

IS THE HEART SPIRITUAL? Or is it "a worship of the heart"?

God says He hates idolatry, He calls it spiritual adultery. There are many things we, as Christians allow into our lives God call an "abomination" to Him. God does not change; He always has and always will hate idolatry. What is "idolatry"? We find in His word many references to Idolatry which is anything we place before Him, or anything that we think that takes away His power. This study is how we commit spiritual adultery by using the word "heart".

Using Strong's Concordance we can find many words from the original language that has been mistranslated.

Looking at the original Hebrew word "labe" (03824) we see how many times the word has been translated "heart" instead of a more correct descriptive word that could have been used.

"What difference does it make?"

The answer is: If we let the translators use one word instead of the right selection, we could loose some of the spiritual meaning or worse, be misled, even deceived on some topics. We see below the many words that could have been used, (perhaps should have been) in place of the word heart. This is from Strong's Concordance. Those people familiar with the use of Strong's should look up the word in their Concordance.

03820 bl leb labe

a form of 03824; TWOT-1071a; n m

AV-heart 508, mind 12, midst 11, understanding 10, hearted 7, wisdom 6, comfortably 4, well 4, considered 2, friendly 2, kindly 2, stouthearted + 047 2, care + 07760 2, misc 21; ; 593

- 1) inner man, mind, will, heart, understanding
- 1a) inner part, midst
- 1a1) midst (of things)
- 1a2) heart (of man)
- 1a3) soul, heart (of man)
- 1a4) mind, knowledge, thinking, reflection, memory
- 1a5) inclination, resolution, determination (of will)
- 1a6) conscience
- 1a7) heart (of moral character)
- 1a8) as seat of appetites
- 1a9) as seat of emotions and passions 1a10) as seat of courage

Because we may think if it is in the Bible it must be correct.

Let us take a look at some of these verses and see if we can find a better description of the word "heart".

Ge 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his "seat of emotions and passions" was only evil continually.

Ge 6:6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him with DISAPPOINTMENT.

Ge 8:21 And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his, MERCY I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's DESIRES is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more everything living, as I have done.

Ge 17:17 Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his AMUSEMENT. Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?

Following will be examples where a more accurate English translation is suggested in bold letters instead of the word "heart".

Ge 20:5 Said he not unto me, She is my sister? and she, even she herself said, He is my brother: in the integrity of my INTENTIONS and innocency of my hands have I done this.

Ge 20:6 And God said unto him in a dream, Yea, I know that thou did this in the integrity of thy INTENTIONS for I also withheld thee from sinning against me: therefore suffered I thee not to touch her.

Even. the word "suffered" would be better translated as "allowed or permitted."

Ge 24:45 And before I had done speaking in mine PURPOSE behold, Rebekah came forth with her pitcher on her shoulder; and she went down unto the well, and drew water: and I said unto her, Let me drink, I pray thee.

Ge 27:41 And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his thoughts The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.

Ge 42:28 And he said unto his brethren, My money is restored; and, lo, it is even in my sack: and their CONFIDENCE failed them, and they were afraid, saying one to another, What is this that God hath done unto us?

Ge 45:26 And told him, saying, Joseph is yet alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt. And Jacob's heart (?) fainted, for he believed them not.

Ex 4:14 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his LOVING RESPONSE.

Ex 4:21 And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: but I will harden his DETERMINATION that he shall not let the people go.

Ex 7:3 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, DET. and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt.

Ex 7:13 And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, DET. that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

Ex 7:14 And the LORD said unto Moses, Pharaoh's heart INTENTIONS is hardened, he refuseth to let the people go.

Ex 7:22 And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments: and Pharaoh's heart INTENTIONS was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the LORD had said.

Ex 7:23 And Pharaoh turned and went into his house, neither did he set his heart INTENTIONS to this also.

Ex 8:15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his DETERMINATION and hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.

Ex 8:19 Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's INTENTIONS was hardened, and he hearkened (listened) not unto them; as the LORD had said.

