



Mike King-Minister

## BIBLE TALK

Question: What does the word "heart" mean as used in the Bible?

Answer: We speak of "heart- felt religion" and rightness is determined by "my heart tells me so." There is an inward man and an out-ward man (2 Cor. 4:16). Most people understand that it is not making reference to the physical heart. The heart spoken of in the Bible must undergo some emotional and spiritual changes. The heart about which the Bible speaks (the inner man) has *intellect*, *will*, and *emotions*. The Bible teaches that the *heart thinks*, sometimes evil and at other times good (Mt. 9:4; 15:19). The *heart understands* and can reason rationally (Isa. 32:4). Sometimes the heart chooses to not understand (Mt. 13:15). The *heart knows* and *believes* (Prov. 14:10; Rom. 10:10), demonstrating that having a religion of the heart requires more than feeling or emotions. The heart lacking faith, *doubts* (Mk. 11:23), resorts to *pondering* (Lk. 2:19). The ability to *reason* and *judge* as to our correctness, comes from the heart (Mk. 2:6; I Jn. 3:20, 21).

The heart is the seat of emotions with which we either love (Mt. 22:37) or hate (2 Sam. 6:16). The heart can feel and express gladness or sorrow (Prov. 15:13). The happy heart has the capacity for rejoicing (Ps. 33:21). One of the major abilities of the heart is to exercise **WILL**. Repentance waits on the dictates from the heart, being nothing more than a change of heart followed by a behavior change (Rom. 2:4,5). David prayed for God to create within him a new heart (Ps. 51:10). In the previous verses he cited his iniquities as the cause for it going bad. The illicit desires of his heart led to Bathsheba and to sin.

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