

Heart Issues



Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Michele Riley

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also

Matthew 6:21

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Heart Issues

Introduction

When the Father calls you to Himself, he doesn't call you from your intellect He calls you from the heart. When a man or woman gives their life to the Master it must be a heart decision, and you must be willing to make a heart commitment, to the one you said you would follow.

I am sure many of you have been in relationships where you have been affected deeply at the heart level. You may have let that person into your emotions at the deepest part of who you are.

You may have been in or seen relationships that have gone way past love into areas of pain and abuse, where the perpetrator has gained access into the most vital source of a person's life, their heart.

The heart can hold so many wonderful things within it, only when it has been transformed by the one who created you.

I believe when you get the concept of how the Father views the condition of your heart, you will understand how to continually present it to Him daily.

My prayer is that this e-book will be a constant reminder to continually keep your heart before the Father, and keep it guarded, for out of it flow the issues of life.

Blessings
Michele Riley

How's Your Heart?

Be careful how you answer this question, there can be many things lying dormant in your heart, and at a moment when you least expect it, your heart will show forth and reveal those things that you thought were dead and buried. Your heart will continue to reveal who you are time and time again.

When you have gone through pain, abuse, betrayal, and rejection your heart will build walls to survive the pain it has been through, but the detriment to that is, you will be functioning from a fragmented heart instead of a healed one.

Fragmented:

existing or functioning as though broken into separate parts;
disorganized; dis-unified:

Proverbs 4:23

Guard your heart with all diligence, For out of it are the issues of life.

Why are there so many broken people?

You will find time and time again that it results in issues that are heart-related where the heart was not guarded and left unprotected.

Let's begin to deal with these issues so you can experience true freedom and learn how to guard and protect the most vital organ of the body, **your heart.**

Heart Issues

What is the state of your heart

- Anyone you need to release?
- Do you need to make amends for the wrongs you've done?
- Do you need to repent for the idols that have taken hold of your affections?

Yah never intended for you to live life from a heart that is unconverted. So many believers think that they can come to him and say they love Him but never allow Him to touch those areas that he desires to transform.

I hear so many people who say they are of the faith "don't judge me" because God knows my heart". The Most High's word says in:

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

This means you cannot know your own heart when it has not been transformed by the Father.

The Father will allow situations to arise that will test the reins of your heart. I implore you to get this teaching deep within your heart because this will lead every aspect of your life.

The heart will continually expose who you are. You will have to continually present your hurts, disappointments and rejections to the Father and allow Him to bring healing.

No matter how long you have been following after The Most High, the heart is a topic you will never get away from.

Heart Affections

When you begin your journey with the Father you come in at a point where you don't always know the condition of your heart. You may know that you have been through some things in your life, but you don't always take into consideration where the state of your heart is once you come to Him.

The reason why the Father has to give us a new heart because he knows that the heart if not regenerated, can be a source of all debase things that lie within it.

Psalms 139:23 -24

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:
24 And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

King David prayed for The Most High to search his heart, how many times have you asked Him to search yours? King David also asked the Father to **try** (test) him and know his thoughts, can you say the same?

Once you have made a confession to follow after the Father, then by Kingdom principle He is obligated to ensure your heart is postured after Him and nothing else.

Verse 24 states, see if any idolatrous way is in me. This is such a vital scripture, there are many idols vying for your heart which is why The Most High always tests us to see if we are still committed to him at the heart level.

Idolatry

- the worship of a physical object as a god
- immoderate attachment or devotion to something

- The Father will continue to test your heart to see if you are truly committed to Him. I'm sure you've seen men & women, who had powerful ministry assignments., They started out great, only to shipwreck their faith as well as the faith of others. When your heart is turned toward something else, you began to serve the idols of your heart.

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Jeremiah 17:10

I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

The Father searches the innermost parts of your heart to give according to those things that you hold near and dear to you. What does the Father see when he is searching your heart?

- **Love of the world**
- **Pride**
- **Back-slidden**
- **Unforgiving**
- **Stony**
- **Rebellious**
- **Envious**
- **Perverse**
- **Arrogant**
- **Stubborn**
- **Fault-finding**
- **Critical**
- **Greed**

This is a short list of the fragmented heart.

