

The human heart – the centre of consciousness,
intention and decision.

- There is a close correspondence between ‘heart’ and ‘spirit’(= communion with God)

‘Create in me a clean heart, O God;
put a new and right spirit within me.’(Psalm 51:10)

- The heart belongs to God who made it and knows it.

‘YHWH moulds every heart’(Psalm 33:15).

‘Human beings look to appearances, but YHWH sees the heart’(1 Samuel 16:7).

- We must go to the heart and follow it

‘Heed the counsel of your own heart, for no one is more faithful to you than it is. Your soul often forewarns you; it is better that seven watchmen perched on a watch-tower. You must also beg the Most High to guide your steps in the truth’(Sirach 37:13).

‘More than all else, keep watch over your heart, for there are the wellsprings of life’(Proverbs 4:23).

‘May Yahweh grant you your heart’s desire’(Psalm 20:4).

- Yet the heart on its own can be unwise

‘The person who trusts his own heart is a fool.

The one whose ways are wise will be safe’(Proverbs 28:26).

‘Do not listen to what the prophets are saying: they are deluding you, retailing visions from their own hearts, and not what comes from the mouth of YHWH.’

(Jeremiah 23:16).

‘Out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander ...’(Matthew 5:19).

- Insincerity of heart and hypocrisy

‘A glaze applied to an earthen pot: such are the smooth lips and wicked heart’(Proverbs 26:23).

‘Though they outwardly flattered him and used they tongues to lie to him, in their hearts they were not true to him, they were unfaithful to his covenant’(Psalm 78:36-37).

- A hardened heart must be broken (contrite), an adulterated heart purified.

‘Create in me a clean heart, O God’(Psalm 51:12).

‘You will not scorn this crushed and broken heart’(Psalm 51:16).

- Setting our heart on God

‘If you start searching once more for Yahweh your God, and if you seek Yahweh with all your heart, you will find him’(Deuteronomy 4:29).

‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God’(Matthew 5:8).

- God is close to the heart that looks to him

‘Yahweh is near to the broken-hearted’(Psalm 34:18).

‘Yahweh sent me to bind up hearts that are broken”(Isaiah 61:1).

‘God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying “Abba! Father!”
(Galatians 4:6)

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Revelation

Word

Spirit

Heart

speaks to

heart