

HARDNESS OF HEART



"Let there be Light" – Gen 1:3

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Hardness of Heart

INTRODUCTION

It was the night of 24th May 2017 that God showed me the vision of what happened to the prophet Isaiah in Chapter 6. When I woke up, I asked God what this was all about. As I studied scriptures and read commentaries on this scripture, I felt that this is the message:

"Delivering a message of impending disaster to his already doomed fellow children whose persistent hardening of heart has so dulled their moral sensitivity that nothing will prompt them to heed the warning".

This is the first time God gave me a **message of warning** to his people. But together with this, also a revelation, that people still misunderstand God's intentions. I will try my best to explain this to the reader.

But since then, God downloaded so many other revelations and mysteries, I knew I had not yet finished it. When I came back to finish it, God revealed even a deeper meaning of *"hardening of the heart"*. It is like the same coin, but with two sides. As I started to write the message down, I wondered which side of the coin I must first start with?



As many are maybe less familiar with the softer side of the “*hardness of the heart*” I decided to first start with this part. The second part will deal with my dream and God's warning to his beloved people.

HARDNESS OF THE HEART

A teaching by Andrew Wommack

Hardening of the heart is not just for those who hate God or do not want to listen to His voice and corrections, but is also present in us who believes and respond to His voice.

Now, this is a radical statement to make.

Let me explain it. Just after Jesus fed the 5000 with two fish and five loaves of bread, He commanded His disciples to go to the other side.

Mark 6:44 And they that did eat of the loaves were about five thousand men. 45 And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people. KJV

We all know this story of the storm and Jesus walking on the water towards the ship. ***Jesus was walking on the very same thing that wants to destroy the disciples.*** Peter stepped out of the boat, walked towards Jesus on the water and sank when He took His eyes off Jesus. But Jesus rescued him. When you put this message together in all four Gospels, it says: “When Jesus entered into the ship with Peter, immediately the ship was at land and the sea was flat and calm as glass”



John 6:21 Then they willingly received him into the ship: and ***immediately the ship was at the land whither they went.*** KJV

UNABLE TO TAKE IT IN

It was still a two hour sail to the land, but instantly, when Jesus entered the boat – they were on the other side. When you read the verse, on eye view it sounds very innocent: “***they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure***”

Mark 6:51 And he went up unto them into the ship, and the wind ceased: and ***they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure***, and wondered. KJV

The TLB says that they were “***unable to take it in***”

Mark 6:50 But he spoke to them at once. “It’s all right,” he said. “It is I! Don’t be afraid.” ⁵¹ Then he climbed into the boat and the wind stopped! They just sat there, ***unable to take it in!*** ⁵² For they still didn’t realize who he was, even after the miracle the evening before! For they didn’t want to believe! TLB

How many times does God do things in our lives that we are just astonished? That we were so amazed that we are unable to take it in. Sound very normal to me?



But just look what the next verse says:

Mark 6:52 For they considered not *the miracle* of the loaves: for their **heart was hardened**. KJV

What it says is that the disciples were just more sensitive to the natural realm, which is so easy to believe, but when it came to the supernatural, they were so insensitive that they could not believe. The reason for the unbelief is because of a hardened heart.

This is major!**Story:**

Andrew told a story during a healing session he prayed for a boy with serious squint eyes – he took authority, believed for the healing and just before he opened his eyes he was ready to tell the boy sometimes healing comes over time and when he opened his eyes the boy's eyes were fully restored. Andrew made a remark – like the same remark the disciples did – “I cannot believe this” It was just too good to be true and the boy's eyes turn back again. He prayed for him, but that boy's eyes did not fully restore as in the beginning.

Own Experience:

When I came to understand, I realised that I had experienced the same things. I was praying over my eyes for a few weeks to focus without glasses to read on my cell phone. One day just after I had

ministered and prayed for somebody which received healing, I entered my mother's room and told her that the letters on my phone were never in my life so focussed as today without classes. That was amazing – “unbelievable” Then it turned back unfocused again

We must reach a point that the supernatural realm is just as normal as the natural that it does not come as a surprise or shock. We are walking by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).

By doing so – we have limited the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 78:40 How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, *and* grieve him in the desert! 41 Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel. KJV

All of these point to the condition of our hearts:

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he” Proverbs 23:7 KJV

Before anything outwardly can change, a change of the heart condition is a pre-requisite. In other words – first, change your heart towards a specific situation before it can change and manifest in the physical realm.

The reason why we are shocked and amazed at the miracle and supernatural provision is that we have hardened hearts. Hardened hearts are therefore not only for those who rebel against God but to those who can't believe the supernatural power of the Lord.



