

## A Study On The Heart, Fallen and Redeemed

By Pastor Harry Richardson

The inner thoughts and feelings of an unregenerate person are opposed to God, making that person reject God and his love. At conversion the renewing work of the Holy Spirit transforms the human heart, enabling it to love and obey God.

### The unregenerate heart

#### Hostile to God

##### [Ps 14:1](#)

**Psalm 14:1 (NASB95)** — **1** The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good.

See also [1 Ki 15:3](#); [2 Ch 12:14](#); [Pr 19:3](#); [Jn 5:42](#); [Ac 8:21–22](#); [Ro 1:31](#); [Ro 8:7](#); [Heb 3:12](#)

**1 Kings 15:3 (NASB95)** — **3** He walked in all the sins of his father which he had committed before him; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, like the heart of his father David.

**2 Chronicles 12:14 (NASB95)** — **14** He did evil because he did not set his heart to seek the LORD.

**Proverbs 19:3 (NASB95)** — **3** The foolishness of man ruins his way, And his heart rages against the LORD.

**John 5:42 (NASB95)** — **42** but I know you, that you do not have the love of God in yourselves.

**Acts 8:21–22 (NASB95)** — **21** “You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God. **22** “Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

**Romans 1:31 (NASB95)** — **31** without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;

**Romans 8:7 (NASB95)** — **7** because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so,

**Hebrews 3:12 (NASB95)** — **12** Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

## Hardened against God

[Je 18:12](#)

**Jeremiah 18:12 (NASB95) — 12** “But they will say, ‘It’s hopeless! For we are going to follow our own plans, and each of us will act according to the stubbornness of his evil heart.’

### Pharaoh’s hard heart:

[Ex 4:21](#); [Ex 7:3](#); [Ex 7:14](#); [Ex 7:22–23](#); [Ex 8:15](#); [Ex 8:32](#); [Ex 14:8](#)

**Exodus 4:21 (NASB95) — 21** The LORD said to Moses, “When you go back to Egypt see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have put in your power; but I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go.

**Exodus 7:3 (NASB95) — 3** “But I will harden Pharaoh’s heart that I may multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt.

**Exodus 7:14 (NASB95) — 14** Then the LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is stubborn; he refuses to let the people go.

**Exodus 7:22–23 (NASB95) — 22** But the magicians of Egypt did the same with their secret arts; and Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the LORD had said. **23** Then Pharaoh turned and went into his house with no concern even for this.

**Exodus 8:15 (NASB95) — 15** But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

**Exodus 8:32 (NASB95) — 32** But Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and he did not let the people go.

**Exodus 14:8 (NASB95) — 8** The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and he chased after the sons of Israel as the sons of Israel were going out boldly.

[Dt 2:30](#); [Is 6:10](#); [Is 42:25](#); [Je 16:12](#); [Da 5:20](#); [Mt 13:15](#); [Ac 28:27](#); [Ro 2:5](#); [Re 16:9](#); [Re 16:11](#)

**Deuteronomy 2:30 (NASB95) — 30** “But Sihon king of Heshbon was not willing for us to pass through his land; for the LORD your God hardened his spirit and made his heart obstinate, in order to deliver him into your hand, as he is today.

**Isaiah 6:10 (NASB95) — 10** “Render the hearts of this people insensitive, Their ears dull, And their eyes dim, Otherwise they might see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, Understand with their hearts, And return and be healed.”

**Isaiah 42:25 (NASB95) — 25** So He poured out on him the heat of His anger And the fierceness of battle; And it set him aflame all around, Yet he did not recognize it; And it burned him, but he paid no attention.

**Jeremiah 16:12 (NASB95) — 12** ‘You too have done evil, even more than your forefathers; for behold, you are each one walking according to the stubbornness of his own evil heart, without listening to Me.

**Daniel 5:20 (NASB95) — 20** “But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly, he was deposed from his royal throne and his glory was taken away from him.