Ex 15:8 And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the MIDST of the sea.

Ex 23:9 Also thou shalt not oppress a stranger: for ye know the NEEDS of a stranger, seeing ye were strangers in the land of Egypt.

De 4:29 But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy SPIRIT and with all thy soul.

De 5:29 O that there were such an LOVE in them, that they would fear (respect) me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!

De 6:5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine THOUGHTS and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

De 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine MEMORY

De 7:17 If thou shalt say in thine MIND These nations are more than I; how can I dispossess them?

De 8:2 And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in your, INTENTIONS whether thou wouldst keep his commandments, or no.

Jos 22:5 But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your DESIRES and with all your soul. (The soul is both spirit and body, or flesh).

Jos 24:23 Now therefore put away, said he, the strange gods which are among you, and incline your DESIRES unto the LORD God of Israel.

We see how much more personal, and closer God's words are to us, when we use words other than our own body organ for a descriptions.

Can we not see how Satan even gets into the scriptures to pervert God's word? Satan does not want us to feel any emotional attachment to our heavenly Father. He wants us to turn our affection and love to our own body part rather than give our Heavenly Father the glory.

"I love you with my whole heart". What does that mean? It would make more sense to say: I love you with my whole life, (or a life time of commitment). A heart only does what God designed it to do, that is to pump blood. Our brain, or the breath God gives us, is much more important to humans than the heart. It is no more important than the kidneys, lungs, and liver, or bowels, etc. How silly is it to proclaim to another person, "I love you with my whole kidneys"? It really does make as much sense as "I love you with my whole heart". It takes away the statement, and possibly, that we are seriously making a commitment, does it not?

Knowing that our heart is no more than a body part, have you ever said, "I love Jesus with my whole heart?" Think about it! Ok, lets go to the new testament and see what we find. The new testament was written in Greek many years after Jesus and the disciples were gone.

Here is what we found in Strong's Conc..

2588 kardia kardia kar-dee'-ah
prolonged from a primary kar (Latin, cor, "heart"); TDNT-3:605,415; n f

AV-heart 159, broken hearted + 4937 1; 160

1) the heart

1a) that organ in the animal body which is the center of the circulation of the blood, and hence was REGARDED as the seat of physical life.

(Notice: It is NOT a true translation from a Greek word. The word "kar, or cor" came from a Latin word translated "heart" and "was regarded" (or ASSUMED) to be the seat of life. Admittedly this word was adopted to take the place of many definitions of emotion. This word "heart" was assumed it was the life of humans and/or animals. This word "heart" replaces the very existence of God, substituting it as "the center of all physical and spiritual life".)

1) the heart

1a) that organ in the animal body which is the centre of the circulation of the blood, and hence was regarded as the seat of physical life

1b) denotes the centre of all physical and spiritual life

2a) the vigor and sense of physical life

2b) the centre and seat of spiritual life

2b1) the soul or mind, as it is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavors

2b2) of the understanding, the faculty and seat of the intelligence

2b3) of the will and character

2b4) of the soul so far as it is affected and stirred in a bad way or good, or of the soul as the seat of the sensibilities, affections, emotions, desires, appetites, passions

1c) of the middle or central or inmost part of anything, even though inanimate

This is the description from the Latin word "cor" which was determined, by man, that it is: "1a) that organ in the animal body which is the center of the circulation of the blood, and hence was REGARDED as the seat of physical life". So do you get this? It was regarded (by man) that it was the seat of physical and spiritual life by mankind, accepted of the Latin belief, to INCLUDE even "the soul" as a mind set. So what is wrong with this? LOTS of things!

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

We need to listen carefully to these words : Man was formed. Man was from the ground. Man had no life until he received it from the BREATH of God. Only then did he become a "living soul".