Heart Issues

It is dangerous to judge the condition of your heart by what you do, and the flattering lips of others, the only true measurement is the word of God. You can talk about how much you follow him, but if He does not possess your whole heart then what you speak carries no power.

Matthew 15:8

This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.

Jeremiah 9:14

but they have walked according to the stubbornness of their own heart and after Ba'als (Gods) which their fathers had taught them.

Matthew 15: 18-19

But what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and these defile a man, 19 for out of the heart come forth wicked reasoning's, murders, adulteries, whorings, thefts, false witnessing, slanders

Those who are His followers:

- Obey His teachings
- Lay down their former lives
- Allow His teachings to transform their hearts
- Love Him with their entire being
- Defend His Word
- Walk Uprightly Before Him

It grieves me to see those who have no commitment before the Father, defend their carnal lifestyle and believe they can offer up any type of worship before Him, and believe it's accepted.

Heart Issues

Proverbs 1: 30-31

They did not accept my counsel, They despised all my reproof, 31
Therefore let them eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled with their
own counsel.

The above scripture is so vital, because when you don't receive the
correction of Yah through:

- **His Messengers**
- **His Word**
- **His Spirit**
- **Other sources (Family members, friends, even strangers)**

You are left to your own devices.

Proverbs 3:12

Whom The Most High loves He reproves, as a father the son whom he
delights in.

Yah will never condone those who follow after the blindness of their own
hearts, you have a choice to make. Choose this day whom you will serve,
your own desires, or will you allow the Father to come in and give you a
new heart.

You and I were never intended to walk with the Father possessing an
unconverted heart, and believe that we're in right standing with Him.

I encourage you to do a word study on the heart, and you will see all the
various heart traits that Yah warned the people of Israel concerning the
condition of their hearts.

The Importance Of A Renewed Heart

So many believers take special care to attend to things they deem important, some are more committed to social events, business groups and the like, but how much time and attention do they place on renewing their mind. The heart and mind are connected, so when you renew your mind in the word:

- Your heart begins to turn toward the things of God
- Your desires begin to become His desires
- Your discernment becomes sharper
- You began to gain insight into your own motives & the motives of others
- You walk with character & integrity

If the gospel of the Kingdom Of God is not changing you, then you are not His. I know this is a strong statement, and many will stop right here and make justifications for what they believe to be true.

The truth is, when you don't allow the word to change you at the heart level, then you make up your own rules of what is acceptable to God, and this becomes very dangerous.

Common Defenses to Stay in Carnality

- God is still working with me
- God knows my heart
- God loves me
- I am a good person
- I help people
- I'm just being me
- Most people in the church are hypocrites

Heart Issues

Let's take these defenses and put them against the word of The Most High.

John 14:21

He who *possesses My commands and guards them*, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father and I shall love him and manifest Myself to him.

You cannot defend the actions of your carnal heart and guard the words of the Father at the same time.

Guard:

- **To Keep**
- **To Watch**
- **To Retain**
- **To Give Attention to**

Jeremiah 17:9-10

The heart is *deceitfully* and *desperately wicked*, who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins and give every man according to his way, according to the fruit of his deed.

Your confession of following The Most High is never dependent upon your feelings, the behavior of others, or what you do. This is about you allowing Him to come in and do a complete work within your heart, no matter how painful that may be, it is a necessary component to your transformation.

How many times have you been in situations or past relationships where you believed your heart were past some issues, only to find out your heart revealed your true feelings.

Heart Issues

Out of the abundance of your heart, your mouth will speak. I am sure you know individuals be it family members or friends, who have said things out of their mouths, but you knew there were issues that were deeply rooted in their hearts.

I am sure many of you have been in relationships that you knew were toxic, but you kept going back even after you made others believe that you were done, you even believed it yourself, but your heart told you what was the truth. This is how strongholds develop when you hold others on the throne of your heart which only belongs to the Father.

