

A HEART FOR CHRIST

In the Bible, the “heart” is the center of man’s being, that is, his entire mental and moral activity, both the rational (thinking) and emotional elements. It represents one’s true character. It is the seat of the moral nature and spiritual life. It includes emotions, feelings, reason, and will. The word “heart” in the Bible is often used interchangeably with “soul” and “spirit.” It often represents the source of one’s strongest purposes, desires, and motives in life.

1. The Old, Sinful Heart (Jer. 17:9)

- a. An evil, wicked heart (Gen. 6:5; Deut. 15:9; Matt. 15:19)
- b. A hard, stony heart (Exod. 7:14; Ezek. 11:19; 36:26; Rom. 2:5)
- c. A murderous heart (Gen. 27:41; Matt. 15:19)
- d. A fearful heart (Gen. 42:28; Deut. 28:67)
- e. A hateful heart (Lev. 19:17)
- f. A vengeful heart (Deut. 19:6)
- g. A good-intentioned heart (Judg. 5:15)
- h. A merry heart (1 Sam. 25:36)
- i. An independent heart (1 Ki. 12:33)
- j. A double heart (Psa. 12:2; 1 Chron. 12:33)
- k. A foolish heart (Psa. 14:1; Prov. 12:23; 22:15; Rom. 1:21)
- l. An unreprieveable heart (Prov. 5:12)
- m. A scheming heart (Prov. 6:18)
- n. A lustful heart (Prov. 6:25; Matt. 5:28; 15:19)
- o. A deceived heart (Deut. 11:16; Jas. 1:26)
- p. A deceitful, lying heart (Isa. 59:13; Jer. 17:9; Matt. 15:19; Acts 5:3)
- q. A rebellious heart (Jer. 5:23)
- r. A blasphemous heart (Matt. 12:34; 15:19)
- s. A traitorous heart (John 13:2)
- t. A prideful heart (Deut. 8:14; Psa. 101:5; Ezek. 28:5,17)
- u. A boastful heart (Deut. 8:17)
- v. An idolatrous heart (1 Ki. 11:2,4; Ezek. 14:3,4)
- w. A warring heart (Psa. 55:21; 140:2)
- x. A covetous heart (Psa. 62:10; Matt. 15:19; 2 Pet. 2:14)
- y. An envious heart (Prov. 23:17)
- z. A distant heart (Isa. 29:13)

2. The New Heart (Ezek. 36:26; Rom. 10:9,10)

- a. An upright heart (1 Ki. 3:6)
- b. A soft and tender heart (2 Ki. 22:19; Job. 23:16; Ezek. 11:19)
- c. A good heart (Luke 8:15)
- d. A strong heart (Psa. 27:14)
- e. A gracious, loving heart (Heb. 13:9; 1 Pet. 1:22)
- f. A prayerful heart (2 Sam. 7:27)
- g. A purposeful heart (Dan. 1:8)
- h. A glad heart (1 Sam. 2:1; 1 Ki. 8:66; Eph. 5:19)
- i. A God- and Christ-centered heart (Deut. 4:29; 6:5; Josh. 24:23; Psa. 27:8; 84:2; Jer. 24:7; 29:13)
- j. A single, whole, united heart (Deut. 4:29; 6:5; 2 Chron. 31:21; Psa. 9:1; 86:11; Jer. 29:13; 32:39; Ezek. 11:19; Col. 3:22)
- k. A wise heart (Exod. 36:2; Prov. 2:10)
- l. A sensitive heart (1 Sam. 24:5; 2 Sam. 24:10)
- m. A fellowshiping heart (Acts 2:46; 4:32; 2 Cor. 6:11; 2 Tim. 2:22)
- n. A clean heart (Psa. 51:10; 73:1; Matt. 5:8; 2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Pet. 1:22)
- o. A searched heart (Psa. 139:23,24; Jer. 17:10)
- p. A truthful heart (Psa. 15:2)
- q. An obedient heart (1 Ki. 8:61; Psa. 40:8; Rom. 6:17; Eph. 6:6)
- r. A studious heart (Prov. 15:28)
- s. A trusting, believing heart (Prov. 3:5,6; Rom. 10:9,10)
- t. A meek and lowly heart (Matt. 11:28)
- u. A meditative heart (Psa. 19:14)
- v. A God-serving heart (1 Sam. 12:24)
- w. A burning heart (Luke 24:32)
- x. A new heart (Ezek. 18:31; 36:26)
- y. An understanding, Word-possessing heart (1 Ki. 3:9; Psa. 40:8; 119:11; Rom. 10:8)
- z. A willing heart (Exod. 25:2; 2 Chron. 29:31)

