



THE CONDITION OF THE HEART PART 8 - THE CONSEQUENCES OF A HARDENED HEART

In part 8 we are going to unpack how denying the Word of God entry into our hearts, causes our hearts to harden and the negative consequences of this hardening of heart.

It's fully possible to acquire intellectual knowledge about Jesus Christ, enabling you to answer questions, quote scripture, understand the text in its original language and still have a hardened heart. Why? Because the true place of life and understanding, the heart, has been void of this learning process.

It's also fully possible to be believe and be baptised in water, being justified by the blood of Jesus for our iniquity and sin, and still have a hardened heart that rejects, deflects, ignores and denies the Word of God. Let me show you an example in Acts 8 in relation to Simon.

Acts 8:13 Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.

Acts 8:18-23 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you. For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity."

In simple terms, the consequence of hardening our hearts will mean we lack His eternal life within us. We will only ever know the earthly life we were born into, and this will be the life that comes forth from us. This is a life of flesh and as Jesus said in John 6, "the flesh profits us nothing."



Our hardened hearts will blind and deafen us spiritually, rendering us incapable of hearing the Word of God, the voice of God, and unable to see into the unseen eternal kingdom. We will, as the disciples did when they walked with Him, lack faith. Our hardened hearts will prevent us from accessing the wisdom of God, as His children.

Mark 8:14-21 And they had forgotten to take bread, and did not have more than one loaf in the boat with them. And He was giving orders to them, saying, "Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod." They began to discuss with one another the fact that they had no bread.

And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you discuss the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet see or understand? Do you have a hardened heart? Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember, when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces you picked up?" They said to Him, "Twelve." "When I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of broken pieces did you pick up?" And they said to Him, "Seven." And He was saying to them, "Do you not yet understand?"

Faith, spiritual sight, comes from hearing the Word of Christ. It is by faith in Jesus Christ we are to live our lives from, which means if our ears are dull as the writer of Hebrews teaches, we will live lives of the flesh, rather than living by faith.

Hebrews 5:11 Concerning Him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain since you have become dull of hearing.

Instead of growing as disciples of Christ, who are maturing into the fullness of Jesus and discipling others into His image, we will be found missing the mark of faith, in other words, sinning. We will remain infants, immature followers, doing our own will all the while believing it to be His will. Ultimately, due to our inability to hear the Word of God, we will live lives of disobedience and unfaithfulness to the Father and His will.

Hebrews 5:12-14 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have



come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

What a sad state of affairs for all those who live from this hardened heart position. They will miss out on the reward of inheritance for accomplishing the will of God.

Colossians 3:23-25 Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

QUESTIONS

1. What has been stirred up within you after going through this resource?
2. Why are these consequences so destructive to the follower of Jesus and the glorification of the Father?
3. What causes us to become dull of hearing?
4. Does the reality of not being a discipliner of others alarm you in any way?
5. What are the consequences for the follower of doing the wrong which Paul mentions here in Colossians 3:23-25?
6. What steps do you need to take right now in relation to what has been spoken?

Watch the accompanying You Tube video here: <https://youtu.be/pPZw-MkRjyY>