**Matthew 13:15 (NASB95) — 15** FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.’

**Acts 28:27 (NASB95) — 27** FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, AND WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES; OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.” ’

**Romans 2:5 (NASB95) — 5** But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

**Revelation 16:9 (NASB95) — 9** Men were scorched with fierce heat; and they blasphemed the name of God who has the power over these plagues, and they did not repent so as to give Him glory.

**Revelation 16:11 (NASB95) — 11** and they blasphemed the God of heaven because of their pains and their sores; and they did not repent of their deeds.

### **Spiritually ignorant**

[Eph 4:18](#)

**Ephesians 4:18 (NASB95) — 18** being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

See also [2 Sa 6:16](#); [Ro 1:21](#); [2 Co 3:15](#); [2 Co 4:4](#)

**2 Samuel 6:16 (NASB95) — 16** Then it happened as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David that Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

**Romans 1:21 (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.

**2 Corinthians 3:15 (NASB95) — 15** But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart;

**2 Corinthians 4:4 (NASB95) — 4** in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

## Proud

[Ps 73:7](#)

**Psalms 73:7 (NASB95) — 7** Their eye bulges from fatness; The imaginations of their heart run riot.

See also [Pr 18:12](#); [Pr 21:4](#); [Je 48:29](#); [Je 49:16](#); [Eze 28:2](#); [Eze 28:17](#); [Ob 3](#); [Re 18:7](#)

**Proverbs 18:12 (NASB95) — 12** Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, But humility goes before honor.

**Proverbs 21:4 (NASB95) — 4** Haughty eyes and a proud heart, The lamp of the wicked, is sin.

**Jeremiah 48:29 (NASB95) — 29** “We have heard of the pride of Moab—he is very proud— Of his haughtiness, his pride, his arrogance and his self-exaltation.

**Jeremiah 49:16 (NASB95) — 16** “As for the terror of you, The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, O you who live in the clefts of the rock, Who occupy the height of the hill. Though you make your nest as high as an eagle’s, I will bring you down from there,” declares the LORD.

**Ezekiel 28:2 (NASB95) — 2** “Son of man, say to the leader of Tyre, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Because your heart is lifted up And you have said, ‘I am a god, I sit in the seat of gods In the heart of the seas’; Yet you are a man and not God, Although you make your heart like the heart of God—

**Ezekiel 28:17 (NASB95) — 17** “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I put you before kings, That they may see you.

**Obadiah 3 (NASB95) — 3** “The arrogance of your heart has deceived you, You who live in the clefts of the rock, In the loftiness of your dwelling place, Who say in your heart, ‘Who will bring me down to earth?’

**Revelation 18:7 (NASB95) — 7** “To the degree that she glorified herself and lived sensuously, to the same degree give her torment and mourning; for she says in her heart, ‘I SIT AS A QUEEN AND I AM NOT A WIDOW, and will never see mourning.’

## Deceitful

### [Je 17:9](#)

**Jeremiah 17:9 (NASB95) — 9** “The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?

See also [Job 31:33–34](#); [Ps 5:9](#); [Ps 28:3](#); [Ps 62:4](#); [Pr 6:14](#); [Pr 23:7](#); [Pr 24:12](#); [Pr 26:23–25](#); [Is 44:20](#); [Je 22:17](#); [2 Ti 3:13](#)

**Job 31:33–34 (NASB95) — 33** “Have I covered my transgressions like Adam, By hiding my iniquity in my bosom, **34** Because I feared the great multitude, And the contempt of families terrified me, And kept silent and did not go out of doors?

**Psalms 5:9 (NASB95) — 9** There is nothing reliable in what they say; Their inward part is destruction itself. Their throat is an open grave; They flatter with their tongue.

**Psalms 28:3 (NASB95) — 3** Do not drag me away with the wicked And with those who work iniquity, Who speak peace with their neighbors, While evil is in their hearts.

**Psalms 62:4 (NASB95) — 4** They have counseled only to thrust him down from his high position; They delight in falsehood; They bless with their mouth, But inwardly they curse. Selah.