The meaning of “hardened” that has to do with the heart is;

Cold, insensitive, un-felled, and un-yielded towards something!

It should not be abnormal for us when Jesus does miracles in our lives.

Think about this:

What was Jesus’s reaction when he took the bread broke it – after He looked up and blessed the food – and gave it to the disciples. He was not jumping up and down praising the Father for the miracle that just happened. Why??

Because He was used to the supernatural and He did not have any area in His heart that is hardened – *cold, insensitive, unfeeling and un-yielded*.

Perceive ye not

After the feeding of the 5000 in Mark 6, the same incident came upon the disciples again. And listen to Jesus’ words in Mark 8 when they faced the same situation to feed people. Instead of them learning something about it, it seems that they still just could not understand it. He asked them why they were reasoning for not having bread?

And when Jesus knew *it*, he saith unto them, Why reason ye, ***because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet***, neither ***understand?*** have ye your ***heart yet hardened?*** 18 ***Having eyes, see ye not?*** and having ***ears, hear ye not?*** and do ye not remember? Markus 8:17-18 KJV



Understand ye not?

Don’t you ***understand*** it? Aren’t you getting it?

For not being able to perceive is an indication of a hardened heart.

Likewise, if you hear something but you do not understand it, is an indication of a hardened heart.

Can’t you see and hear?

He also pointed out that you do have eyes – but you do not see and you do have ears but you do not hear.

Jesus points again to their hardened hearts. He wants His disciples to “tune” their ears unto Him and listen to what He is saying and teaching us.

[*This was not pointing to the physical, but spiritual eyes and ears*]

Proverbs 4:20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. KJV

We need to sensitize ourselves to His teachings and desensitize ourselves to the normal world.

Don’t you Remember

Jesus goes on – don’t your remember.

If you do not remember, it means you have a hardened heart.



Mark 8:18 Having eyes, see ye not? And having ears, hear ye not?
And do **ye not remember?**

When we can't remember the Word of God it is because we are not focused and tuned to Him. Many of us can easily remember all football player's names, scores of games etc., but they can't quote any scripture.

Pharaoh

The Pharaoh of Egypt is probably one of the best examples of a person with a hardened heart. He just would not let go. If his heart was sensitive, he would have let go the people after the first plague. But instead, he kept on refusing. Just look at the Pharaoh's answer when Moses asked him when he must remove the frogs: "and he said tomorrow". Don't you think if your heart is sensitive towards God, you would probably say "**NOW**"?

Exodus 8:9 Moses told Pharaoh, "You decide when I should plead for you, your servants, and your people to **remove the frogs from** you and your household. They'll remain only in the Nile." 10 Pharaoh said, "**Tomorrow**." Moses said, "It will be just as you say, so that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God.

Finally, the Pharaoh gave in when his people, his land, and everything was defeated. But still, because of a hardened heart, he decided to take his armies and followed Moses. Why?

Because his heart was so hardened that he still could not understand what was going on. Here, Moses supernaturally demonstrates the power of God to him and still he thinks he can defeat them.



Again God intervenes – the pillar of cloud moved from the front to the end and it blocked so to speak the Israelites from the Egyptians. The Pharaoh and his armies had at least to stand there and wait for 12 hours before the cloud had lifted. When they saw the open road through the sea – you must be very stupid to proceed into the sea and think you will still live.

Exodus 14:19 Then the angel of God, who was going in front of the camp of Israel, moved behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front of them and stood behind them, 20 coming between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel. The cloud remained there even in the darkness, illuminating the night so that the one side did not come near the other all night. ISV

It was just too late when they realized that it was YEHÔVÂH who is fighting for the Israelites and against them, the Egyptians.

Their chariot wheels began coming off so that their chariots scraped along the dry ground. "Let's get out of here," the Egyptians yelled. "**Jehovah is fighting for them and against us.**" Exodus 14:25 TLB



REASONS FOR HARDNESS OF THE HEARTS

In the Book of Matthew, it gives us the answer why our hearts are hardened. The KJV used the word “**waxed gross**”

For this people's heart is **waxed gross** ^{G3975}, and *their ears are dull* of hearing, and their **eyes they have closed**; lest at any time they should see with *their eyes*, and hear with *their ears*, and should **understand with their heart**, and should be converted, and I should heal them. Matthews 13:15 KJV

Waxed gross means to thicken.

G3975

pachunō

pakh-oo'-no

From a derivative of G4078 (meaning *thick*); to *thicken*, that is, (by implication) to *fatten* (figuratively *stupefy* or *render callous*): - wax gross.

