

A New heart.

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Today our Subject is A new heart. What it means to have a new heart. Or one could say what it means to be born again and a new creation in Christ Jesus.

Reading: - 1Sam 9:25 – 1Sam 10:9

Let's just Highlight 2 verses

1 Samuel 10:6 Then the Spirit of the LORD will rush upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be **turned into another man.**

1 Samuel 10:9 When he turned his back to leave Samuel, **God gave him another heart.** And all these signs came to pass that day.

Today if this happened, we would say Saul was born again. But notice the Prophet very clearly said he would be turned into another man and the following verses say God gave him another heart. He was never changed into a new man. He never had a new heart.

How could I say this and back it up with the Word of God. Well when we look for evidence that Saul was converted or a child of God. We don't find it. We do find clear evidence of a spiritual gift that rushed upon Him in a very powerful way. That was evidence God wanted Him to be King and an enabling to be king. Also It was a sign to all the people. Some strong evidence that Saul **was never regenerate** (had a new heart) **is found when we compare Saul and Solomon.** As seen later in 2 Samuel

2 Samuel 7:13-16 (ESV) **13** He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. **14** I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, **15 but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.** **16** And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

Look at the contrast between Saul and Solomon. The Lord said to Solomon, *I will be a Father to Him and He shall be my son.* When Solomon sinned, He was chastised as a Son and not as an alien. He was not perfect at all, Not just once but 3 times he went astray, the scripture says - 1 Kings 11:9 *And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the LORD....* Yet the Lord treated Him as a child, God's loving-kindness would not be withdrawn from Solomon, as in the case of Saul.

It is true that King Saul on the surface appears to be converted. Some say he was changed into another man He must have been converted, He was given another heart to enable Him to be King to fulfil his duty as king. Like Sampson was given great strength. It

was an outward work of the Spirit, but not an inward work of a new heart. **How Saul loved the man of God the Prophet Samuel. He Knew and loved and respected the Prophet.** But sadly, He did not know, Love and respect the God of the prophet.

It reminds me of one of the Founding Fathers of America. A printer, a postmaster, an ambassador, an author, a scientist, a Founding Father Benjamin Franklin. He was great friends with George Whitfield the great preacher. He loved His preaching. He loved the Man, He Knew the Man, He acknowledged Him as Man of God. But sadly he did not know the God of George Whitfield. He thought He did. Listen to what was written on His Tombstone. *The body of the Franklin printer, like the cover of an old book, its contents torn out and stripped of its lettering and gilding lies here, food for worms, but the work shall not be wholly lost. For it will, as he believed, appear once more in a new and perfect addition, corrected and amended by the author.* You see this was an empty hope. There is only one way to appear perfect and corrected by the Lord, only one way to rise again. That is to believe in Jesus Christ. And Benjamin Franklin never did believe in Jesus Christ. He never knew the Lord. Like Saul, He knew the man of God but He didn't know the God of the prophet. He was not renewed inwardly.

John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

We find that those who truly know the Lord it is said of them, They have kept Gods Word, - they have received The Lords words, —they know surely that Jesus came out from The Father."

Jeremiah 24:7 And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the Lord: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart. You see a new heart knows Him Loves Him and obeys Him. Not only that, This new heart has the ability to obey and follow. He will be their God and They will be His people.

Saul did not have a new heart. He did not have the heart we read about in *Ezekiel 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.* A heart of flesh is a soft responsive heart, a heart that is not in opposition to the Spiritual, to that which The Lord God wants.

It is the heart and spirit that underline our actions. While a heart of stone cannot respond to God in Love and Obedience. Saul did not respond to Gods commands, He did not obey Gods Commands.

Yet it looked like Saul was converted at first. He was not big in His own eyes he was Humble, when All the tribes of Israel were called and gathered together to have their king presented to them. They couldn't find Saul. ^{1Samuel 10:22}. They inquired of the Lord and the Lord said, "Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage." They ran and took him out there and presented Him before the people. At first, He is So humble, so modest, and yet, his modesty, is so easily turned into pride.

You see, discretion, or humility, or modisty can just be a natural thing. It's not a gracious thing, not a Christian thing, it doesn't prove that one has a new heart and is a true child of God.

True Christian humility means that we understand we have received God's grace. And we are not puffed up in our own eyes. There is Thanksgiving and gratitude to God who has given us everything. **We are not great in our own eyes, after all; all and everything we have is received as a free gift from God.** Real humility puts God upon the throne and us on his footstool. Real humility, or modesty will put aside what we want and do what is right to do according to Gods ways and Gods Words. It will not insist upon its own way.

