



Take5 for the Week of February 8-12, 2016

## New Heart

1 John 4:7-8

By Pastor Curtis Johnson

MONDAY

## God Creates A New Heart

Psalm 51:10

One of the verses we committed to memory in Bible college is found in Jeremiah 17:9, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" God spoke through the prophet Jeremiah to tell us that without God, our own hearts and pursuits would lead us to emptiness and a life far from God.

Yet David, as recorded in Psalm 51, sees that due to God's unfailing love for us, He creates in us a new heart that is pure or clean. God will use this new heart for His purposes, including loving others with the love of God. No longer will the heart of the Christian be void and empty, God will use it.

**FOR TODAY:** What is different in you since trusting and believing in God and His promises?

TUESDAY

## Love is the Evidence

1<sup>st</sup> John 4:7-8

"We love because He first loved us." (1<sup>st</sup> John 4:19) Once again, God leads the way! He loves us and gives us not only the ability to love others, but communicates to us that loving others is a natural outcome of our new heart. One can go even further and consider that love is the test of us being born of God. If we are of God, and God loves us, we must love one another.

The fruit of the Spirit is love. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians says of faith, hope and love, the greatest of these is love. The nature of the child of God is to love others with the love that comes from God.

**FOR TODAY:** In what ways are you loving others with the love that comes from God?

WEDNESDAY

## God Draws Us Through the Heart

Jeremiah 24:7

Not only does God use the heart of His followers to love others, He also actively uses our hearts to draw us toward Him. See what God says through Jeremiah, "I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the LORD. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart."

Moses recognizes that, as we truly seek after God, we will do so through our hearts. "But if from there you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul." (Deuteronomy 4:29)

**FOR TODAY:** Read Matthew 5:8.

THURSDAY

## God Leads Through the Heart

1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 22:7

God leads and directs through the hearts of people. We can look back to the building of the Temple, and years later the rebuilding of that Temple, and see that God directed the building and rebuilding through the hearts of David, Solomon and Nehemiah. In these accounts we see by their own testimonies, God put it into the leaders' hearts to build and then rebuild the Temple. God wanted to dwell among His people and He used the hearts of His followers to accomplish His will.

In 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 8 of the New Testament, we see Paul give testimony of God placing His direction in the heart of Titus. It is the same direction that Paul had received and Paul lifts up his gratitude to God for the confirmation.

**FOR TODAY:** When you pray for direction, do you ask God to lead you through your heart?

FRIDAY

## God Looks to the Heart

Hebrews 4:12

God uses the hearts of His followers to love others, draw them to Himself and carry out His will. Through scripture, we also see that God has access to look into our hearts and rightly discern our condition.

"For the Word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

"And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you." (1<sup>st</sup> Chronicles 28:9)

**FOR TODAY:** Consider how God wants to use your heart for His purposes.