

Heart

In the Bible the term “heart” is often referring to the mind. The Bible has quite a lot to say about the human mind and how we can let our thoughts lead us down good or bad paths. This is not an exhaustive study on what the Bible has to say about the human mind but will hopefully help us to see that we need to be careful about what we spend time thinking about. We can use our mind for constructive or destructive purposes. In this lesson we are going to look at several scriptures that talk about our “hearts” and see what the Bible has to say about the theater of the human mind.

Scriptures

Genesis 6:5 “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” God must consider what is in our heart to be important and He must be able to understand it. We can not possibly trick God into believing we are something we are not and He will judge us on it so it is important to understand that while none of us are perfect we need to be controlling what our mind spends time dwelling on.

I Kings 11:9 “And the Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the Lord God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice” Here we have recorded that the Lord is not happy when we turn our heart away from Him and do not obey His commandments. Do you want to risk the Lords wrath by having a displeasing heart?

Psalms 40:8-10 “I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart. I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O Lord, thou knowest. I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy loving kindness and thy truth from the great congregation” God's law is to be a central part of our mind. How else can we teach others as this passage suggests. We should not hide the word in our heart away from others but we need to be trying to share it with our fellow humans so they too can have God’s word in their hearts.

Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” If we let the Lord be first in our heart, we cannot go in the wrong direction eternally, it is only when He is not first in our lives that we create a problem for our own eternal destination.

Proverbs 6:16-19 “These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him. A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren” A heart filled with wickedness is not spoken highly of in this scripture. So, what we put into our heart is important to God and we will be accountable for it.

Proverbs 11:20 “They that are of a froward heart are abomination to the Lord: but such as are upright in their way are his delight”

(Froward = habitually disposed to disobedience and opposition.) An obedient heart is important to God and in fact is pleasing to Him. Don't you want your heart to be pleasing to God?

Proverbs 24: 17 "Rejoice not when thy enemy fallout, and let not thy heart be glad when he stumble" Now this verse spoke to me, I have failed here. We are not to be happy in another's sorrow even if we do not like them. We all have different things we need to work on to have a pure heart before God. Do not enjoy the pain of someone else even if we don't like them. You never know when perhaps being kind to someone that has not been kind to you might cause them to rethink their heart.

Matt. 5:28 "But I say to you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" The mind can sin without action. It is fair to say that getting control of your thoughts should greatly reduce the amount of time one spends on sinful things. Focusing on having a cleaner mind should greatly reduce sinful actions that can lead to all sorts of problems. After all, most bad actions start with bad thoughts.

Matt. 15:8 "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honourth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me" God wants real commitment not lip service. You can not fool God so don't bother trying. Don't pretend to follow God because He will know.

Matt. 22:37 "Jesus said to him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" Again, God tells us He does not want a partial commitment of second place in our lives, He must be first. We all struggle with this sometimes but an eternal home in Heaven is worth the struggle.

Matt. 12:35 "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth fourth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth fourth evil things" Good and bad deeds come from the heart. When you put good or evil into your mind that is what will come out. Make your heart right with God.

Romans 6:17 "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that from of doctrine which was delivered to you" Obedience and understanding must come from the heart. When we are wrong, we can change and make ourselves right with God. He will forgive us when we are truly obedient.

2 Cor. 9:7 "Every man according as he hath purposed in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or by constraint: for God loveth a cheerful giver" Giving is to be thought out in advance not done haphazardly or begrudgingly because God will know.

Heb. 3:10-12 "Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest. Take heed, bretheren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God" We must know God's ways, and keep them in our heart or be like those spoke of in the verse and miss Heaven. Do you want that? It sounds like we had better know God's ways and follow them.

Heb. 4:12 “For the word of God is quick and powerful, and sharper than any towedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” The word of God discerns what kind of heart I have, an obedient or disobedient one. Which one do you have? Which one do you want to have?

Conclusion

While we have not covered everything here, we can see that the Bible has a lot to say about our “hearts” (minds). What fills our heart is important to God and He knows what is in it. He does not want us to have a heart of disobedience but rather one that is striving to please Him. What we fill our minds with will help determine our eternal destination. God has given us His word to fill our hearts and be our guide.