Now I pray you can see how vital it is to continually present your heart to the Father and stay committed to following Him. The children of Israel were constantly under the anger and judgment of The Most High for:

- **Following after other gods (Idols)**
- **Disobedience**
- **Murmuring and Complaining**

You and I cannot say that we are followers of the Father if there is no commitment, you cannot pick and choose what part you want to obey. If the Father has your heart He should be able to direct and govern your entire life.

Abide: dwell, remain, continue, endure

You and I will never be able to side-step offering up our heart before the Father. You must allow Him to bring forth the transformation that He desires in each season of your life.

Heart Issues

There is power in His word. The teachings of Torah were never intended for just casual reading, a scripture here and a scripture there. If the word of God has not changed your:

- Speech
- Character
- Motives
- Lifestyle
- Heart
- Relationships

Then what have you laid down to follow Him?

The Father will never compete for the affections of your heart, He will answer you by them.

Ezekiel 14:4

Tell them, "This is what Yehovah says: The people of Israel have set up idols in their hearts and fallen into sin, and then they go to a prophet asking for a message. So I, the Lord, will give them the kind of answer their great idolatry deserves.

Calling All Idols

Throughout the bible, there were many warnings to Israel about their idolatry, they continually disobeyed. God allowed the things that they put before Him to bring judgement & destruction.

Heart Issues

Are there any idols sitting on the throne of your heart? You have to give all of your heart affections to the Father, anything that you put before him becomes an Idol.

What Idols Are You Serving?

- Money
- Self (pride,arrogance)
- Wrong Relationships (romantic & business)
- Education
- Gifts/Talents
- Children
- Career
- Ministry
- Possessions
- Social Groups

Friendship with the world means to conform to its culture and its practices.

2 Corinthians 6:17

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

James 4:4

You adulterous people! Do you not know that *friendship* with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Heart Issues

Matthew 6:24

No one can serve two masters: Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Most High's word speaks for itself, it tells us how we should live before Him and our neighbor. When you claim to follow The Most High and have not allowed Him to come in and bring forth change, then you walk in rebellion and posture yourself to face His judgment.

The Fragmented Heart

- * Envy
- *Greed
- *Pride
- *Unforgiveness
- *Rebellion
- *Resentment
- *Unbelief
- *Wrong Relationships

What are your heart issues?

There are many functioning with a dis-eased heart. Operating with this type of heart will cause great problems in our lives as well as the lives of those whom we minister to.

Let's look at the characteristics of a diseased heart.

dis-eased (dī-zēzd')

Unsound or disordered. unhealthy - not in or exhibiting good health in body or mind.

The product of a diseased mind: sick, evil, twisted, corrupt, vicious, distorted, abnormal, perverted, impaired, warped, unhealthy, unnatural, immoral, deviant, wicked, kinky (slang), depraved, debased, debauched,

The first definition is unsound, (now this word means structurally unsound weak, rickety, damaged, crumbling) so how can we go forth in ministering to someone if we are unsound?

If I invited you to my home and asked you to have a seat in a chair that was about to fall apart, you would not sit in it, because you recognize that the chair is weak and damaged and you would fall if you sit in it.

Having an unsound heart can also cause someone to fall.

Proverbs 4:20-24 (KJV)

20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. 21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. 22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. 23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. 24 Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

What Defiles a Man: Matthew 15:8

...17"Do you not understand that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and is eliminated? 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, fornication, thefts, false witness, slanders.

When the heart is sick so is the mind: The product of a diseased mind: sick, evil, twisted, corrupt, vicious, distorted, abnormal, perverted, impaired, warped, unhealthy, unnatural, immoral, deviant, wicked, depraved, debased, debauched,

Reasoning in the heart:

To form conclusions, judgments, or inferences from facts or premises.
When you are operating from a damaged or unsound heart, you can start reasoning within your heart and start to draw your own conclusions.

This negative thinking which fails to reach sound conclusions because it does not sort things out through faith (God's In-worked persuasion)

Reasoning's come from a lack of faith, you can also reason in your minds issues when you have experienced rejection from others. This type of thinking reflects one's own reasoning rather than relying on God's word.

Reasoning avails nothing because it begins with the wrong conclusion to begin with, and it searches for reasons to justify it.

*What are you reasoning with?

*Is your heart sound?

*By whose standard are you measuring your heart by your standards or Gods?