3. The Broken, Contrite Heart

- a. A trembling heart (Deut. 28:65; see also Acts 16:29)
- b. A melted heart (Josh. 5:1; 2 Sam. 17:10)
- c. A broken heart (Psa. 34:18; Jer. 23:9)
- d. A contrite heart (Psa. 51:17; Isa. 57:15)
- e. An opened heart (Acts 16:14)
- f. A pricked and pierced heart (Acts 2:37; Heb. 4:12)

4. Hymns About Broken and Contrite Hearts

GT47

Oh, how our inmost hearts do move,
While gazing on that cross!
The death of the incarnate Love!
What shame, what grief, what joy we prove,
That He should die for us!
Our hearts were broken by that cry,
“Eli, lama sabachthani?”

GT170

Our grief is sorrow for an hour—
Eternal is Thy love:
Here we but taste its budding flower,
Which fully blooms above!

Our grief, bereft of all that stings
Through Thy sweet sympathy,
But leaves a broken heart that sings,
O lamb of God, to Thee!

GT253

“Call them in”—the broken-hearted,
Cowering beneath the brand of shame;
Speak love’s message low and tender
’Twas for sinners Jesus came.
See, the shadows lengthen round us,
Soon the day-dawn will begin;
Can you leave them lost and lonely?
Christ is coming—“call them in.”

GT220

Thou alone, Lord Jesus, can true peace impart,
Thou dost know the sorrow of the human heart,
Thou who came from glory here that heart to win,
And in love for sinners suffered once for sin!
There is none, Lord Jesus, there is none like Thee,
For the broken hearted there is none like Thee!

GT250

Broken heart, the fountain’s open,
Christ hath died upon the tree;
All the powers of hell are shaken;
Grace flows down from God to thee.

GT49

Yet in sight of Calvary,
Contrite should my spirit be,
Rest and holiness there find,
Fashioned like my Saviour’s mind.

GT87

O Hope of every contrite heart!
O Joy of all the meek!
To those who fall how kind Thou art!
How good to those who seek!

GT246

God loves to hear the contrite cry,
He loves to see the tearful eye,
To read the Spirit’s deep-felt sigh—
Come, anxious sinner, come!

5. The Biblical Way of Salvation

- a. Repent (Mark 1:15; Luke 13:3,5; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30; 20:21; 26:20)
- b. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:16,36; 5:24; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9; Eph. 2:8)
- c. Confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord (Rom. 10:9)
- d. Call upon the name of the Lord (Rom. 10:13)
- e. Take the water of life freely (Rev. 22:17)
- f. Enter in through Christ the Door, the Way, the Truth, the Life (John 10:9; 14:6)

6. Other (Questionable?) Ways of Salvation

- a. “Give your heart to Jesus,” or “Commit your life to Christ” (perhaps based on Prov. 23:26)
- b. “Let Jesus come into your heart” (perhaps based on Rev. 3:20)
- c. “God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life” (presents the good news before or without the bad news)

7. Final Question

If you have made a profession of salvation, did you receive the good news of salvation with a **SHOUT** ... or a shrug (that is, wholeheartedly ... or halfheartedly)?