

Written on Our Hearts

Recently, I was studying the scriptures from Hebrews that talk about the Lord putting His word in our minds and writing it on our hearts (8:10, 10:16).

Hebrews 8:10 NIV - "This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time, declares the LORD. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people."

Hebrews 10:16 NIV - "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the LORD. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."

As I meditated on these scriptures, I began to wonder if the enemy of our souls may have attempted to write things on our hearts and put thoughts and emotional patterns in our minds that would be contrary to God's truth. If you were the enemy of God's children and knew that His plan was to write on their heart His words, wouldn't you try to offer them words that are contrary and resistant to God's truth?

You betcha!

These verses in Hebrews are a reference to Jeremiah 31:33 and are associated with Ezekiel 11:19 and 36:26 where the Lord promises to remove the stony heart and give a 'heart of flesh'. The stony part refers to the places in our hearts and minds that resist truth.

Here are some notes from commentaries that give further explanations:

John Wesley's Explanatory Notes - The stony — that hard, inflexible, undutiful, incorrigible disposition. The stony — the senseless unfeeling. A new heart — a new frame of soul, a mind changed. A heart in which the law of God is written.

Matthew Henry's commentary - The carnal heart, like a stone, cannot be made to feel. Men live among the dead and dying, and are neither concerned nor humbled. He will make their hearts tender and fit to receive impressions: this is God's work, it is his gift by promise; and a wonderful and happy change is wrought by it, from death to life.

One of the commentaries noted that the heart and mind together describe the total inner motivations of the mind, will and emotions. WOW! That means that God promises to change my thoughts, emotions and patterns of choice by His Words written on my heart and mind!! Read that last sentence again!!! Let it soak in! What Good News!!!!!! You are not imprisoned to live, react or respond the way you always have! God's Words can literally change your life! Ok, ok, yes we 'know' this but do we KNOW this???? You can 'know' something intellectually but to 'Know' is to be in agreement with, to believe and live by it.

I challenge you today to begin to examine the patterns in your life that 'you' don't like and give God permission to erase those things written on your heart that do not agree with Him and His thoughts (God's Word). We do this by allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal the ways we think and the emotions associated with those thoughts that do not produce life. Jesus came to give us life and life more abundant (John 10:10)!

Once you are aware of a 'stony' place, you can now come to the foot of the cross and ask for forgiveness for these patterns. This allows the blood of Jesus, which washes white as snow, to erase this faulty thinking, reacting and responding. Now ask the Lord to write His Truth on your heart. The Holy Spirit will bring revelation of God's Word. Your role is to receive the Word and begin to rehearse it aloud, over and over. Let me give you an important piece of advice here; You will be given opportunity to put these truths into practice, just like you were in math class when you were taught how to calculate an answer and then given a test to prove you knew how! LOL! That's why it is important to say it over and over until it becomes a part of you.

By the way, how do you think the enemy of your soul wrote things on your heart?? You think he may have offered you a thought, phrase, emotional reaction etc. and repeatedly offered you situations to repeat or rehearse these thoughts, feelings and actions???? I think so! Use his tactics against him.

The bible tells us in Hebrews 4:12 that the Word of God is living and powerful, like a two-edged sword! Use it! The world has long promoted the power of positive affirmations to change your life. Just think ours, based on the Word of God, has the power that raised Christ from the dead behind them! A recent video of a little girl standing in front of a mirror in the morning making positive affirmations and declarations caught my attention. She was declaring things like 'I can do anything' to herself as she looked into the mirror! So here's your second challenge; Stand in front of your mirror in the morning and declare God's truth in first person! Examples: 'I am the apple of God's eye!'; 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!'; 'God is working in all things for my good!' (Deut. 32:10, Zech. 2:8, Philippians 4:13, Romans 8:28)

Eventually, we will get to the place where we can ask "God, what do you not like about the way I think, feel and respond?" This is when the true 'sons of God' begin to surface. These are the ones who know how their 'Father' thinks and can establish His kingdom! That's what God has called you to be- a son of the Most High! (John 1:12, Rom. 8:14,19, Rm. 9:25-26, Gal. 3:26, John 3:1)

Ok! Now where is my mirror?!!!