

Introduction:

- In this series we're going to study a few great sins of the heart that work directly against living a life of _____.
- Hard-heartedness
- Hypocrisy
- People-pleasing
- Pride
- Covetousness / Greed
- Pleasing the flesh / Lust

1. Hard-heartedness is when your heart doesn't _____ the spiritual impressions that the Word should make, and when your heart doesn't _____ God's commands,

Acts 7.51–53 “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always **resist** the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. 52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, 53 you who received the law as delivered by angels and **did not keep it.**”

2. God-centered instructions for conquering hard-heartedness.

3. Heart-focused instructions for conquering hard-heartedness

A. Remember the majesty and presence of a holy God, who is constantly _____ everything we think and say and do.

Heb 4.13 And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Job 9.4b who has hardened himself against him, and succeeded?

B. Think carefully about the greatness and the importance of Biblical _____ which should affect you, and about the _____ that the Lord requires of you.

C. Think often about the _____ God has shown to us in Christ, and His bloody _____ as our Redeemer.

John 15.13 *Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.*

D. Try to gain a greater grasp of the _____ and the _____ of a hard heart.

- Scripture refers to a hard heart using many vivid expressions.

Prov 28.14b *...but whoever **hardens his heart** will fall into calamity.*

Prov 29.1 *He who is often reprov'd, yet **stiffens his neck**,
will suddenly be broken beyond healing.*

Prov 21.29a (NKJV) *A wicked man **hardens his face**...*

1 Tim 4.2b *...the insincerity of liars whose **consciences are seared**,*

Rom 2.5 *But because of your **hard and impenitent heart** you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.*

Jer 4.22 *“For my people are **foolish**;
they know me not;
they are **stupid** children;
they have **no understanding**.
They are ‘wise’—in doing evil!
But how to do good they know not.”*

Isa 42.25 *So he poured on him the heat of his anger
and the might of battle;
it set him on fire all around, but he did not understand;
it burned him up, but he **did not take it to heart**.*

Isa 5.12b *but **they do not regard** the deeds of the Lord,
or see the work of his hands.*

Isa 32.11 Tremble, you women who are **at ease**,
shudder, you **complacent** ones;
 strip, and make yourselves bare,
 and tie sackcloth around your waist.

Isa 48.4 Because I know that you are obstinate,
 and **your neck is an iron sinew**
 and **your forehead brass**,

Jer 5.3b ...they refused to take correction.
 They have **made their faces harder than rock**;
 they have refused to repent.

Ezek 36.26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will **remove the heart of stone** from your flesh and **give you a heart of flesh**.

Rom 13.11 Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to **wake from sleep**. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

Rom 11.8 as it is written,
 "God gave them a **spirit of stupor, [slumber]**
 eyes that **would not see**
 and ears that **would not hear**,
 down to this very day."

1 Tim 5.6 but she who is self-indulgent is **dead even while she lives**.

Eph 2.1 And you were **dead** in the trespasses and sins

Jude 1.12 These are hidden reefs at your love feasts, as they feast with you without fear, shepherds feeding themselves; waterless clouds, swept along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, **twice dead**, uprooted;

- Notice how _____ it is for the symptoms and effects of hard-heartedness to manifest themselves in your life.
 - A hardened heart is a forerunner of _____.

Prov 28.14 Blessed is the one who fears the Lord always,
 but **whoever hardens his heart will fall into calamity**.

- A hardened heart is a sign of someone who is far more unlikely to be _____ to Christ.

Eph 4.18–19 They are darkened in their understanding, **alienated from the life of God** because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. 19 They have **become callous** and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity.

Mark 4.12 “they may indeed **see but not perceive**, and may indeed **hear but not understand**, lest they should turn and be forgiven.”

- A hardened heart is _____ by Satan against the things we would do to help them, and only God can deliver them.

Matt 12.28–29 But if it is **by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons**, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. 29 Or how can someone enter a strong man’s house and plunder his goods, unless **he first binds the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house.**

Isa 53.1 **Who has believed** what he has heard from us? And to whom has the **arm of the Lord been revealed?**

Luke 16.30–31 And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, **they will repent.**’ 31 He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, **neither will they be convinced** if someone should rise from the dead.’”

Ezek 36.26 **And I will give you a new heart**, and a new **spirit I will put within you.** And I will **remove** the heart of stone from your flesh and **give you** a heart of flesh.

Conclusion:

- Ask the Lord to make you more _____ that everything you think and say and do is being observed by Him.
- Ask the Lord to make the commands and truths of His Word to have a deeper _____ on you.
- Ask the Lord to help you to really grasp how _____ it is to have a hard heart.