The Greek word for *reasoning* is dialogizomia 1260 (self directed reasoning) you can begin to mull things over in your mind going back and forth in a fruitless circle.

This reasoning is driven by **fear** and personal prejudice, when a person is committed to their own bias (prejudiced in favor or against a person or group, usually considered to be unfair)

This type of heart reasoning refers to logic, which results in error and works apart from Gods revelation, it produces confused thinking which reflects someone's mind is already made up (closed) the bible warns us about the dangers present when we use our own reasoning.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all thy heart lean not on your own understanding in all your ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy path.

Often times when you don't understand the Father is performing a deeper work in your heart you may try to reason with your intellect about what He is doing.

In the book of Job, Jobs friends were reasoning why Job was going through such a heavy trial. (Job 6:14) in chapter 16 Job complains of Gods dealings.

You must always operate with the light of Gods word, and the working of your faith.

The Greek word for *heart* is Kardia,

meaning the center of our being. The heart is the desire producer, meaning it generates decisions that establish who we really are.

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment (Mark 12:30 KJV)

Scriptures teaches, the heart is the seat of the will, and it's related emotions (desires), heart decisions result in the persons identity.

Who are you really at the heart level?

1. Are you full of fear, doubt, worry, anxiety, dread?
2. Are you competition driven, easily intimidated, people pleasing?
3. From what heart are you operating from?
4. The faithful heart or the wavering heart?
5. The grateful heart or the rejected heart?
6. The sound heart or the unforgiving heart?
7. The believing heart or the wounded heart?

Character of the Renewed Heart: Obedient

- **Faithful**
- **Fixed**
- **Forgiving**
- **Loving**
- **Obedient**
- **Patient**
- **Peaceful**
- **Pure**
- **Single**
- **Wise**

These are the heart qualities the Father desires you and me to have, for this is the life that pleases the Father.

Will you have trials? absolutely, will you be persecuted for your standards? absolutely. Your focus is to please the Father and live from a heart that has been transformed by Him.

When you are a lover of truth, you receive it with gladness of heart. I believe some of you reading this book, will begin to change the course of your life, and set a precedence to live life from a heart that is postured to bring honor & glory to Yehovah.

When you operate in Sonship, you understand when the Father brings correction, it's because He is a loving Father, and desires to see you walk worthy of what He has called you to. When you're a Son, you understand the Father's love for you and it deepens your heart connection to Him.

Heart Issues

Psalms 119,112

I have inclined my heart to perform your statutes always, even to the end.

Romans 6,17

But God be thanked, that you were the servants of sin, but you have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

4641 sklērokardía (from 4642/sklērós, "hard from being dry" and 2588/kardía, "heart") – properly, hardness of heart due to lack of moisture (lubricant); (figuratively) an obstinate (hard) heart, lacking the oil of the Holy Spirit because refusing to be receptive (obedient) to God's in working of faith.

The surrendered believer finds it's sufficiency in the Word of The Most High, ***your goal of life is not living for God, but living with God.***

Everything you do flows from your heart because it is the center of your life.

- * **Thoughts**
- * **Motives**
- * **Reasoning**
- * **Character**

Everything flows from your heart, and you must be vigilant in guarding your storehouse, you can bring forth either good or evil from it.

(Luke 6:43-45)

21

The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart, his mouth speaks."

There are so many in the Body today who operate with an orphan spirit who don't know who they are. and oftentimes they flock to those who will condone their carnal life style.

2 Timothy 4:3

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

Your heart will always show who you truly are, there is no getting around it. Your heart will reveal your motives and your character. Your good works will not be a replacement for what the Father requires from you.

John 14:15

Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. The true litmus test for loving the Father is obedience.

- **Obedience:** To hear under submission, with the intent to obey
- When you walk in obedience to the teachings of Torah you don't make excuses to protect your idols, you renounce them from the throne of your heart.
- When you realize that you have been brought with a price and your life is not your own, you live from that vantage point.

My prayer is that you will begin to understand the significance of why the Father always deals with your heart, you will be tried, tested, rejected, persecuted as well as tempted.

22

As you begin to gain insight into your own heart. you will begin to govern it, protect it, and continually submit it to the Father.