**Proverbs 6:14 (NASB95) — 14** Who with perversity in his heart continually devises evil, Who spreads strife.

**Proverbs 23:7 (NASB95) — 7** For as he thinks within himself, so he is. He says to you, “Eat and drink!” But his heart is not with you.

**Proverbs 24:12 (NASB95) — 12** If you say, “See, we did not know this,” Does He not consider it who weighs the hearts? And does He not know it who keeps your soul? And will He not render to man according to his work?

**Proverbs 26:23–25 (NASB95) — 23** Like an earthen vessel overlaid with silver dross Are burning lips and a wicked heart. **24** He who hates disguises it with his lips, But he lays up deceit in his heart. **25** When he speaks graciously, do not believe him, For there are seven abominations in his heart.

**Isaiah 44:20 (NASB95) — 20** He feeds on ashes; a deceived heart has turned him aside. And he cannot deliver himself, nor say, “Is there not a lie in my right hand?”

**Jeremiah 22:17 (NASB95) — 17** “But your eyes and your heart Are intent only upon your own dishonest gain, And on shedding innocent blood And on practicing oppression and extortion.”

**2 Timothy 3:13 (NASB95) — 13** But evil men and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

## Sinful

### [Ge 6:5](#)

**Genesis 6:5 (NASB95) — 5** Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

See also [Job 36:13](#); [Ps 10:3](#); [Ps 41:6](#); [Ps 55:21](#); [Pr 6:18](#); [Pr 20:9](#); [Is 1:5](#); [Mt 9:4](#); [Mt 15:18–19](#)

**Job 36:13 (NASB95) — 13** “But the godless in heart lay up anger; They do not cry for help when He binds them.

**Psalms 10:3 (NASB95) — 3** For the wicked boasts of his heart’s desire, And the greedy man curses and spurns the LORD.

**Psalms 41:6 (NASB95) — 6** And when he comes to see me, he speaks falsehood; His heart gathers wickedness to itself; When he goes outside, he tells it.

**Psalms 55:21 (NASB95) — 21** His speech was smoother than butter, But his heart was war; His words were softer than oil, Yet they were drawn swords.

**Proverbs 6:18 (NASB95) — 18** A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil,

**Proverbs 20:9 (NASB95) — 9** Who can say, “I have cleansed my heart, I am pure from my sin”?

**Isaiah 1:5 (NASB95) — 5** Where will you be stricken again, As you continue in your rebellion? The whole head is sick And the whole heart is faint.

**Matthew 9:4 (NASB95) — 4** And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, “Why are you thinking evil in your hearts?”

**Matthew 15:18–19 (NASB95) — 18** “But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. **19** “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

### Condemned

#### [Pr 11:20](#)

**Proverbs 11:20 (NASB95) — 20** The perverse in heart are an abomination to the LORD, But the blameless in their walk are His delight.

See also [Ps 101:4–5](#); [Pr 16:5](#); [Pr 17:20](#); [Ec 11:9](#); [Is 10:12](#); [Je 17:10](#); [Eze 25:6–7](#); [Ro 1:24](#)

**Psalms 101:4–5 (NASB95) — 4** A perverse heart shall depart from me; I will know no evil. **5** Whoever secretly slanders his neighbor, him I will destroy; No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will I endure.

**Proverbs 16:5 (NASB95) — 5** Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; Assuredly, he will not be unpunished.

**Proverbs 17:20 (NASB95) — 20** He who has a crooked mind finds no good, And he who is perverted in his language falls into evil.

**Ecclesiastes 11:9 (NASB95) — 9** Rejoice, young man, during your childhood, and let your heart be pleasant during the days of young manhood. And follow the impulses of your heart and the desires of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for all these things.

**Isaiah 10:12 (NASB95) — 12** So it will be that when the Lord has completed all His work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, He will say, “I will punish the fruit of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria and the pomp of his haughtiness.”

