

The Heart Tenderized Part 2

Scripture:	
Announcements:	
Scripture Reading:	
RECAP:	<p>So, we have been in this “mini” series on heart.</p> <p>—We are working with the biblical definition of heart as: The inner self, the place where thoughts come from, the mind, the place where choices are made, your intellect, or your will.</p> <p>— — We saw that the heart is capable of good and of evil and that the heart can be hardened.</p> <p>— — — Last week we started to look at how we tenderize our hearts; how do we soften our hearts.</p> <p>— — — — The first piece of that is that we need to assess our hearts. We need to know, really know, where our hearts are so that we can start the work of softening.</p> <p>— — — — — Then we looked at the fact that we need God in order to change our hearts.</p> <p>— — — — — — We need full surrender to God and we need God’s word.</p>
INTRODUCTION:	<p>So, this week we will looked at how God tenderizes our heart.</p> <p>—We will see that God is the needed ingredient for us to have a heart change.</p> <p>— — We will look at 3 ways that God changes our hearts.</p> <p>— — — Next week we will see what we can do to assist in our hearts changing.</p>
Passage Begins	

Scripture:	
<p>Hebrews 3:7–11 (NASB95): 7 Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, “Today if you hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, 9 Where your fathers tried Me by testing Me, And saw My works for forty years. 10 “Therefore I was angry with this generation, And said, ‘They always go astray in their heart, And they did not know My ways’; 11 As I swore in My wrath, ‘They shall not enter My rest.’ ”</p>	<p>So last week we started seeing that God is so important for our heart state.</p> <p>— If we are going to make heart changes we need God working in us. We will not change on our own.</p> <p>— — If we are going to have hearts turned towards God, surrender to God, we will have to allow Him to do the hearts transplant at conversion.</p> <p>— — — <u>READ: Ezekiel 36:26–27 (NASB95): 26</u> “Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances. — — — — <u>READ: Ephesians 2:4–6 (NASB95): 4 But</u> God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>But He is also going to have to cut off that which does not need to be there so that we can come back to the covenant that we have made with God.</p> <p>—READ: Deuteronomy 30:6 (NASB95): 6 “Moreover the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.</p> <p>— — Circumcision in Israel's past was bigger than just cutting some things off.</p> <p>— — — So when we see here in Deuteronomy that we need to have God circumcise our hearts we need to understand that the circumcision that Israel's males went through was a sign of submission to God.</p> <p>— — — — It was a sign of the covenant between God and Israel that they would be God's people and He would be their God.</p> <p>— — — — — When God circumcises the heart, He is affirming that covenant but it is also a call to be in complete submission to God.</p> <p>— — — — — God does the decisive work in all phases of the heart repair.</p> <p>— — — — — — He gives new hearts, He cuts out that which should not be there, and He tenderizes.</p> <p>— — — — — — — But how does He do it?</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>He does it 3 ways that we will look at in this series.</p> <p>— The first way that God makes hearts new, cuts out the parts we do not need, and tenderizes is through the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>— — God has given us, who are believers in Christ, a Helper.</p> <p>— — — The Holy Spirit is a perfect example of God not leaving us to try and do this life on our own.</p> <p>— — — — The Holy guides us in all truth.</p> <p>— — — — — READ: John 16:13 (NASB95): 13 “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.</p> <p>— — — — — That truth is our dependency on Jesus Christ our God and savior and a call to remain faithful to Him. It is also a call, a conviction on non-believers that they need God and their way is only leading to destruction.</p>
	<p>Andrew Murray wrote, “The Holy Spirit cannot possibly lead us into the power and the blessing of God’s word unless with our whole heart we herein the voice. The Holy Spirit can teach in no way but in a heart that is given up to hear and obey....God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our heart; God asks us to yield out whole heart to His leading; It is as the indwelling Spirit that He will call us and fit us to listen to God’s voice.”</p> <p>— What is Murray pointing out? That the Spirit is there to lead us in the power and blessing of God, will guide us in obedience, and causes us to listen.</p> <p>— — So the role of the Spirit in our heart softening process is, He causes us to hear; I mean really hear the word of God.</p> <p>— — — He leads us in the understanding of God word, enjoy God’s blessings, and guides us in obedience.</p> <p>— — — — The Spirit does this by the Word of God, through other believers, through circumstance, and prayer; but mainly through the word of God.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>The second way that God makes hearts new, cuts out the parts we do not need, and tenderizes is through His word.</p> <p>— READ: 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NASB95): 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.</p> <p>— — Murray wrote, “It is the ear that hears the voice of God, the eye that can ever see Him and the unseen world; the capacity for knowing and receiving all that God can communicate. It begins as trust in the word spoken; it grows into fellowship with the Person who speaks; its fruit is the reception of all God has to bestow.”</p> <p>— — — God’s word, when ever it is spoken, is powerful and it accomplishes its task.</p> <p>— — — — READ: Isaiah 46:9–11 (NASB95): 9 “Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’; 11 Calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it.</p> <p>— — — — — This God, the God that there is none like Him, who was from before time existed and when time wraps up He will be still be around, His pleasure and purpose will be accomplished; this God has spoken.</p> <p>— — — — — He has spoken and has had His words written down, He planned it, He has done it, and He brings it to pass.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So, when our hearts are hardened, God’s word will work and accomplish its purpose.</p> <p>—READ: Isaiah 46:12–13 (NASB95): 12 “Listen to Me, you stubborn-minded, Who are far from righteousness. 13 “I bring near My righteousness, it is not far off; And My salvation will not delay.</p> <p>— — If these are not verses for people with hard hearts I don’t know what is.</p> <p>— — — But this is a call to those who have hard hearts to listen to the word of God because He bring righteousness near us.</p> <p>— — — — READ: Isaiah 55:11 (NASB95): 11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.</p> <p>— — — — — Remember it was by the words of God that all things were created, all things are sustained, and all things happen.</p>
	<p>Full and righteous life is lived by the word of God.</p> <p>—READ: Psalm 119:9–11 (NASB95): 9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. 10 With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. 11 Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.</p> <p>— — The Bible teaches us how to live, and we need to live in submission and surrender to God.</p> <p>— — — READ: Psalm 119:9–11 (NASB95): 9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. 10 With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. 11 Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You.</p> <p>— — — READ: James 1:25 (NASB95): 25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.</p>

