

Today, I want us to look at the word WOWC received on 12/8/20 that gives us insight and direction as to what the Lord wants to do in our lives as a congregation for 2020 and beyond.

It is imperative that we respond to the Lord as He gives His Word to us or we fall into the category of those Jesus warns about in Matt. 7:24-27 of those who built their foundation on sand rather than the Rock and when the storms, wind, rain came – the house built on sand fell, while the house established on the Rock – stood solid.

Jesus said: “If you hear MY words and **act on them**, you will be **wise**; if you hear My words and **do not act on them**, you are considered **foolish**.” V. 24, 26.

Let us review the word given to us and see what The Word has to say:

“I am realigning My House – I am fine tuning My church to release the Heavenlies in your personal life – family and business. I have given much to MY House, NOW it’s a timely order of release.

Prepare your hearts to receive MY alignment and My Kingdom Glory will explode in your midst.

I am aligning your **heart** – I am aligning your eyes – I am aligning your mind.

Turn to ME ONLY as your source – I am yours for Eternity...”

I want to focus on the portion where it says: I am **aligning** your **HEART** –

I feel the Lord is directing me to present to you the re-alignment of our **HEARTS**.

The heart is the center not only of spiritual activity, but of all the operations of human life.

Deut. 6:5 “You shall love the Lord your God with all your HEART and with all your Soul and with all your Might.” This being the first and great commandment.

- The HEART is the core of our being as humans. The source of mental and moral activity.
- The Bible says our human depravity is in the heart, because sin is a principle which has its lodging in the center of man’s inward life.
- Matt. 15:19, 20 “For out of the **heart** come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, and slander. These are the things that make the person unholy;...”

Scripture also describes the heart as the place where God deals with mankind:

Rom. 10:9-10 “If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.

For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made to salvation”

Acts 15: 8-9 “And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as HE did to us, and He made no distinction between us and them [Jew/Gentile], having cleansed their hearts by faith.”

1Peter 3:4 The heart contains the hidden man:

“Let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious to God...” **Representing the true character.**

Other Scriptures indicate the heart is the seat/source of:

- Physical life – Acts 14:17, James 5:5
- Moral nature and spiritual life, the seat of grief – John 14:1, Rom. 9:2, 2Cor. 2:4
- Joy – John 16:22, Eph. 5:19
- Evil Desires – Matt 5:28. 2Peter 2:14
- Affections – Luke 24:32, Acts 21:13
- Perceptions – John 12:40, Eph. 4:18
- Thoughts/Intentions – Matt. 9:4, Heb. 4:12
- Understanding – Matt 13:15, Rom 1:21
- Purpose – Acts 11:23, Rom 10:10
- The Will – Rom 6:17, Col 3:15
- Faith – Mark 11:23, Rom 10:10, Heb. 3:12

As these scriptures indicate, the heart includes the EMOTIONS, the REASON, the WILL – **The total of our being!**

Salvation begins in the heart by believing the testimony of what God has done for us through His Son – Jesus Christ. Rom. 10

The rejection of that testimony hardens the heart:

Warning against Hardness:

Ps. 95:8-9 “Do not harden your heart, as in the day of rebellion, in the trial in the wilderness, when your fathers tested ME...”

Prov. 28:14 “Happy is the person who is always reverent [of God’s ways], but the one who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.”

Hardness of heart evidences itself by:

- Flippant attitudes towards sin
- Partial acknowledgment and confession of sin
- Pride and conceit
- Ingratitude; unconcern about the word and decrees of God
- Ignoring convictions of conscience
- Resisting reproof – correction

A person is defined according to his heart as:

Pure - Ps. 24:3-4 “Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? **The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol. Nor sworn deceitfully.**”

- Clean hands = Are your hands clean from being involved in sinful/ungodly activities?

We use our hands in activities either for righteous and good purposes or sinful, selfish purposes.

- Psa. 134:2 “Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and bless the Lord.”
- Mark 10:16 “He – Jesus, took them [children] up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.”

Upright and righteous - Matt 5:8 “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God...”

Devoted and good Luke 8:15 “The seed that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the Word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.”

- The heart is naturally wicked - Gen. 8:22 “The Lord God said, Behold, the man has become like one of US, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever.” – man was expelled from the Garden.
- Man’s heart contaminates the whole life and character Matt. 12:34 “For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.”
Matt 15:18 “Those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.”

This is why our heart must be changed, regenerated and kept clean – before a person can willingly obey God.

Ezek. 36:25-27 “Then I will sprinkle clean water [washing of the Word] on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you. I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in MY statutes and you will keep My judgments and do them.”

Ps. 51:10–12 “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.”

What the Bible says about protecting your heart?

Proverbs 4:23-27 – “Above all else, **guard** your **heart**, for everything you do flows from it.

Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from **your** lips.

Let **your eyes** look straight ahead; fix **your** gaze directly before you.

Give careful **thought** to the **paths for your** feet and be steadfast in all **your** ways.

- We are reminded of all the things that try to come against us.
Guarding our hearts **means** being wise and discerning in our lives.
Guarding our hearts **means** protecting ourselves as Christians from all the things that would come to deceive and overcome us.