

The Heart Tenderized Part 3

Scripture:	
Announcements:	
Scripture Reading:	
RECAP:	<p>So, we are still in our mini series on heart. Our working definition of heart is: 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 have been in the part of our heart study where we are discussing how do we soften or tenderize our hearts if we have a hardened heart.</p> <p>—So last week we talked about how God tenderizes our hearts.</p> <p>—We looked at the fact that we need God to tenderize our hearts. We can not do it on our own.</p> <p>— —We looked at 3 ways that God softens our hearts.</p> <p>— — —The 3 ways that God works to soften our hearts is: through the Holy Spirit, through God’s word, and through testing.</p> <p>— — — —He gives us His Spirit to lead us in truth, He gives us His word so we can know Him and His truths, and He puts us to the test so we can rely on Him and get rid of those things that we do not need.</p>
INTRODUCTION:	<p>We have come to the portion of the heart tenderizing section that we will look at our work in making our hearts soft.</p> <p>—So today we will look at 2 ways we have an active role in softening our own hearts.</p> <p>— —As you will see, we need God to be active in these but we have work to do in ourselves too.</p> <p>— — —We will see how having faith and exercising that faith will help with our heart condition.</p> <p>— — — —We will see how we need to embrace repentance in order to soften our hearts.</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>As we have looked at God’s role in softening our hearts, if you will have seen several of the things that we should be doing in order to join God in the tenderizing process.</p> <p>— Things like going to God’s word; His word is powerful and can transform any heart but that heart has to hear the word of God.</p> <p>— — Andrew Murray wrote, “When the disposition exists, and the thirsty heart truly wait for divine teaching, and the circumcised ear opens to receive it, God’s voice will bring real life and blessing, and the power of living fellowship with Himself. Where it is wanting, the word remains unfruitful, and we go backward, however much head and mouth be filled with Bible truth.”</p> <p>— — — What Murray is saying is that when we seek out God for who He truly is and not for what we want Him to be, when we read His word to know Him deeper, when we pray to Him in a real way and not in a laundry list about aunt Greta’s ingrown toe; we are in fellowship with God.</p> <p>— — — — Fellowship is being an intimate relationship with God.</p> <p>— — — — — Being in fellowship with God produces faith in God.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>What is faith? READ: Hebrews 11:1 (NASB95): 1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.</p> <p>— So, faith is believing in, or trusting in God and being devoted to Him, without actually see the physical God.</p> <p>— — READ: 1 Peter 1:6–9 (NASB95): 6 In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, 7 so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 8 and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory 9 obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls.</p> <p>— — — God gives us faith: READ: Ephesians 2:8–9 (NASB95): 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.</p> <p>— — — — But we can also grow in the faith that God has given us: READ: 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NASB95): 7 for we walk by faith, not by sight—</p> <p>— — — — READ: Romans 10:17 (NASB95): 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.</p> <p>— — — — — Without faith we are unable to please God: READ: Hebrews 11:6 (NASB95): 6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>Murray said this, “With a heart man believeth, whether in God or the world. As our heart is, so our faith, and so our life. Our enjoyment of Christ, our spiritual strength and fruitfulness, our nearness to God, and our experience of His working in us, all depend, not upon single isolated acts of faith, but upon the state of the heart.”</p> <p>—What does your life, your heart, your enjoyment of Christ, your spiritual strength, your spiritual fruitfulness, your nearness to God, and experiencing His work reveal about our faith?</p> <p>— —Are you pleasing God because you are faithful and your heart is in fellowship with Him?</p> <p>— — —READ: Matthew 9:18–22 (NASB95): 18 While He was saying these things to them, a synagogue official came and bowed down before Him, and said, “My daughter has just died; but come and lay Your hand on her, and she will live.” 19 Jesus got up and began to follow him, and so did His disciples. 20 And a woman who had been suffering from a hemorrhage for twelve years, came up behind Him and touched the fringe of His cloak; 21 for she was saying to herself, “If I only touch His garment, I will get well.” 22 But Jesus turning and seeing her said, “Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well.” At once the woman was made well.</p> <p>— — —READ: Luke 18:35–43 (NASB95): 35 As Jesus was approaching Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the road begging. 36 Now hearing a crowd going by, he began to inquire what this was. 37 They told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. 38 And he called out, saying, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” 39 Those who led the way were sternly telling him to be quiet; but he kept crying out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” 40 And Jesus stopped and commanded that he be brought to Him; and when he came near, He questioned him, 41 “What do you want Me to do for you?” And he said, “Lord, I want to regain my sight!” 42 And Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.” 43 Immediately he regained his sight and began following Him, glorifying God; and when all the people saw it, they gave praise to God.</p> <p>— — — —We need faith enough to heal us; we need faith</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>We need faith enough to heal us; we need faith enough to heal our sick and hardened hearts.</p> <p>—God will do most the work but we have to come to Him with faith.</p> <p>— gotquestion.org said, “So, faith is the tender, dependent opposite of rebellion and resistance, and self-reliance, and faith comes by hearing. We are looking to Jesus with our ears. We look with our ears. The eyes of the heart look through the ears of the mind as the word of God is read or preached or presented to us in some way and, thus, being drawn by this sight to be conformed to him, we trust him.”</p> <p>— — — <u>READ: Galatians 2:20 (NASB95): 20</u> “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.</p>
	<p>When we truly put our faith in Jesus Christ, our hope, trust, and belief is in Him.</p> <p>—Our faith, hope, trust, and belief in Christ will shape our actions.</p> <p>— — We can go through the motions in our action; the Pharisees did it very well.</p> <p>— — — There is an action that they did not do well and I believe the church in America does not do very well either.</p> <p>— — — — That action is repentance.</p> <p>— — — — — Repentance is a key piece of softening our hearts and should be an action believer are doing often.</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>For some reason the word repentance has become a dirty word in our world and in our churches.</p> <p>—Why? Well, it means we have to admit that we were wrong; or that we did something wrong and acknowledge that; admitting it.</p> <p>— —Repentance makes us vulnerable and we know that we don't like to be vulnerable at all.</p> <p>— — —The Lexham Bible Dictionary defines repentance as: A change of attitude and action from sin toward obedience to God.</p> <p>— — — —Sin hardens the heart to God. Especially when a person continues to live in constant sin and there is not any repentance.</p> <p>— — — — —Continual unrepentant sin hardens hearts but so does any sin to a certain extent.</p> <p>— — — — — —Sin has a desensitizing effect on us and makes it hard to come back to Christ the more we entertain our sin.</p>
	<p>This is why we are told that we should confess our sins: <u>READ: 1 John 1:9 (NASB95): If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.</u></p> <p>—If we continue to pursue sin and do not confess our sins and repent from them we will be controlled by our unrighteousness and God will hand us over to them (let us choose sin and sinfulness over Him): <u>READ: Romans 1:21–25 (NASB95): 21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. 24 Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. 25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.</u></p>

