

## Renewing our Minds - Part Four (A Six Part Series)

### Second Half

#### Reason Four - So that we can have an undivided heart toward God (continued)

Study what the Word of God says about the connection between your mind, the condition of your heart, and faith. It will become clear to you that your heart is the place where your beliefs reside. You cannot say you believe with your mind and not have that same faith in your heart. As you renew your mind, the truth will be planted in your heart. God looks at your heart. It must be undivided towards God.

Truths we learn in our renewed minds, get into our hearts and are then expressed through faith.

*(1 Samuel 16:7 NKJV) "But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.""*

*(Psalms 19:14 NLT) "May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer."*

#### What do you believe in your heart?

Our first contact with God is a matter of the heart. Our hearts can believe or reject what God has for us.

*(Romans 10:9-10 NLT) "For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. {10} For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved."*

*(Mark 16:14 NKJV) "Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen."*

*(Luke 24:25 NKJV) "Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!""*

*(John 14:1 NKJV) "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me."*

*(Acts 8:37 NKJV) "Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.""*

## A warning about our hearts

The children of Israel rejected God in their hearts. They did not believe Him, they did not listen to Him, they did not trust Him and therefore they did not obey Him. God uses them as an example to warn us.

*(Hebrews 3:6-19 NLT)"But Christ, the faithful Son, was in charge of the entire household. And we are God's household, if we keep up our courage and remain confident in our hope in Christ. {7} That is why the Holy Spirit says, "**Today you must listen to his voice.**"{8} **Don't harden your hearts** against him as Israel did when they rebelled, when they tested God's patience our hope in Christ. {7} That is why the Holy Spirit says, in the wilderness. {9} There your ancestors tried my patience, even though they saw my miracles for forty years. {10} So I was angry with them, and I said, '**Their hearts always turn away from me. They refuse to do what I tell them.**' {11} So in my anger I made a vow: 'They will never enter my place of rest.'" {12} Be careful then, dear friends. **Make sure that your own hearts are not evil and unbelieving, turning you away from the living God.** {13} You must warn each other every day, as long as it is called "today," so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. {14} **For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ.** {15} But never forget the warning: "Today you must listen to his voice. Don't harden your hearts against him as Israel did when they rebelled." {16} And who were those people who rebelled against God, even though they heard his voice? Weren't they the ones Moses led out of Egypt? {17} And who made God angry for forty years? Wasn't it the people who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? {18} And to whom was God speaking when he vowed that they would never enter his place*

of rest? He was speaking to those who disobeyed him. {19} **So we see that they were not allowed to enter his rest because of their unbelief."**

(“Therefore, since...” - NKJV)

(Hebrews 4 NLT) "God's promise of entering his place of rest still stands, so we ought to tremble with fear that **some of you might fail to get there.** {2} For this Good News--that God has prepared a place of rest--has been announced to us just as it was to them. But it did them no good because **they didn't believe what God told them.** {3} For only we who believe can enter his place of rest. As for those who didn't believe, God said, "In my anger I made a vow: 'They will never enter my place of rest,'" even though his place of rest has been ready since he made the world. {4} We know it is ready because the Scriptures mention the seventh day, saying, "On the seventh day God rested from all his work." {5} But in the other passage God said, "They will **never enter my place of rest.**" {6} So God's rest is there for people to enter. But those who formerly heard the Good News **failed to enter because they disobeyed God.** {7} So God set another time for entering his place of rest, and that time is today. God announced this through David a long time later in the words already quoted: "Today you must listen to his voice. Don't harden your hearts against him." (see Psalm 95) {8} This new place of rest was not the land of Canaan, where Joshua led them. If it had been, God would not have spoken later about another day of rest. {9} So there is a special rest still waiting for the people of God. {10} For all who enter into God's rest will find rest from their labors, just as God rested after creating the world. {11} Let us do our best to enter that place of rest. For **anyone who disobeys God, as the people of Israel did, will fall.** {12} For the word of God is full of living power. It is sharper than the sharpest knife, cutting deep into our innermost thoughts and desires. It exposes us for what we really are (**and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart- NKJV.**) {13} Nothing in all creation can hide from him. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes. This is the God to whom we must explain all that we have done. {14} That is why we have a great High Priest who has gone to heaven, Jesus the Son of God. Let us cling to him and never stop trusting him. {15} This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations we do, yet he did not sin. {16} So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it."

Like spiritual plaque - it is a process that slowly builds up in our hearts and makes them hard.

## It is all about faith in God.

*(Hebrews 10:19-25 NLT) “And so, dear friends, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. {20} This is the new, life-giving way that Christ has opened up for us through the sacred curtain, by means of his death for us. {21} And since we have a great High Priest who rules over God's people, {22} **let us go right into the presence of God, with true hearts fully trusting him.** For our evil consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water. {23} Without wavering, let us hold tightly to the hope we say we have, for God can be trusted to keep his promise. {24} Think of ways to encourage one another to outbursts of love and good deeds. {25} And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near.”*

*(Hebrews 10:35-39 NLT) “**Do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord, no matter what happens.** Remember the great reward it brings you! {36} Patient endurance is what you need now, so you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised. {37} For in just a little while, the Coming One will come and not delay. {38} And a righteous person will live by faith. But I will have no pleasure in anyone who turns away.” {39} But we are not like those who turn their backs on God and seal their fate. We have faith that assures our salvation.”*

*(Hebrews 11:1 NLT) “**What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see.**”*

## Practical Application:

*(Philippians 4:6-7 NLT) “**Don't worry about anything;** instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. {7} If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. **His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.**”*