
Do You Believe God Knows Your Heart?

Jeremiah 17:9-11 (NIV)

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Who can understand it?

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God knows your heart. ❤️

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Thesis:

The heart of man is fallen and can be redeemed.

Objectives:

- I. The unregenerate heart
- II. Conversion: the changed heart
- III. Spurious conversion

Introduction:

The inner thoughts and feelings of an unregenerate person are opposed to God, making that person reject God and his love. At conversion the renewing work of the Holy Spirit transforms the human heart, enabling it to love and obey God.

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Sermon Outline:

I. The unregenerate heart

A. Hostile to God

Psalm 14:1 (NIV) — **1** The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.

2 Chronicles 12:14 (NIV) — **14** He did evil because he had not set his heart on seeking the LORD.

Proverbs 19:3 (NIV) — **3** A person’s own folly leads to their ruin, yet their heart rages against the LORD.

John 5:42 (NIV) — **42** but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts.

Acts 8:21–22 (NIV) — **21** You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. **22** Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord in the hope that he may forgive you for having such a thought in your heart.

Romans 1:31 (NIV) — **31** they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy.

Romans 8:7 (NIV) — **7** The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so.

Hebrews 3:12 (NIV) — **12** See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.

B. Hardened against God

Jeremiah 18:12 (NIV) — **12** But they will reply, ‘It’s no use. We will continue with our own plans; we will all follow the stubbornness of our evil hearts.’”

Pharaoh’s hard heart:

Exodus 7:14 (NIV) — **14** Then the LORD said to Moses, “Pharaoh’s heart is unyielding; he refuses to let the people go.

Exodus 14:8 (NIV) — **8** The LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites, who were marching out boldly.

Isaiah 6:10 (NIV) — **10** Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”

Jeremiah 16:12 (NIV) — **12** But you have behaved more wickedly than your ancestors. See how all of you are following the stubbornness of your evil hearts instead of obeying me.

Daniel 5:20 (NIV) — **20** But when his heart became arrogant and hardened with pride, he was deposed from his royal throne and stripped of his glory.

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Matthew 13:15 (NIV) — 15 For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'

Acts 28:27 (NIV) — 27 For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'

Romans 2:5 (NIV) — 5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

C. Spiritually ignorant

Ephesians 4:18 (NIV) — 18 They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

Romans 1:21 (NIV) — 21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

2 Corinthians 3:15 (NIV) — 15 Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts.

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NIV) — 4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

D. Proud

Psalms 73:7 (NIV) — 7 From their callous hearts comes iniquity; their evil imaginations have no limits.

Proverbs 18:12 (NIV) — 12 Before a downfall the heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.

Proverbs 21:4 (NIV) — 4 Haughty eyes and a proud heart—the unplowed field of the wicked—produce sin.

Jeremiah 49:16 (NIV) — 16 The terror you inspire and the pride of your heart have deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rocks, who occupy the heights of the hill. Though you build your nest as high as the eagle's, from there I will bring you down," declares the LORD.

Ezekiel 28:2 (NIV) — 2 "Son of man, say to the ruler of Tyre, "This is what the Sovereign LORD says: "In the pride of your heart you say, "I am a god; I sit on the throne of a god in the heart of the seas." But you are a mere mortal and not a god, though you think you are as wise as a god.

Ezekiel 28:17 (NIV) — 17 Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings.

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Obadiah 3 (NIV) — 3 The pride of your heart has deceived you, you who live in the clefts of the rocks and make your home on the heights, you who say to yourself, ‘Who can bring me down to the ground?’

E. Deceitful

Jeremiah 17:9 (NIV) — 9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.
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Job 31:33–34 (NIV) — 33 if I have concealed my sin as people do, by hiding my guilt in my heart **34** because I so feared the crowd and so dreaded the contempt of the clans that I kept silent and would not go outside—

Psalms 5:9 (NIV) — 9 Not a word from their mouth can be trusted; their heart is filled with malice. Their throat is an open grave; with their tongues they tell lies.

Psalms 28:3 (NIV) — 3 Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who do evil, who speak cordially with their neighbors but harbor malice in their hearts.

Psalms 62:4 (NIV) — 4 Surely they intend to topple me from my lofty place; they take delight in lies. With their mouths they bless, but in their hearts they curse.