Scripture:	
	<p>When looking at the greek of the word repentance it also means changing of thought or changing of one’s mind.</p> <p>—What was our working definition of heart again? The inner self, the place where thoughts come from, the mind, the place where choices are made, your intellect or your will.</p> <p>— —So, repentance is changing your heart. It is changing your heart from a selfish, self—seeking heart to a selfless, God seeking heart.</p> <p>— — —No wonder repentance softens hearts because it is a change of heart.</p> <p>— — — —Admitting you were wrong, admitting a sin, confessing sins, is not a prideful moment.</p> <p>— — — — —repentance is not a thing we can boast in, it does not make us look good, it does not self promote; in fact it does the opposite.</p> <p>— — — — — —Repentance points out our brokenness, our weakness, and our need for Christ.</p>
	<p>No one would take a resume to a company and have it filled out with all their mistakes. Why? That is not going to get you the job.</p> <p>—We try to present ourselves without fault in this life.</p> <p>— —We need to understand that repentance puts us in the right place. A place of humility.</p> <p>— — —This is why John the Baptist told us to repent often: READ: Matthew 3:8 (NASB95): 8 “Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance;</p> <p>— — — —Do not think yourself above repentance or not in need of frequent repentance.</p> <p>— — — — —Jesus even said: READ: Luke 5:31–32 (NASB95): 31 And Jesus answered and said to them, “It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. 32 “I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”</p> <p>— — — — —We know who is considered perfect or righteous in the sight of God beside His perfect awesome Son: READ: Romans 3:10–12 (NASB95): 10 as it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one; 11 There is none who understands, There is none who seeks for God; 12 All have turned aside, together they have become useless; There is none who does good, There is not even one.”</p>

Scripture:	
	<p>So, what is our take away? What is our practical application?</p> <p>—First and foremost, we have a part to play in the state and condition of our hearts. What are you doing in taking care of and maintain your heart?</p> <p>— —We also have to have an intimate relationship with Christ that produces faith.</p> <p>— — —God gives us faith but we can exercise that faith and live by that faith to grow and solidify that faith. Do you have enough faith for God to heal your sick heart?</p> <p>— — — —Is repentance a regular part of your daily, hourly, moment by moment life? If not you should embrace repentance. Paul, by his own admission admits to being the worst of sinners; why? Because he repented a lot; he saw his sin and his imperfection not neglecting the smallest of stain. He brushed nothing under the carpet but admitted his sin which brought him humility and a soft heart.</p> <p>— — — — —Are you changing your heart? Are you changing your thoughts, your mind, you attitude? Or are you just hiding it better and better?</p>
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