We must also note here, it's not so much how we start our race, Saul started well, rather it's how we finish. When one has been given a new heart, there is a desire to keep on walking with the Lord, A desire to please Him, A desire to obey Him. And as we continue to walk with the Lord this desire should get more and more.

Another quality we could be mistaken that Saul had a new heart was His ZEAL. In ^{1Sam 11} *He calls Israel together as a force against Israel's enemies'* zeal for God against his and Israel's enemies was very commendable indeed. But its not Zeal that makes one a believer.

The best example of Zeal without knowledge is Saul of Tarsus. His Zeal didn't really help Him at all, rather It caused Him to see Christ and his disciples as enemies. Paul never boasts in His great Zeal but His boast is in Christ Jesus. It was Grace that saved Saul of Tarsus on the Damascus Road.

I would not have wanted to meet Saul before Grace saved Him. Even today there are many Zealous people but sadly no grace, no realistic knowledge of God in their lives. No knowledge that by grace through faith we are saved. **Zealous people have a fervent desire for their cause.** I once knew someone very Zealous for what He believed. He was a Catholic. He argued his view but was Zealous without Knowledge of Gods Saving power. No knowledge of the Grace of God. His Zeal was admirable yet wasn't of any help at all. Someone may have Zeal, energy and fervour but not correct biblical

knowledge. This doesn't make it right just because they are Zealous. Someone can preach in a very Zealous manner even be very captivating in their presentation but if there is not bible foundation for what they are saying what use is the great Zeal? We cannot measure if someone is born of God and has a new heart by their Zeal. Yet we should not forget being full of Zeal for a right cause with Godly knowledge and Truth is of Great value.

Another Quality we could mistake as conversion is Saul's Kindness or big-heartedness towards his enemies. In *1 Samuel 10:27* But some worthless fellows said, "How can this man save us?" And they despised him and brought him no present. But he held his peace.

They brought him no present as others did, and as it was usual when a king came to the throne; in token of their subjection to him, and contentment of him, and a way of congratulating him. But King Saul held his peace acted like He was deaf and dumb. Then later after the battle which was a great victory, *1 Samuel 11:12* *And the people said to Samuel, Who is he that said, Shall Saul reign over us? Bring the men so that we may put them to death.* He was very generous to them did not put them to death. **But when it came to David, being anointed as the next king**, he tried to kill David with a spear. When Jonathan supported David, he tried to even to kill Jonathan by throwing a spear at him as well. And that generosity just disappeared He no longer had a big heart but a wrong heart. No, Saul was not changed inside. Would of a man with a new heart have behaved like this? Many have great giftings, these should not be mistaken for an inward work of Gods Spirit.

Old John Bunyan used to say, "Gifts make a preacher, but grace makes a Christian." Solomon had grace, and Saul had no grace.

All we see in Saul's life, presents too much evidence of an unchanged heart! **He rejected Gods Word and Was rejected by God.** *1 Samuel 15:23* For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he has also rejected you from being king."

Many will say in that day *Matthew 7: 21* "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. *22* On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you, depart from me, ye that work, iniquity, **isn't that a picture of King Saul.**

There will be People on the Day of Judgement, who have known something of the outward work of the Spirit, very gifted people, and yet they knew nothing of the inward work of the Holy Spirit in giving us a new heart and making us new creations.

Judas Iscariot was an example of this, *Matthew 10:1 And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction.* You see, he had the outward equipping of the spirit to work the same miracles, as the disciples did. And yet he was a traitor who sold the Lord for money and proved to be the son of perdition.

Just because people claim to do miracles doesn't prove they are new creations in Christ. The real proof is a Humble and Contrite spirit, this is great evidence of a new heart. Love for Gods Commandments is great evidence of a new heart.

How do you tell a new heart? Well by the fruits. What fruit. Well Repentance and the attitude towards sin. A new heart has a godly sorrow and understanding how sin grieves God, and has a hatred toward Sin. The new heart hates all sin, There are no small sins, simply because there is no small God to sin against. When you have Godly sorrow, it means you realise you have wronged God sinned against God. You are grieved by your actions and want to ask for forgiveness.