**Jeremiah 17:10 (NASB95) — 10** “I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds.

**Ezekiel 25:6–7 (NASB95) — 6** ‘For thus says the Lord GOD, “Because you have clapped your hands and stamped your feet and rejoiced with all the scorn of your

soul against the land of Israel, **7** therefore, behold, I have stretched out My hand against you and I will give you for spoil to the nations. And I will cut you off from the peoples and make you perish from the lands; I will destroy you. Thus you will know that I am the LORD.”

**Romans 1:24 (NASB95) — 24** Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.

## **Conversion: the changed heart**

### **Convinced of need**

[Jn 16:8](#)

**John 16:8 (NASB95) — 8** “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

See also [Je 29:12–14](#); [Ac 2:37](#); [Ac 16:30](#); [Ro 7:7](#); [1 Co 14:25](#)

**Jeremiah 29:12–14 (NASB95) — 12** ‘Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. **13** ‘You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. **14** ‘I will be found by you,’ declares the LORD, ‘and I will restore your fortunes and will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you,’ declares the LORD, ‘and I will bring you back to the place from where I sent you into exile.’

**Acts 2:37 (NASB95) — 37** Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”

**Acts 16:30 (NASB95) — 30** and after he brought them out, he said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

**Romans 7:7 (NASB95) — 7** What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, “YOU SHALL NOT COVET.”

**1 Corinthians 14:25 (NASB95) — 25** the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you.

### **Changed by the Holy Spirit**

[Eze 36:25–27](#)

**Ezekiel 36:25–27 (NASB95) — 25** “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. **26**



“Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **27** “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

See also [Je 4:14](#); [Je 24:7](#); [Eze 11:19](#); [Eze 18:31](#); [Jn 3:5–6](#); [Ro 2:29](#); [Tt 3:4–5](#)

**Jeremiah 4:14 (NASB95) — 14** Wash your heart from evil, O Jerusalem, That you may be saved. How long will your wicked thoughts Lodge within you?

**Jeremiah 24:7 (NASB95) — 7** ‘I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the LORD; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart.

**Ezekiel 11:19 (NASB95) — 19** “And I will give them one heart, and put a new spirit within them. And I will take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh,

**Ezekiel 18:31 (NASB95) — 31** “Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! For why will you die, O house of Israel?

**John 3:5–6 (NASB95) — 5** Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. **6** “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

**Romans 2:29 (NASB95) — 29** But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.

**Titus 3:4–5 (NASB95) — 4** But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, **5** He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

#### Given faith

[2 Co 4:6](#)

**2 Corinthians 4:6 (NASB95) — 6** For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

See also [Ac 5:31–32](#); [Ac 15:9](#); [Ac 16:14–15](#); [Ro 10:8–10](#); [Eph 2:8](#)

**Acts 5:31–32 (NASB95) — 31** “He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. **32** “And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

**Acts 15:9 (NASB95) — 9** and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith.

**Acts 16:14–15 (NASB95) — 14** A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. **15** And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.

**Romans 10:8–10 (NASB95) — 8** But what does it say? “THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART”—that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, **9** that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; **10** for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

**Ephesians 2:8 (NASB95) — 8** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;

## Spurious conversion

### A less-than-saving change

[1 Sa 10:9](#)

**1 Samuel 10:9 (NASB95) — 9** Then it happened when he turned his back to leave Samuel, God changed his heart; and all those signs came about on that day.

See also [Mt 13:5–6](#); [Mt 13:20–21](#); [Heb 6:4–8](#); [Heb 10:26–29](#)

**Matthew 13:5–6 (NASB95) — 5** “Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. **6** “But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

**Matthew 13:20–21 (NASB95) — 20** “The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; **21** yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.

**Hebrews 6:4–8 (NASB95)** — **4** For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, **5** and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, **6** and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame. **7** For ground that drinks the rain which often falls on it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; **8** but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it ends up being burned.

**Hebrews 10:26–29 (NASB95)** — **26** For if we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, **27** but a terrifying expectation of judgment and THE FURY OF A FIRE WHICH WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES. **28** Anyone who has set aside the Law of Moses dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. **29** How much severer punishment do you think he will deserve who has trampled under foot the Son of God, and has regarded as unclean the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has insulted the Spirit of grace?