

August Newsletter

The Calcification Of The Heart

"Don't let your heart be hardened, don't let your heart grow cold. May it always stay so childlike, never let it grow too old." If you had grown up in the 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's these lyrics will sound familiar from a Christian band called Petra. It is based on a couple scriptures (Psalm 95:7-8 & Hebrews 3:13) that addressed the condition of the heart of God's people while in the wilderness. Psalm 73 talks about the heart and you can read it at the bottom of this newsletter. So, what does our heart have to do with our lives and our mental health?



Many people want to blame their upbringing or the things that happened to them in life for their actions and thoughts and how they are hurting others and themselves, and it does play a role to a point. The difference is in whether or not you are a victim or someone who takes responsibility for

their own actions. Victimhood and responsibility is a condition of the heart. Jesus had many things to say about our heart. In Matthew 15, Jesus explained that whatever enters the mouth does not defile a person but what comes out of them. He said that what comes out of a person's mouth comes from the heart. Verses 19-20 say,

"For out of the heart come evil thoughts - murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what defile a person..." The emphasis that Jesus had in his teaching was always on the heart.



With Love from Kevin Phillips
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Founder of Encouragement Now Ministries

Kevin Phillips' love for people's hearts and minds has moved him to launch Encouragement Now Ministries and Encouragement Now Counseling University.

Encouragement Now Ministries has served clients in over 60 countries including Egypt, China, Iraq, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Canada, Turkey, Jordan, Spain, Morocco, Brazil, Pakistan, India & UAE.

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When we talk to and counsel people we get to see glimpses into their heart. Watch a video on YouTube or TV about the current state of affairs or random thoughts and you will be invited into the heart of man. Jesus said in Matthew 12:33-34, *"Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognized by its fruit. You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? for the mouth speaks what the heart is full of."* We have to take stock of what is coming out of us. Are you hiding or masking the fruit that you are producing? Are you embarrassed or ashamed of what you see in yourself? Do not lose hope. For God can change your heart. So, my question for you is: What is the condition of your heart?

Psalm 73

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| <p>1 Surely God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.</p> <p>2 But as for me, my feet had almost
slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.</p> <p>3 For I envied the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.</p> <p>4 They have no struggles;
their bodies are healthy and strong.</p> <p>5 They are free from common human
burdens; they are not plagued by human
ills.</p> <p>6 Therefore pride is their necklace;
they clothe themselves with violence.</p> <p>7 From their callous hearts comes iniquity;
their evil imaginations have no limits.</p> <p>8 They scoff, and speak with malice;
with arrogance they threaten oppression.</p> <p>9 Their mouths lay claim to heaven,
and their tongues take possession of the
earth.</p> <p>10 Therefore their people turn to them
and drink up waters in abundance.</p> <p>11 They say, "How would God know?
Does the Most High know anything?"</p> <p>12 This is what the wicked are like—
always free of care, they go on amassing
wealth.</p> <p>13 Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure
and have washed my hands in innocence.</p> <p>14 All day long I have been afflicted,
and every morning brings new punish-
ments.</p> <p>15 If I had spoken out like that,
I would have betrayed your children.</p> | <p>16 When I tried to understand all this,
it troubled me deeply</p> <p>17 till I entered the sanctuary of God;
then I understood their final destiny.</p> <p>18 Surely you place them on slippery
ground; you cast them down to ruin.</p> <p>19 How suddenly are they destroyed,
completely swept away by terrors!</p> <p>20 They are like a dream when one
awakes; when you arise, Lord,
you will despise them as fantasies.</p> <p>21 When my heart was grieved
and my spirit embittered,</p> <p>22 I was senseless and ignorant;
I was a brute beast before you.</p> <p>23 Yet I am always with you;
you hold me by my right hand.</p> <p>24 You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will take me into
glory.</p> <p>25 Whom have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing I desire besides
you.</p> <p>26 My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.</p> <p>27 Those who are far from you will
perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful
to you.</p> <p>28 But as for me, it is good to be near
God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my
refuge; I will tell of all your deeds.</p> |
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ENCOURAGEMENT NOW PODCAST



Kevin, Laura, And Joseph

We Need Your Help!

We are looking for corporate, church, and individual partnerships for our ministry. Mental health is one of the most sought after and talked about subject our society is focused on, but they are missing the Biblical truths that God's Word has to offer. Churches are finding themselves unable to handle some of the challenges they are presented with, and they need a safe place to send their members. We are that place, but we need your help. Encouragement Now Ministries (ENM) is donation funded. Monthly partnerships are the backbone of our ministry. This allows us to train up counselors, minister to the needs of churches and individuals, and grow our ministry. We are a 501(c)(3) organization that can be that place. Talk to your company about donating to ENM, and consider a monthly partnership. Every dollar is connected to a soul.