

Truth In the Inward Parts

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Psalm 51:6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

- I. Most people never go any further in their Christian profession than reforming and dressing up their outward appearance.
 - A. For most people, their heart remains unchanged and they spend their life wearing a mask to convince others and themselves that they are ready to meet God when they die.
 - B. They teach their children and others by this example of double-minded, two-faced, hypocrisy.
 1. Most are satisfied with the same from their children – just a good outward show.
 2. As long as others praise them and they do not bring shame and disgrace upon the family, they imagine that all is well with their soul.
 - C. The outward appearance IS important because it speaks of what has happened in the heart and it IS what men look upon.
 1. Every true Christian will be concerned about their outward appearance and the impression they make on others.
 2. BUT we should never forget that it is very possible to put on a good show outwardly and still have a heart that is unconverted.
 3. We can appear to be conforming to truth outwardly but be completely deceived in our inward parts.
 - D. When a person is possessed by truth in his inward parts his outward appearance will certainly be different than the world around him.
 1. But it will not be a mask he is wearing – it will be real, and the natural result of the truth reigning in his soul – not a strenuous effort on his part to put on an appearance for the eyes and ears of others.
 2. And he will be truly trusting in God for his hope and not the things he does and does not do to maintain a mask he is wearing.
 - E. Truth is the most powerful thing and there is no escaping it.
 1. Truth always prevails, eventually.
 2. The hypocrite will always be revealed.
 3. No matter how keen we become at acting the part we will certainly be found out in time.
 - F. It is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaketh.
 1. Our mouth will betray the secrets of our heart when we are provoked.
 2. Let certain feelings be incited and watch the true heart of hearts spill itself through the lips of that person.
 3. Challenge certain opinions or question certain prejudices and we will see quickly the real heart that is hiding behind the phony image that person is trying to project to everyone.

- G. When we are easy on ourselves and hard on others, even if it is only certain others, we uncover what our heart is really like.
1. To have contempt and hatred for others, and to show no mercy, or have no compassion reveals a selfish, self-centered, proud, haughty heart.
 2. And that is the truth of the matter even if that person refuses to believe it about himself.

Matthew 12:33-37 Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

II. The battle for our soul is really all about putting truth on the throne in our inward parts.

- A. God desires truth in the inward parts.
1. God wants an honest heart – not just to begin with, but forever.
 2. He wants our heart to be like we want the heart of our spouse to be – true, honest, real.
 3. He cannot abide deceit and lies and hidden things in the inward parts.

Ecclesiastes 7:26 And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets, and her hands as bands: whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her.

Hebrews 10:22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

- B. It takes a miracle of God to overcome our own determination to deceive ourselves.

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

Romans 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

- C. Do you see the dilemma? The very thing with which we must believe to be saved is the thing that is most likely to deceive us – our own heart.
1. Our feelings and desires have such power over our mind and thoughts that we must be on guard diligently or we deceive ourselves.
 2. We justify our feelings by playing mental games with the truth.
- D. This is why there must be truth in the inward parts.
- E. God desires "truth in the inward parts."
1. Truth, not in the sense of mental knowledge and assent, but rather in the sense of moral honesty and sincerity of action.

III. The life time goal of God is to bring us to truth in our inward parts.

John 8:31-32 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

- A. God will keep uncovering our hidden lies until we realize that we may as well be honest in our heart because God can see in there all the time.

- B. It IS possible for the truth to reign in our inward parts.
- C. It IS possible for us to have a heart that is true and not deceitful.
 - 1. Toward God, toward others, AND toward ourselves.

Ezekiel 18:31 Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

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.

- D. The conflict must cease between our heart and the truth.
 - 1. As long as our heart is resisting the truth and excusing itself for its determination to have its own way, we are going farther from God.
- E. When the conflict ends between our heart and the truth the conflict will begin between our heart and the deceit of the sin that is all around us in this world.
- F. When the truth invades your heart it will be liberated just like a land that is under the oppression of a despot is liberated by an invading army.
 - 1. The old oppressor will be gone immediately and there will be a new government there with laws based upon truth and mercy.

Luke 17:21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Luke 8:15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

- IV. There must be a crisis for the truth to have a chance in our inward parts.
 - A. If we look at the people in the Bible that were great examples of spiritual victory we find that they all faced a crisis at one point in their life that changed everything for them forever.
 - B. In fact, every major step up in our spiritual growth and understanding is by way of some crisis that takes us to some precipice where we either live or die.
 - C. Until this happens we plod along in carelessness and apathy.
 - 1. An illustration of this is how we drive up and down the roads without any thought of having a wreck until we come upon a wreck, and then we are very sober and thinking about it ...for a while.
 - 2. Another illustration is how we walk and run around outdoors without thinking about a snake ...until we almost step on one, and then we are afraid to take another step.
 - D. This is how we are about our sin and self-deceit – until it rears its ugly head up where we and everyone else can see it, we fail to seriously consider that it is there and set to destroy us and others.
 - 1. Then we are forced to look at truth as it is, and not as we imagine it to be.
 - 2. The crisis points in life are designed by Divine wisdom to force us to look at our own heart and recognize its dishonesty and deceitfulness.
 - 3. Our heart is our secret hiding place and is closed to others until our sin and ungodliness makes it possible for others to see inside of it.
 - E. This is what King David is doing with his own heart in Psalm 51.
 - 1. His sin has been revealed and he is forced to look at himself in the full light of the truth and not just what others have thought of him and what he has come to think of himself in his exalted position.

- F. When people look in the mirror they look for something wrong with them so they can fix it.
 - 1. The Word of God is a mirror and when we look into it we should do the same with our inward parts.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- G. Truth in the inward parts is the goal of God's working in our lives as long as we are here on this earth.
- H. God does this through his Word, his disciples, his Providence, and through trials, disappointments, afflictions, losses, and being humiliated and abased. (David)
- I. If we are not making progress in being more honest, more real, and more godly, in our inward parts then we examine ourselves honestly about whether we been truly born again.
- J. All the resolutions to restart and rededicate and reform and make our outward appearance and actions appear to conform to truth and righteousness are vain if it is not in the inward parts.
- K. So we are to be sanctified, not by the struggling efforts of our own will, but also by our acceptance through faith of all that God has brought within our reach.
- L. Truth in the inward parts does not spring surprises on people, but brings assurance and comfort.
 - 1. When we are shocked by someone's behavior or words which are negative and hateful toward others or otherwise ungodly, it is evidence of a lack of truth in the inward parts.
 - 2. That person may appear to be squeaky clean on the outside and conform to all that is expected of him outwardly as a Christian, but when his passions speak we get a glimpse at his inward parts.
 - 3. On the other hand, when we have grown to have confidence in someone and the reality of their faith in God, and we watch what comes out of them when provoked or tempted, hurt, inconvenienced, or presented with ungodliness in others, we are edified and encouraged by the truth is truly in their inward parts.

Matthew 12:35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

Matthew 7:15-20 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

- M. This is true of all men, not just those who are prophets.
- N. It is the same thing that David is talking about in Psalm 51: God desires truth in the inward parts.
 - 1. God is truth, and so we are not even on an kind of ground to pray, to have fellowship, or have any kind of relationship with Him until we have truth in our inward parts.