

POINT 3 FROM PAPER ON "THE NEW BIRTH"

Pages 3-9

3. "... and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh. and give you a heart of flesh ..." ("give you a new heart")

Look at the Greek and Hebrew definition of "HEART"

including explanation on Stoney Heart vs Heart of Flesh:

DEFINITION OF THE WORD "**HEART**" IN THE GREEK TEXT GIVEN IN EPHESIANS 3:17:

Ephesians 3:16 "... that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your **hearts** through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God."

From Thayer's Greek Concordance with Strongs # G2588:

Καρδιά (Greek text spelling).

Kardia (Greek text pronunciation).

Thayer Definition:

1) the heart

1a) that organ in the animal body which is the centre of the circulation of the blood, and hence was regarded as the seat of physical life

1b) denotes the centre of all physical and spiritual life

2a) the vigour and sense of physical life

2b) the centre and seat of spiritual life

2b1) the soul or mind, as it is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavours

2b2) of the understanding, the faculty and seat of the intelligence

2b3) of the will and character

2b4) of the soul so far as it is affected and stirred in a bad way or good, or of the soul as the seat of the sensibilities, affections, emotions, desires, appetites, passions

1c) of the middle or central or inmost part of anything, even though inanimate

Part of Speech: noun feminine

HEART DESCRIBED BY OLD TESTAMENT HEBREW WORD AS USED IN PROVERBS 23:7

Pro 23:7 "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee." (King James Bible)

Brown-Driver-Briggs' Definition of Hebrew word "Leb":

H3820 (Strong's Concordance #)

leb (HEART)

1) inner man, mind, will, heart, understanding

1a) inner part, midst

1a1) midst (of things)

1a2) heart (of man)

1a3) soul, heart (of man)

1a4) mind, knowledge, thinking, reflection, memory

1a5) inclination, resolution, determination (of will)

1a6) conscience

1a7) heart (of moral character)

1a8) as seat of appetites

1a9) as seat of emotions and passions

1a10) as seat of courage

Part of Speech: noun masculine

Stoney Heart vs Heart of Flesh:

What the mind is set on gives the heart it's direction. It is the

driving force of our soul and makes us the person we are and become.

A stony heart is a heart with the mind centered on the flesh and on fulfilling the desires of the flesh. It is a heart (central core and life of the soul) totally controlled by the flesh (Ephesians 2:3). The flesh (our human nature) is basically everything that is human without God (Look at the definition of the Greek word for flesh (sarx) in the Strong's Lexicon and Thayer's Lexicon combined). It is who we are without God - sinners, due to the sinful desires in our flesh (lower human nature) and the corruption of our souls due to Adam's first sin as well as our own sins; although, there is a conscience placed in every heart with a knowledge of right and wrong (works of the law written in their hearts - Romans 2:14-15). All that makes up the heart is controlled by the flesh (lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, Romans 7:14-25). This started in the Garden of Eden when Eve's soul was influenced by her fleshly (human body) desires in Genesis 3:6. Eve, her soul-spirit (person) being holy and without sinful desires due to being created in the image of God, was in perfect union with her human body (lower human nature) with its sinful desires [body and soul united together making up her complete being she was created to be]. Eve's soul, as well as Adam's, was created without sin and with the ability, before sin, to choose or not to choose obedience to God's command - thereby, remaining sinless if she chose not to listen to Satan and not to fulfill her fleshly desires, but instead obey God; OR, become a sinner if she chose to fulfill the desires of her flesh and listen to and obey Satan. Eve, influenced by her fleshly desires and Satan's lies (Genesis 3:4-6), chose by her own free will (will is seated in the heart, her heart being sinless at this point) to fulfill those desires of her human body while listening to and obeying Satan over against obeying God's command to not eat of the tree of the knowledge of

good and evil (Genesis 2:16-17). Once Eve made her choice to fulfill the desires of her flesh and listen to Satan's lies, at that moment her soul sinned and became deceived, sinful and corrupt in every part of her soul and body. At that moment of sin, her soul and Adam's, being corrupted in every part became enslaved, empowered and controlled by their fleshly desires with no desire or power to break free from those sinful desires; but instead, their souls and ours desire, purpose and live to fulfill those desires. Their souls and every soul - every person born from Adam's seed, is born without God and with no desire for God due to our sin nature and it's controlling power over us. Our soul REMAINS in that state of sin (being active sinners - Romans 3:10-18,23) unless or until the Holy Spirit begins to work in it. The longer we live on this earth without the regenerating and renewing work of the Holy Spirit, the more corrupt our souls become. If we never understand or believe this about ourselves, we will never see our absolute need for Christ's delivering, saving and sanctifying - mercy, grace and power to work in us - convicting and causing us to flee to Christ for Him to save us!!! No New Birth - No entrance into Heaven and living in God's presence!!!

A heart of flesh is a heart that has been circumcised by the Holy Spirit of God (Romans 2:28-29) - therefore, opened to and desirous of God's saving and sanctifying work and also desiring to love and obey God. It is a heart with the mind now centered on Christ and on the Spirit, delighting in the Law of God due to the divine influences of the Holy Spirit upon it and His presence in us (Romans 8:5-9). The flesh, still alive and well with its sinful desires, can and does have a strong influence on the soul - heart (mind, will, emotions, etc.). The soul and body being in perfect union with each other continues to greatly affect each other. Therefore, there is the ongoing battle of the flesh and the Spirit during the sanctification process (Galatians 5:17-21). That is why

we need to feed our minds with the Word of God (Romans 12:1-2; John 17:17) so that the Holy Spirit can put His truth into our minds giving us understanding and write those truths on our hearts making them a controlling force within us (New Covenant Promise - Hebrews 8:10-11; Jeremiah 31:33); thereby conforming us more and more to the image of Christ and enabling us to overcome the influences of the flesh upon the still corrupted but renewed heart (giving us power over sin). The more Absolute Truths we allow the Holy Spirit to put in our minds and write upon our hearts as well as allow the Holy Spirit's influence and control over our hearts, the greater freedom we will experience from the remaining corruption in our renewed hearts and fleshly influences upon our hearts. That is why we must read, study and meditate on the Word of God daily. That is why Jesus said so clearly in Matthew 4:4, "But He answered and said, 'It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" Also, John 6:53, "So Jesus said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. 54 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him.'" And, John 8:31, "So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, 'If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'" It is VITAL to get God's Holy Word into our minds (Hearts).

THE NEW BIRTH Continued

"... and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh ("give you a new heart")

He gives us a heart sensitive, willing and open to Christ's saving and sanctifying work in us enabling us to

understand all of God's Absolute Truths in His Word - Christ being the embodiment of all truth and the Word of God made flesh. We know Christ intimately when we understand with our minds and have the Absolute Truths of His Word written in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. A heart of flesh is a heart that desires to receive God's Salvation and Sanctification - Love, Mercy, Forgiveness and Grace; and, a heart to love God for the first time since of physical birth into this life. I John 4:19, "We love him, because he first loved us."