But not someone without a new heart. **Look at King Saul when Samuel asks why didn't you obey the Lord?** He says, "I have obeyed the Lord," even when bleating sheep and lowing cows were convicting Him, he says I have obeyed! He then seeks to shift the blame to the people who took the sheep. He won't admit He did wrong. Then He acts all pious, I kept the sheep to offer to the Lord as a sacrifice. The Prophet is sad to announce that the Lord had torn the Kingdom from his hand and given it to another. Now at last Saul says, "Now therefore, please pardon my sin and return with me that I may bow before the LORD." Then again, he repents, and says honour me before the people. But this was not from the heart. Real and true repentance acknowledges guilt and accepts dishonour. Real repentance doesn't justify self, doesn't make excuses, no more trying to excuse oneself saying it's not so serious or so bad. No, no true repentance is guilty before God, says against thee, and the only have I sinned, and done this evil in your sight.

We don't see this in Saul rather we see that Saul wanted to be honoured. He didn't really acknowledge any guilt there was no repentance. **A clear sign someone has a new heart is Godly sorrow for sin.** A new heart wants to please God and walk in His ways.

Ezekiel 36:27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

So if Saul was converted, surely he would have wanted to obey and walk in the Lords Statutes. Surely a new heart is filled with the Love of God, and if we love Him we will obey His commands.

There was no covenant between Saul and God.

There are so many look alike Christians. I'm not satisfied to be a look alike, let us make certain what we are, that we are the real thing, another heart or a new heart?

If we live in the Spirit Let us also walk in the Spirit. A new heart desires to walk in the Spirit. A new heart is yielded to the Spirit. We don't just follow our own impulses and desires. I'm under the rule of the Spirit. A new heart has one desire, to Walk in the Spirit.

What is walking in the Spirit? –

Walking by the Word of God it's the rule of my Life. I read Gods word every day. But how do we read the word, it's not just to get my chapter done from a sense of duty, For the new heart it's a great Joy to read the Word. *And his commandments are not burdensome.* Just like it's a Joy to eat. When I come to read, do I pray and ask for help to understanding and to appreciate it. Or do I just open it and read. Do I see and look for ways I can apply it to my life, I want to be a doer not just a hearer. Do I see Doctrines, principles and truths to live by. Do I see Christ mentioned in what I'm reading in type or in person, do I see His handiwork. Are there promises in this passage. Maybe I don't need them now but I write them down and keep them till I need them. Do I have to examine my heart in line with what I'm reading. Does it challenge reprove and rebuke me. Does it council me give me advise. I'm not reading casually or superficially; I'm prayerfully looking for all these things keeping all this in mind Walking in the Spirit means reading the word and valuing and seeing it as precious and valuable. You can't walk by the Spirit if you never read the word in a sincere way like this.

Then a new heart is always Striving for Holiness always wants to please God. *Romans 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. 13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.* Christ is my king. Every day I yield myself unto God. All my talents given to God. *To walk in newness of life to walk by the Spirit is to be concerned for RIGHTEOUSNESS.*

Another aspect is Prayer of a new heart is - prayer every day. As we do so the Holy spirit guides and strengthens our thoughts. We are not on our own. The Holy Spirit helping and Jesus at the righthand of God making intercession for us. The new heart prays. I pray.

I praise my God. I lift up His attributes. I marvel and adore Him. Affirm and thank God for some precious truth. Then pray for others and the sick and the Gospel to be preached. The persecuted, Remember those who are in bonds, as bound with them, those who suffer adversity, pray for those in adversity with great feeling. Then after you have prayed for others pray for yourself. **Pray even when your feelings are low, when you are tired, When you don't feel like it.** Pray anyway even if there are no feelings. This is great faith Pray constantly during the day every hour of the day. Through the day. Giving thanks, asking for wisdom in every situation you face throughout the day.

Commit your way always to the Lord. Ask yourself Is this profitable what I'm doing. Is it worthy? Has the Lord appointed this. Am I meant to be doing this. Is it for Christ or is it for me? The new heart always gives their time their strength their talents to God.

The new heart is always looking to share the Lord, to make salvation known. Walking in the Spirit is always looking for ways to make Christ known. If someone at the office and they were to ask you why you go to church have you given thought to what you would say? Have you prayed for opportunities to make Christ Known.

The new heart is in fellowship with others in the church. The new heart is never vain-meaning empty. Living for the opinion of man. Being noticed and esteemed by man. The new heart doesn't Provoke others by parading all their material things, all their great accomplishments inferring that they are so successful. Rather the new heart knows that which is of true value, knows to walk with the Lord. Serving God in purity and holiness and humility. Serving Him in Newness of heart. He will then bless us with assurance, and a heavenly view of what really matters. These are some of the things it means to be a new creation in Christ Jesus. To possess a new heart. Not just another heart. If our greatest desire is to be more and more like Christ, and put off the old and put on the new. It's a sure sign we have a new heart.