This man did not "have" a soul, he became one. Adam became a soul when God formed a body of flesh and after He breathed a spirit into it. The soul is only completed after it ALSO has a spirit. God breathed a spirit into the man's body and at that point he became a soul. Before God gave Adam His breath Adam was only a lump of clay without a spirit.. Do you get this? Adam had of necessity, had to have a spirit in his body to become a soul. In other words; a human has to first be a body, then have a breath from God so that he can live. At that point the man becomes a soul, and not until then.

Something we need to consider is God's breath is not His holy spirit. Man does not have the holy spirit until he is old enough to make mature, and righteous decisions with his own spirit. Yes, the Bible explains that man does have an individual spirit.

These numbers are added by Strong's, so you can look up the original words before they were translated.

1Co 2:11 For <1063> what <5101> man <444> knoweth <1492> (5758) the things <3588> of a man <444>, save <1508> the

spirit <4151> of man <444> which <3588> is in <1722> him <846>? even <2532> so <3779> the things <3588> of God <2316> knoweth <1492> (5758) no man <3762>, but <1508> the Spirit <4151> of God <2316>.

After Satan appeared on the scene he has tried to turn mankind against God by twisting and stealing this knowledge from mankind's understanding. We refer to our bodies as "having" a soul. We use words like "our heart" as the source of life. We fail to acknowledge how this must make our Father feel, whose breath is actually our life.

A body without God's spirit (breath) is a lifeless piece of dead flesh, that will stay dead until God "breathes" life back into the body.

In Ezek. 37 we read about the resurrection of the "whole house of Israel" being resurrected. However, they will not live until they receive breath (not a heart) from God. Should we praise man for giving Israel hearts because man assumed it is the seat of life? Should we not give our Father praise for the breath of life. How can we ignore the fact that God designed the body organs to serve our bodies, ignoring that only God can give us life.

Okay, so what about all our intellect, our love, emotions, frustrations and hatred, and fears? Where do they originate from? Is that because we have different kinds of hearts? Of course not. Our intellect, reasoning, and attitude is all a part of man's spirit.

Jesus talks to his disciples about the spirit in man. Notice how the word "heart" is used, not by the son of God, but incorrectly by Latin translators. The correct word should be "SPIRIT".

Mt 13:11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

Blessed are the pure in heart: (SPIRIT)for they shall see God.

Mt 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart (LUSTS).

Mt 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart (LOVE) be also.

Mt 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in SPIRIT: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Mt 12:34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of desires the mouth speaketh.

2Ti 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, of a sound mind.

Remember, Lovers of God. Give all praise to God the Father, and Jesus Christ, not to your blood pump organ, called heart.

According to the Latin translators of the Bible, the heart (spirit) is the center not only of spiritual activity, but of all the operations of human life. "Heart" and "soul" are often used and translated interchangeably #De 6:5 26:16 comp. #Mt 22:37 #Mr 12:30,33 but this is not generally the case. The heart is the "home of the personal life," and hence a man is designated, according to his heart, (spirit-attitude) wise #1Ki 3:12 etc., pure #Ps 24:4 Mt 5:8 etc., upright and righteous #Ge 20:5,6 Ps 11:2 78:72 pious and good #Lu 8:15 etc. In these and such passages the word "soul" (body and spirit) could not be substituted for "heart." The heart is also translated as the seat of the conscience #Ro 2:15 It is naturally wicked #Ge 8:21 and hence it contaminates the whole life and character #Mt 12:34 15:18 comp. #Ec 8:11 Ps 73:7 Hence the heart (attitude) must be changed, regenerated #Eze 36:26 11:19 Ps 51:10-14 before a man can willingly obey God. The process of salvation begins in the heart (spirit) by the believing reception of the testimony of God, while the rejection of that testimony hardens the heart (spirit) #Ps 95:8 Pr 28:14 2Ch 36:13 "Hardness of heart (spirit) evidences itself by light views of sin; partial acknowledgment and confession of it; pride and conceit; ingratitude; unconcern about the word and ordinances of God; inattention to divine providence; stifling convictions of conscience; shunning reproof; presumption, and general ignorance of divine things.