

ABOVE ALL ELSE

“Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.” (Prov 4:23)

It is always wise to do things in the order of their importance. Success in any area of life depends upon doing things in the order of their importance. The spiritual significance of this truth, of course, has eternal consequences. Please consider the following:

I

YOUR HEART IS THE KEY TO YOUR CONDUCT

- Jesus said: **“For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man 'unclean' . . .” (Matt 15:19-20).**
- **“He went on: "What comes out of a man is what makes him 'unclean'. For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from inside and make a man 'unclean'." (Mark 7:20-23)**
- **“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.” (Luke 6:45)**

II

YOU DO HAVE SOME CONTROL OVER YOUR OWN HEART

- Pharaoh hardened his heart (Ex. 8:15, 32; 9:34).
- Jehoshaphat set his heart to seek the Lord (2 Chron. 19:3),
- Solomon prayed to God for an understanding heart (1 Ki. 3:9).
- Mary pondered things in her heart (Lk. 2:19).
- You can keep your heart from being troubled (Jn. 14:1).
- It is with the heart that a man believes and is justified (Rom. 10:10)
- These Scriptures, of course, can easily be multiplied.

III

IF YOU DO NOT GUARD YOUR HEART, THE DEVIL CAN ENTER IT

- God destroyed the earth because of the evil thoughts in the heart of man (Gen. 6:5)
- Samson showed Delilah all his heart and she destroyed him (Judges 16:18).
- Rehoboam did evil because he did not set his heart to seek the Lord (2 Chron. 12:14).
- Solomon said that a bribe can corrupt the heart (Eccl. 7:7).
- Satan put it into the heart of Judas to betray Jesus (John 13:2).
- Satan filled the heart of Annanias to lie to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3).
- These Scriptures also can easily be multiplied.

IV

GOD IS ABLE TO GIVE YOU A NEW HEART

- **“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.” (Ezek 36:26-27)**
- **“In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no-one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” (John 3:3)**
- **“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” (2 Cor 5:17)**
- **“Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation.” (Gal 6:15)**
- The Word of God judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Heb. 4:12).
- Since we cannot by our own will, overcome our own will, it is essential that we invite Jesus into our hearts (Rev. 3:20).