

e-KardíaGram

Your Heart.
God's Beat.

The Lord hasn't lost his powerful strength; he can still hear and answer prayers. Your sins are the roadblock between you and your God. That's why he doesn't answer your prayers or let you see his face. (Isaiah 59:1–2 CEV)

Behold, the LORD's hand is not so short that it cannot save; nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear. (Isaiah 59:1–2 NASB)

“Then a Savior will come to Jerusalem and to the people of Jacob who have turned from sin,” says the LORD. (Isaiah 59:20 NCV)

Not many of us enjoy being confronted with the reality of God's truth such as what came from the scrolls of Isaiah. No, that prophet didn't mince words. He told it like it was...and is. We prefer the God of abundant love without the God of authoritative justice we see in Isaiah 59 because that second part of God—the hard part—is about as pleasant as a heart attack. Atherosclerotic plaque and clots occlude coronary arteries and prevent blood from reaching the destination tissue, resulting in death of that tissue, and perhaps the entire person. That's just like the blockage you read about in the verses above.

But, there can be restoration! During angioplasty, a small, tubular, metal mesh structure called a stent is placed inside a collapsed artery to support its walls and ensure a channel through which literal life can continue to flow. No stent, no life. And spiritually, Jesus Himself is, in a very real way, a stent that allows a life-sustaining free flow between you and God. In other words, Jesus' primary purpose is to hold open the passageway of communication that ensures your restored and continued life. Like a compromised coronary artery, you can't do it yourself: left on your own your vessels are weak, occluded, and stuffed with plaque. Turning from sin allows placement of the stent identified in Isaiah 59:20, and every day you need that stent—the Savior.

—Jeff Russell

Cardiovascular Surgery

e-KardíaGram is produced by The Kardía Foundation. Written by Jeffrey A. Russell, PhD, ATC

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