Waxed gross refers to a method used in making candles in the old days. It was not just a once off process, but you needed to put wax on the pit over and over until you got the thickness of the candle. It was a process and it took some time. In other translations, the word “dull” is used. It is a lack of interest or excitement. The bottom line is that it will take the time to harden your heart, as it will take the time to sensitize your heart again.

Hebrews 3:8 Harden, not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness KJV



SIN

Our hearts are hardened because of sins!

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. 13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the **deceitfulness of sin**. Hebrews 3:12-13 KJV

CONSIDER

Whatever you consider your heart becomes sensitive to!

For they **considered not the miracle** of the loaves: for their heart was hardened. Mark 6:52 KJV

What you do not consider, your heart will automatically be hardened and become therefore insensitive.

The word Consider means;

- Study
- Ponder
- Deliberate
- Examine

We can say that whatever we consider, or study, focus or meditate on will dominate you. When your heart is “tied to” things you become sensitive to



them. Simply put, when people's hearts are tied to a sport, they will tell you everything about that sport, its players and every small detail of the game. But they can't remember one single scripture verse or reply on what they have just read in the Bible. Why? Because their hearts were not tied to it.

Just look at the total opposite reaction of Abraham in contrast to the disciples. Against all hope, he believed in hope! He was already 100 years old when God promised him a child. He considered not his body now dead, neither considered the womb of Sarah dead!

Romans 4:18 Who against hope **believed in hope**, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. 19 **And being not weak in faith**, he **considered not his own body now dead**, when he was about a hundred years old, **neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb**: 20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; 21 And being fully persuaded that, **what he had promised**, he **was able also to perform**. KJV

And herein lies the secret and being fully persuaded that what he had promised, he was able also to perform.!



Miracle

Logistically, it was just impossible for that miracle to happen in the hands of Jesus. There were 5 000 households and it is logical to assume that after Jesus blessed and broke the bread he gave it to the disciples where they had to feed their own groups. So the miracle took place in the hands of the disciples.

But still, they just could not grasp it. They considered not *the miracle* of the loaves: "**for their heart was hardened**".

Mark 6:52 For they considered not *the miracle* of the loaves: for their heart was hardened. KJV

Jesus had to get his disciples in the boat – seems if there was some sort of resistance not to get into the boat.

Mark 6:45 And straightway he **constrained his disciples to get into the ship**, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people.

Scripture is not clear why, but we can tell from their experience as a fisherman that they maybe could tell that a storm was on its way. Notice that He constrained his disciples to get in – therefore, Jesus was responsible for them. Also, think about it – they could have raised the flags, turn around and would have been back to where they came from on dry land, within a few minutes.. But they did not – because they were doing what Jesus had told them to do. They were following His instructions.



Expected Jesus

Considering all of this, it means that these disciples had **seen the miracle** of Jesus feeding the 5000, they were in a situation because of their **obedience** and if they were **thinking correctly** and their **minds stayed** on the Lord, thinking how powerful He was - then instead of been surprised – they would have expected Him!

This is just the same with us – if we think correctly on the Word of God e.g.;

- No weapon formed against us – Isaiah 54:17
- God heals all of our sicknesses – Psalm 103:3
- Wish that you may prosper in all things – 3 John 1:2
- By His stripes, we were healed – 1 Peter 2:24
- Jesus was doing good, healing all those who were oppressed – Acts 10:38

If we think correctly on these scriptures – then we will not fall apart when the doctor is telling you that you have an incurable disease. It is normal to react first, but it is abnormal according to the scripture. We are born again – we can operate in the supernatural dimension. We are a spiritual being and not a human being.

The storm had occupied their minds just to survive. The natural circumstances were the main reason for them hardening their hearts. They were so caught up in the storm, that they totally forgot the miracle of the day. So many of us as are so occupied with our natural circumstances and natural realm, that we totally forget about our supernatural abilities.



You are so dominated and controlled by the natural that you are sensitive to the natural and hardened by the supernatural. It is not that you deny that God can do it for you, but you are so busy surviving day-to-day that you forget to focus on the spiritual realm. You are just human and you know that God has much more in store for you, but you do not know how to get it. Your heart has been hardened and pre-occupied with the physical realm, that you are not focussing on the spiritual realm.

You are just spending too much time in the natural and physical realm. You must take much more time to focus and to consider the Word of God. You can take truths in the Word of God and can throughout the day keep your mind on those scriptures, meditate on them – stay focused on the meaning of them.