Scripture:	
Exod. 14:11-12, Exod. 15:24, Exod. 16:3, Exod. 16:20, Exod. 16:27-29, Exod. 17:2-3, Exod. 32:7-10, Numb. 11:1-2, Numb. 11:4, Numb. 14:1-4.	<p>The final way that we are going to look at in this series that God makes hearts new, cuts out the parts we do not need, and tenderizes is through His testing.</p> <p>— This may seem like a weird way that God softens our hearts but when God tests us we have to either rely on God or we trust something else.</p> <p>— — This is really what it boils down to in the midst of testing.</p> <p>— — — When we are tested we have to rely on God’s goodness.</p> <p>— — — — Israel did not do this in the wilderness, in fact there are at least 10 specific instances that the Israelites did not trust God in the wilderness.</p> <p>— — — — — Instead of trusting God in the testing they spoke against Him saying Egypt was better.</p>
	<p>Andrew Murray wrote, “O how many professing Christians make a start with God. They hear that their sins can be forgiven and that they can escape hell and go to heaven. And they say: what have I got to lose, I’ll believe. But then in a week or a month or a year or ten years, the test comes—a season of no water in the wilderness. A weariness with manna, and subtly a growing craving for the fleeting pleasures of Egypt.”</p> <p>— The trials of God should soften our hearts to trust God.</p> <p>— — This is a way that God uses to call His people back to Him.</p> <p>— — — Israel would wander away from God, they would break the covenant that was made between God and them, God would send them into a test to bring them back to Him.</p> <p>— — — — Most of the time those tests consisted of other nations take Israel over and causing them to long for God.</p> <p>— — — — — As Christians we can not take the grace of God for granted; this is what we do when we harden our hearts.</p> <p>— — — — — — We expect, or are entitled, to the grace of God no matter what we are serving.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>God tests our hearts and our faith so that we are not hardened to Him and we are not entitled to His graces.</p> <p>—READ: 1 Thessalonians 2:3–4 (NASB95): 3 For our exhortation does not come from error or impurity or by way of deceit; 4 but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who examines (test) our hearts.</p> <p>—READ: Proverbs 17:3 (NASB95): 3 The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, But the Lord tests hearts.</p> <p>—READ: James 1:2–4 (NASB95): Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.</p>
	<p>So, what is our take away? What is our practical application?</p> <p>—We need to first have a new heart put in us at conversion. If you have not done that you need to. We also have to remove that which is not needed and embrace the covenant with God.</p> <p>— —God sent the Holy Spirit as a helper for us and He guides us in the truth. Are you listening to the Holy Spirit?</p> <p>— — —God’s word is a natural heart tenderizer. How much are you going to the word?</p> <p>— — — —Are you taking the testing of God and growing in faith or are you feeling entitled to God’s grace and blessing?</p>

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