

# The Heart of It All

**INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES:** The heart is the very center of all spirituality and manner of life. The heart says if a person is wise, foolish, good, evil, etc. The heart is naturally wicked and hence it must be changed or it will contaminate our life and character. Only regeneration (“*new birth*”) - or salvation by faith in Jesus Christ - will change the heart. It is only after this change has taken place can we be willing to follow God’s will for our life. Salvation must be present for a change in the heart of the natural man to take place.

This series of lessons will focus on some of the many traits found in the heart. When the Saviour is in control, we find gladness, wisdom, integrity, uprightness, etc, in the heart. But when self is in control we find hardness, pride, foolishness, etc in the heart. Then, there are times that even when we have allowed the Saviour to have control of the very center of our being, we experience a broken heart, a sorrowful heart, and maybe even allow that fearful heart to sneak in.

The Heart of the Gospel is Jesus. The heart of ourselves should be Jesus, also, if we have accepted Him as our Saviour. So, what is the very center of your being? What is it in your heart that motivates you to do certain things? Ask yourself these questions as we study **THE HEART OF IT ALL**.

## Lesson 1

### *The Perfect Heart*

Scripture: I Kings 8:61 - *“Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.”*

**INTRODUCTION:** “*Perfect*” in this verse, and the verses we will read throughout this lesson, does not mean “*flawless*” or “*sinless*.” Only Jesus was without sin or flaw - He was “*perfect*” in that sense. “*Perfect*” here, means “*complete; or having all the required qualities or characteristics.*” Even that definition of “*perfect*” is not attained overnight or the minute we receive Christ as our Saviour. It is through Bible Study, prayer, obedience to the Word of God, and putting into practice the things we have learned, that we will have that “*perfect heart*” that every Christian desires. As we

look at what the perfect heart is, we will see in later lessons what is required in a perfect heart to be pleasing to God.

## **I WHAT THE PERFECT HEART CANNOT HARBOR WITHIN**

- A. Partial Obedience (II Chronicles 15:17; I Kings 15:14)  
*“But the high places were not removed: nevertheless Asa's heart was perfect with the LORD all his days.”* King Asa began to reign over Israel and the Bible says he did that which was *“right in the eyes of the Lord. . .”* However, he did not completely obey. All idols were to be removed from Israel, and the ungodly places which practiced heathen worship. King Asa did that, even removing his mother as queen because of her idol worship. But the *“high places”* he did not remove. These were places used for idol worship. Because of this one area of laxness, King Asa did not have that perfect, or complete, heart toward God. Partial obedience is disobedience.
- B. Outward obedience only (II Chronicles 25:2)  
*“ And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, but not with a perfect heart.”* King Amaziah reigned in Jerusalem. He, seemingly, did that which was right, but his heart did not match his actions. After God gave him a victory over the enemy, he brought back false gods- FROM THE ENEMY - and set them up and began worshiping them. Being obedient outwardly may look good to those around you, but God sees the heart and He knows if your motives are pure and if your actions show forth your true thoughts. I Samuel 16:7 says, *“. . .for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.”*
- C. Sin blamed on upbringing/past (I Kings 15:3)  
*“And he walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God . . .”* King Abijam reigned over Judah for three years. His father had done wickedly. Rather than trying to rise above the evil his father did, he followed after his father doing the same things. It is much harder to go against the sinful things one has been taught than it is to just *“go with the flow”* and do whatever comes our way. So much sin today is blamed on how a person

was raised, what mom or dad did in their life, abuse, neglect, poverty. . .the list goes on. The real problem is lack of character to rise above whatever surroundings and upbringing were present to live a life pleasing to the Lord. A pill or therapy cannot take the place of what God could do with a completely surrendered life for Him.

- D. Other “*gods*” (I Kings 11:4)  
“. . . *when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God. . .*” King Solomon allowed other things to be put in place of God. The One Who had given him all of his riches, and wisdom, houses, and lands, was put way down the list of importance. Solomon loved women so much, that he had 700 wives and 300 concubines. He allowed his wives to influence him to the worship of other *gods*.  
If we are not careful, we can put TV, housework, pleasure, even family in the number one spot of importance. God is a jealous God. He wants to be number one and then He can put in order the rest of the things of our life.

## **II WHAT THE PERFECT HEART MUST HAVE WITHIN**

- A. The Perfect Heart of Obedience (I Chronicles 29:19; I Kings 8:61) 1Kings 8:61 - “*Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.*” Keeping God’s commandments and walking in the way He has directed in His Word will give us that Perfect Heart. Of course we will fall short many times. But God knows that we are human and that is why He is so willing to help us. Striving to do all that He commands is being obedient. Ignoring the Word of God and not even reading it is disobedience and will not result in the Perfect Heart.
- B. The Perfect Heart of Service (I Chronicles 28:9)  
“*And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart . . .*” In the early years of Solomon’s reign, he served the one true and living God. He

sought God in all of his decisions and God rewarded Solomon with great wisdom. Service to our Saviour is to be every day of the week, not just on Sunday. Serve Him by being the right kind of wife, mother, and grandmother. Serve him by witnessing, studying His Word, being a good neighbor and sharing the love of Christ to those around you.

- C. The Perfect Heart of Willingness (I Chronicles 29:9)  
*“Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD. .”*  
Fighting against the will of God will only bring about sorrow. These people in the verse above were rejoicing because they were WILLINGLY giving to the house of God. God loveth a cheerful giver (II Corinthians 9:7). True, he will take money from a grouch, but that grouch does not have that Perfect Heart of willingness. Be a willing, cheerful giver. Be willing to follow the Lord’s leading in all areas - even in the ones that go against what YOU want!
- D. The Perfect Heart of Faithfulness (II Chronicles 19:9)  
*“. . . Thus shall ye do in the fear of the LORD, faithfully, and with a perfect heart.”* In I Corinthians 4:2 the Bible says that it is *“required”* that we are *“faithful.”* As Christians, it is our duty to be faithful to the Lord. That includes in the areas of church attendance, tithe and offerings, witnessing, and living rightly. We cannot put on the coat of Christianity on Sunday mornings and take it off for the rest of the week. We must be faithful to Him daily.

**CONCLUSION:** We will live our entire lives striving to improve on our walk with God. As we become mature Christians and obtain the *“perfect heart”* we must never be satisfied with where we are in our relationship with the Saviour. The second we become satisfied or think we have obtained all knowledge there is to obtain, we have opened the door for Satan to destroy our walk with God and the *“perfect heart”* He has given us.

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## Lesson 1 Exercise

### Bible Scavenger Hunt

Look up the verses below to find the things listed in the box. Write the item you find next to the verse where you found it. The BONUS item does not have the scripture listed. Find the scripture and write it next to the bonus item.

parchments	unicorn	moth	BONUS:
leviathan	behemoth	oven	battle axe
bowl	wheel	residue	
spoon	event	dogs	

1. Numbers 23:22 - \_\_\_\_\_
2. Ecclesiastes 9:2 - \_\_\_\_\_
3. Job 41:1 - \_\_\_\_\_
4. Philippians 3:2 - \_\_\_\_\_
5. II Timothy 4:13 - \_\_\_\_\_
6. Zechariah 4:3 - \_\_\_\_\_
7. Daniel 7:7 - \_\_\_\_\_
8. Numbers 7:80 - \_\_\_\_\_
9. Ecclesiastes 12:6 - \_\_\_\_\_
10. Job 40:15 - \_\_\_\_\_

11. Psalm 39:11 - \_\_\_\_\_

12. Lamentations 5:10 - \_\_\_\_\_

BONUS: battle axe \_\_\_\_\_