2 Corinthians 10:4 (For the **weapons of our warfare are not carnal**, but mighty through God to the **pulling down of strong holds**;) 2Co 10:5 Casting down **imaginings**, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and **bringing into captivity** every thought to the obedience of Christ; KJV

The disciples were not living in sin. As a matter of fact, they were just doing what Jesus told them to do. Here they are, in the middle of a storm not “considering”.....



The word **considering** means:

“Study, ponder, think upon, deliberate, examine, meditate, focus and or dominate”.

For they **considered not the miracle** of the loaves: for their heart was hardened. Mark 6:52 KJV

They were so occupied with the storm that they only focused on the natural wisdom and their talents of being fisherman. They just wanted to stay alive. They were just human in the physical realm.

Similar to our normal health condition. Most people are only focusing on the natural eating right, taking in additional vitamins and minerals. But our bodies are aging and one day we will face a situation where we need more than just any physical medication to stay and walk in health. But when we are also walking in the supernatural you will see people overcome cancer, blind eyes open and even the dead rise.

We are living in the physical realm and hardened to the supernatural realm. That is why we are so limited in our lives because we are only living in the physical realm. We need to take time and exercise also to live in the supernatural realm.

ABRAHAM & SARAH

God called Abraham out of his land of the Chaldeans and told them never to return. For then returning to that country, would have been sin for Abraham.



Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. 14 For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. 15 And **truly**, if they **had been mindful** of that **country** from whence they came out, they **might have had opportunity to have returned**. KJV

Looking at verse 15, it says that if Abraham's mind was still in that country, he was tempted considering going back. Put also in another way:

“You can't be tempted of what you do not think”.

DO NOT THINK OF ANYTHING THAT YOU DO NOT WANT TO BE TEMPTED BY!

If you are tempted by anything it only means that you have been thinking about it. Sometimes, just thinking back on the old days of your life, what could have been – you will be tempted with unbelief. Remember, Abraham never even considered his own body dead in 100 years nor the womb of his wife Sarah when God told them they will have a child.

Romans 4:19 ***And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:***

Abraham and Sarah only have focused on the promise of God. Never considered going back, never considered themselves too old to have a child.



The reason why you are so easily drawn into temptation is because you are thinking about it. You are already there in your mind! **You can't go to any place of temptation if you are not there in your mind.**

PRAYER & FASTING

Disciples had already received the power and authority from Jesus and they had exercised it successfully. They rejoiced at some time saying to the Lord: **“even the demons are listening to us”**

Luke 10:17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. KJV

But then, suddenly at another incident, they just could not cast out a demon from a boy.

Matthews 17:19 Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? 20 And Jesus said unto them, **Because of your unbelief:** for verily I say unto you, If ye have **faith as a grain of mustard seed**, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place, and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. 21 Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting. KJV

And here Jesus has clearly indicated to them it is because of your unbelief (*note that the NIV is saying “little faith” which is incorrect*). Jesus immediately explained it by referring to the mustard seed – that is the smallest seeds you can find and He was saying you only need that amount to cast these demons out. Therefore, this was not about the little



faith or their lack of faith, but because of their unbelief. When we back up a few verses we see the reaction of Jesus – *“faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you”*

Matthews 17:16 And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. 17 Then Jesus answered and said, O **faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you?** bring him hither to me. KJV

He saw the inability of his disciples to meet the need of His people.

Jesus was busy training them to represent Him here on earth and still, they just could not manage to do so. Henceforth, he said: “faithless and perverse generation – how long shall I still be with you to take care of these things?” How long will it take for you to grasp these truths, learn it and apply it before I am not anymore with you!

We must understand the substandard of Christianity today. The Lord is not pleased with us on earth who cannot take care of the needs of the people.

When we take the same type of sickness to the average pastor today, he would probably ask on what medication the boy is on and that his parents must take him to the medical doctors!

Society is making the medical profession and our school system totally ungodly institutions. It should not be like that. This was all the responsibility of the Church – but then government saw the benefit of this and they just “kidnapped” it for themselves.



“I believe that there is a deeper reason for this – and that is because we are all captive and in prison by the word “church.”

The word “church” not merely referred to any religious institution, but rather to God’s government – His Ecclesia!

[See the teaching: ***“The mystery of the Church”*** which fully addresses this topic.]

We – the church can never give away the responsibility of teaching our children over to a government school. At first, it was ok when the government of a country based their education system on Godly and Biblical systems – this has been radically changed as they now want to accommodate all religious systems in one education system – Calling good evil and evil good! This was all the responsibility of the church – if you do understand what Jesus meant by his ecclesia – but over time we became less and less involved to demonstrate this power the Lord had been given to His ecclesia that the state took over the medical care and education of our society.