When you begin to understand your heart posture is to love the Father with your entire being, everything else you do will flow out of that place.

The Real Work Begins

Matthew 15:18 But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. You may find it hard to believe that your heart speaks daily of the wounds and pains done to it.

In order to receive healing, you must examine your heart according to The Most High's word and live from that place.

1. Are there any situations past or present that continue to come up in your life? resentment, stubbornness, excuses, reasoning's?
2. What was the command given in Jeremiah 4:14-18 and what are the dangers?
3. Are there any idols sitting on the throne of your heart?
4. Read Hebrews 10:19-23 explain in detail what is the main point of the verse.
5. Write the definitions for the following words.
 - Consecrate
 - Conscience
 - Profession
 - Wavering
 - Faith
 - Obedience
6. What do each of the above words mean to you as a follower of The Most High?

7. Locate 4 scriptures that relate to each of these words that is spoken by The Most High. What is the continuing theme concerning these words

- Obedience
- Consecrate
- Santification
- Heart

Proverbs 4:23

8. Keep your heart with all diligence for out of it flow the issues of life. How are you keeping your heart according to this verse?

"Proverbs 1:31

9. So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way And be satiated with their own devices. What does it mean to eat the fruit of your own way?

John 3: 19-21

"This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.
20"For everyone who does evil hates the Light and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.
21"But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

Commentary:

Evil deeds begin within the hearts of men, and when the light comes it exposes those deeds.

According to this scripture, why do men love darkness?

Heart Issues

Ephesians 4: 17-18 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

4:18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: **according to this verse write the things that hardened their hearts.**

10. In what way was the Ephesian believer instructed not to live as the Gentiles (other nations) according to Eph 4:17-19

11. Since following The Most High what old habits have you discarded?

12. How do you see the new nature taking hold in your life?

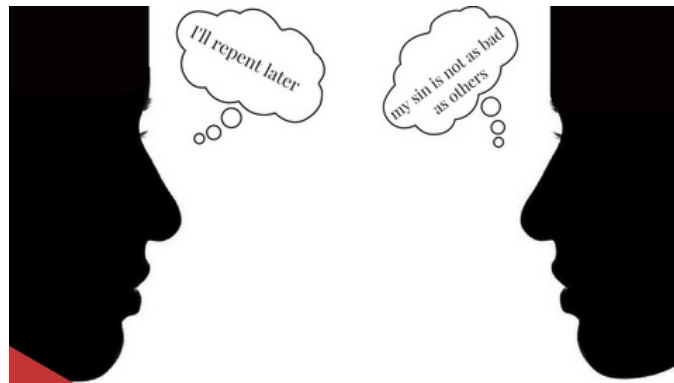
13. What evidence do you see that your life is controlled by the Spirit?

14. What aspects of your old nature do you need to rid yourself of?

15. What would be your first step in changing an old pattern of behavior?

16. How does life in darkness contrast with life in the light?

Key Principles



Principle #1

I' God examine the mind, I test the heart to give to each according to his way, according to what his actions deserve.

Jeremiah 17:10



Principle #2

Keep your heart with all diligence for out of it flow the issues of life

Proverbs 4:23

What Gods Are You Serving?



Materialism



Entertainment



Over-indulgence



Money

Principle #3

Tell them, "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: The people of Israel have set up idols in their hearts and fallen into sin, and then they go to a prophet asking for a message. So I, the LORD, will give them the kind of answer their great idolatry deserves.

Ezekiel 14:4

Obedience

Principle # 4

Obedience: To hear under submission, with the intent to obey.

John 14:23 God answered him, "If someone loves me, he will keep my word; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.



Journaling

Principle #5

Keeping a journal to record those times when you feel your heart is heavy or you've been offended, misunderstood or rejected, so you can offer up those areas for healing to the Great Physician.

Examine Your Walk

Principle #6



‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.

Matthew 15:8



The Heart Lesson has been a teaching that has transformed the lives of those who have a desire to surrender all and walk uprightly before the Father.

Michele Riley has been ministering God's word since 2005 and has a desire to see God's people restored back to the heart of the Father.