



7 MARKS of a DISCIPLE

HEART SURGERY 101 PROVERBS 23:7

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February 4, 2018

Introduction: The essence of discipleship is a changed life that comes from a transformed heart. But why is the transformation of our heart necessary? Who is responsible for that transformation? And, what is the process by which my heart -- and therefore my life -- can be transformed? We will answer those three key questions in today's message.

I. **Spiritual Transformation: Why It Is Necessary**

A. **A Biblical Understanding of the Heart** (Proverbs 23:7; Mark 3:5; Luke 24:32)

Proverbs 23:7 "For as a man thinks in his heart, so is he." (NKJV)

Mark 3:5a "After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart..."

Luke 24:32 "And they said to one another, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?'"

2 Corinthians 4:16 "Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day."

B. **Biblical Insights About the Heart**

1. **Our hearts determine our behavior** (Matthew 12:35)

Matthew 12:35 "The good man out of his good treasure brings forth what is good; and the evil man out of his evil treasure brings forth what is evil."



2. Our hearts have been **polluted** (Genesis 6:5)

Genesis 6:5 “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.”

Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?”

Romans 5:12 “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—”

Romans 5:6 “For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.”

3. Our hearts can be **transformed**

Ezekiel 11:19-20 ¹⁹ “And I shall give them one heart, and shall put a new spirit within them. And I shall take the heart of stone out of their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, ²⁰ that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances and do them. Then they will be My people, and I shall be their God.”

II. **Spiritual Transformation: Who Is Responsible For It?**

(Philippians 2:12-13; 2 Peter 1:5-7)

Galatians 3:3 “Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?”

Philippians 1:27 “Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.”

Philippians 2:12-13 ¹² “So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”



2 Peter 1:3-4 ³ “seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. ⁴ For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.”

2 Peter 1:5-7 ⁵ “Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge; ⁶ and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love.”

III. **Spiritual Transformation: The Process**

A. **Desire**

Romans 10:9 “that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved.”

Ephesians 2:1-3 ¹ “And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.”

Ephesians 2:4-5 ⁴ “But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).”

B. **A Detailed Plan**



C. **Discipline**

"Discipline is doing what you know you should do when you don't feel like doing it."

1 Timothy 4:7-8 ^{7b} "Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; ⁸ for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come."

Conclusion