Isaiah 44:20 (NIV) — 20 Such a person feeds on ashes; a deluded heart misleads him; he cannot save himself, or say, “Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?”

Jeremiah 22:17 (NIV) — 17 “But your eyes and your heart are set only on dishonest gain, on shedding innocent blood and on oppression and extortion.”

2 Timothy 3:13 (NIV) — 13 while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

F. Sinful

Genesis 6:5 (NIV) — 5 The LORD saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time.

Psalms 10:3 (NIV) — 3 He boasts about the cravings of his heart; he blesses the greedy and reviles the LORD.

Psalms 41:6 (NIV) — 6 When one of them comes to see me, he speaks falsely, while his heart gathers slander; then he goes out and spreads it around.

Psalms 55:21 (NIV) — 21 His talk is smooth as butter, yet war is in his heart; his words are more soothing than oil, yet they are drawn swords.

Proverbs 6:18 (NIV) — 18 a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil,

Proverbs 20:9 (NIV) — 9 Who can say, “I have kept my heart pure; I am clean and without sin”?

Isaiah 1:5 (NIV) — 5 Why should you be beaten anymore? Why do you persist in rebellion? Your whole head is injured, your whole heart afflicted.

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Matthew 9:4 (NIV) — 4 Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, “Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts?”

Matthew 15:18-19 (NIV) — 18 But the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.

G. **Condemned**

Proverbs 11:20 (NIV) — 20 The LORD detests those whose hearts are perverse, but he delights in those whose ways are blameless.

Psalms 101:4-5 (NIV) — 4 The perverse of heart shall be far from me; I will have nothing to do with what is evil. 5 Whoever slanders their neighbor in secret, I will put to silence; whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart, I will not tolerate.

Proverbs 16:5 (NIV) — 5 The LORD detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished.

Proverbs 17:20 (NIV) — 20 One whose heart is corrupt does not prosper; one whose tongue is perverse falls into trouble.

Ecclesiastes 11:9 (NIV) — 9 You who are young, be happy while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment.

Jeremiah 17:10 (NIV) — 10 “I the LORD search the heart and examine the mind, to reward each person according to their conduct, according to what their deeds deserve.”

Romans 1:24 (NIV) — 24 Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

II. **Conversion: the changed heart**

A. **Convinced of need**

John 16:8 (NIV) — 8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:

Acts 2:37 (NIV) — 37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

Acts 16:30 (NIV) — 30 He then brought them out and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

Romans 7:7 (NIV) — 7 What shall we say, then? Is the law sinful? Certainly not! Nevertheless, I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, “You shall not covet.”

B. **Changed by the Holy Spirit**

Ezekiel 36:25-27 (NIV) — 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 26 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. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

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Jeremiah 24:7 (NIV) — **7** I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the LORD. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart.

Ezekiel 11:19 (NIV) — **19** I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 18:31 (NIV) — **31** Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel?

John 3:5–6 (NIV) — **5** Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. **6** Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

Romans 2:29 (NIV) — **29** No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person’s praise is not from other people, but from God.

Titus 3:4–5 (NIV) — **4** But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, **5** he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

C. Given faith

2 Corinthians 4:6 (NIV) — **6** For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.

Acts 5:31–32 (NIV) — **31** God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. **32** We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

Acts 15:9 (NIV) — **9** He did not discriminate between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith.

Acts 16:14–15 (NIV) — **14** One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message. **15** When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us.

Romans 10:8–10 (NIV) — **8** But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: **9** If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Ephesians 2:8 (NIV) — **8** For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

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III. Spurious conversion

A less-than-saving change

Matthew 13:5-6 (NIV) — **5** Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. **6** But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

Matthew 13:20-21 (NIV) — **20** The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. **21** But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

Hebrews 6:4-8 (NIV) — **4** It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, **5** who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age **6** and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace. **7** Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. **8** But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

Hebrews 10:26-29 (NIV) — **26** If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, **27** but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. **28** Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. **29** How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?

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Invitation:



Romans 10:17 (KJV 1900)

¹⁷ So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Hebrews 11:6 (KJV 1900)

⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Acts 17:30 (KJV 1900)

³⁰ And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

1 Timothy 6:12 (KJV 1900)

¹² Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Acts 2:38 (KJV 1900)

³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Revelation 2:10 (KJV 1900)

¹⁰ Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.