull, with their ears they scarcely hear, and they have closed their eyes, otherwise they would see with their eyes, hear with their ears, and understand with their heart and return, and I would heal them.”***

When it comes to knowing and understanding the Father and everything pertaining to the Father, it is imperative we know His Way is completely opposite to man’s or the worlds way.

Understanding for man starts in the mind, but for the follower of Jesus, understanding starts in the heart.

The bible says we are to believe in our heart. It doesn’t say believe in our mind. Just like the heart is the first place we love from and not the mind first. Believing is heavily connected to knowing and knowing is heavily connected to understanding, and all of this takes place in the heart FIRST.

***John 6:69 “We have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God.”***

This is why the Scripture says when the heart is dull, there is very little hearing, no seeing or understanding, resulting in no life. As a result of the place of understanding (the heart) being dull, the ears scarcely hear and the eyes see nothing.



We are obviously talking about our spiritual ears and spiritual eyes. God gives us through the power of His Spirit, the ability to firstly HEAR what He is saying and then secondly to SEE what He is saying, all in and from this unseen seen dimension, called the kingdom of God. This reality is all taking place within us.

The outcome of this is that we have FAITH (knowledge) of Jesus Christ Himself, in our hearts. This leads to a true understanding of God and all things pertaining to God being birthed within our hearts, the place of eternal life.

This is the very reality Paul is praying for the Ephesians and us in Ephesians 1.

***Ephesians 1:16-19 do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might.***

Look at the four truths Paul is praying God will make known to us in our hearts, the place of understanding and life;

1. May give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.
2. You will know what is the hope of His calling.
3. What are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.
4. What is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe.

How are these four truths imparted into us so they become our reality?

Is it through trying to understand in the mind? Is it through a mental and verbal agreement of the mind? NO! The scripture clearly tells you how these four truths are imparted to your heart, the place of life and understanding.



***Galatians 1:19 These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might.***

As the knowledge of these four truths are imparted into our hearts through His strength, not only are we going to live from and for this new eternal reality, but we also have an understanding of what He has accomplished in us, which empowers and enables us to testify of these truths.

Our faith has grown in Christ due to receiving these truths through the agency of the Spirit's work in our hearts, the place of understanding. We can now demonstrate this new dimension in Christ, called the Wisdom of God.

***Luke 7:35 "Yet wisdom is vindicated by all her children."***

In other words we walk in the manner of Christ, who is in fact the wisdom of God, due to having this new life imparted into our hearts, which is the place of understanding.

***1 John 2:6 the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.***

***1 Corinthians 1:24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.***

#### **QUESTIONS**

1. Why is it vital we know understanding starts in the heart first not the mind?
2. Why is the pattern we believe and come to know, not we know and come to believe?
3. What does Paul's prayer tell us about him and what he knows in relation to the church entering into life in Christ?
4. How does the demonstration of wisdom, and understanding God and His Word in the heart, align with one another?

Watch the accompanying You Tube video here: <https://youtu.be/MhHY2c3fx24>