

“All of Grace—God’s Answer to Hardness of Heart”

***“It is possible to be a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, saved by His blood and still have a hard heart.” (Paul Tripp)***

Introduction:

***Exodus 4:21, “And the LORD said to Moses, ‘When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles that I have put in your power. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.’”***

***Romans 9:18, “So then He has mercy on whomever He wills, and He hardens whomever He wills.”***

***Jeremiah 17:9-10, “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it? I the LORD search the heart and test the mind, to give every man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his deeds.”***

1. God knows the real condition of every heart and what that heart:
2. God gives a completely accurate assessment of every heart:
3. God’s hardening of a heart is simply allowing that:

1. Hardness of heart can happen when:

***Mark 3:1-5, “Again He entered the synagogue, and a man was there with a withered hand. And they watched Jesus, to see whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him. And He said to the man with the withered hand, ‘Come here.’ And He said to them, ‘Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?’ But they were silent. And He looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.”***

***Mark 10:1-9, “And He left there and went to the region of Judea and beyond the Jordan, and crowds gathered to Him again. And again, as was His custom, He taught them. 2 And Pharisees came up and in order to test Him asked, ‘Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?’ 3 He answered them, ‘What did Moses command you?’ 4 They said, ‘Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.’ 5 And Jesus said to them, ‘Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this***

*commandment. 6 But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.' 7 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, 8 and the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh. 9 What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.'"*

2. Hardness of heart can happen when:

*Mark 8:14-21, "Now they had forgotten to bring bread, and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. And He cautioned them, saying, 'Watch out; beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.' And they began discussing with one another the fact that they had no bread. And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, 'Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?' They said to Him, "Twelve." 'And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you take up?' And they said to Him, 'Seven.' 21 And He said to them, 'Do you not yet understand?'"*

3. Hardness of heart can happen when:

*Psalm 73:21-21, "When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you."*

4. Hardness of heart can happen when:

*Jonah 2:8, "Those who cling to worthless idols forfeit the grace that could be theirs."*

5. Hardness of heart can happen when:

*Psalm 73:13-14, "Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure; in vain I have washed my hands in innocence. All day long I have been plagued; I have been punished every morning."*

6. Hardness of heart can happen when:

*Hebrews 3:12, "Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God."*

## **Applying the Gospel to a Hardened Heart**

1. Our hardness of heart is:

*Philippians 1:6, "He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."*

2. Our hardness of heart does:

*Romans 8:1, "There is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus."*

Conclusion:

Looking Deeper:

We can be tempted to harden our hearts by resisting the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Read John 16:5-15 and list what the ministry of the Holy Spirit is. Then ask the Lord for the grace needed to welcome His work in your life.