Isaiah 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! KJV

Sometimes sickness can get so deep in us, that we not only need physical healing, but also emotional healing in our mind! As a man thinketh, so he will be. Sometimes people get healed, but in their mind, they are still sick! And this is the reason why Jesus asks the father – how long is it ago since this came unto him?



Mark 9:20 And they ***brought him unto him***: and when he saw him, ***straightway the spirit tare him***; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. 21 And he asked his father, ***How long is it ago since this came unto him?*** And he said, Of a child. 22 And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: ***but if*** thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. 23 Jesus said unto him, ***If thou canst believe, all things are possible*** to him that believeth. KJV

Now, after the father saw that the discipline could not cast it out – his hope decreased and said: “If you can do something”.

Look at Jesus’ words – “If you can believe” – in other words, they also have a responsibility to believe for the boys healing! Even Jesus was not taken all responsibility – he gave responsibility also over to the child’s father. You need to start recognizing the power and authority that Jesus has given to us. Use it to get your break throughs and miracles.

FAITH

Many may take a view by saying that I had faith and believed for my miracle, but it was just not enough – that is why I am still sick. As much as this can be true, we must realize that opposing this is the forces of unbelief. They cancel one another.

Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? 20 And Jesus said unto them, ***Because of your unbelief***: for verily I say unto you, If ye have ***faith as a grain of***



mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. 21 Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting. Matthew 17:19-21 KJV

Faith can be canceled by unbelief!

Mark 11:23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and **shall not doubt in his heart**, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. KJV

So, there can be belief and unbelief simultaneously – and if so – it will cancel one another. This is what had happened with Jesus himself in his home town. He could not do any mighty works because of the unbelief of the people living there.

Mark 6:5 **And he could there do no mighty work**, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed *them*. 6 **And he marvelled because of their unbelief**. And he went round about the villages, teaching. KJV

Jesus also led a blind man out of Bethsaida because of the people's unbelief. He took the man away from the people's unbelief and heal him separately.

Mark 8:22 And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him. 23 And he took the blind man by the hand, and **led him out of the town**; and when he had spit

on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought. KJV

This is important in healing the sick. It was not even up only to Jesus, but also up to the person that he healed to equally believe. And that was why Jesus told the boy's father; **"if you can believe – anything is possible"**

Mark 9:23 Jesus said unto him, **If thou canst believe, all things are possible** to him that believeth. KJV

Bottom line is that even Jesus had to deal with unbelief during His ministry on earth! Just as a little leaven, leaveneth the whole lump, likewise will just a little unbelief will stop a lot a faith!

Your glorying *is* not good. Know ye not that a **little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?** 1 Corinthians 5:6 KJV

Just get rid of your unbelief, and if you have **faith as a little grain of mustard seed**, you can throw a mountain in the sea, without touching it. That is how powerful faith is if it is not diluted by unbelief!

Faith is the fruit of the spirit – if you constantly belief in and for God, you will receive faith. Just as faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God, likewise will unbelief come by hearing – hearing of all the lies of the world!



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

Romans 10:17 KJV

Most people have put much more faith in what the doctor has said, than what any other Word of God can tell you! What the pastor is telling you on Sunday's at church is just of a higher hierarchy than what the Word of God has to say! Many times, parents can influence and manipulate their children in such a way that it can just fade out the last little bit of faith that they might have for something in their lives. That is the time to stand your ground and believe what God's Word says and not what tradition believes.

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. KJV

The weapons against you will not automatically prosper – you have to condemn it!

This is important – the moment you hear something that is spoken against your belief system, you must immediately condemn it and rebuke it. You must deal with it immediately

Isaiah 54:17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue *that* shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This *is* the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness *is* of me, saith the LORD.



If you delay dealing with it, it will over time be diluted and poison your belief system and soon your faith will fade. It is like little seeds taking root inside of it. Death and life in every tongue – all the words that you are listening to!

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Words of unbelief that you listen to, are seeds that are coming in and destroying your faith! It is as simple as to stay single minded on what God is saying. We are standing on one foot in the world and trying to stand with the other in the Word of God. This is not single-minded but double minded and it is robbing our faith and neglecting us to receive our miracles and to operate into the supernatural realm.

In the Gospel of Mark, it says and confirms exactly the point of having faith and unbelief at the same time. In Chapter 9 the boy's father says: "I believe, but help me with my unbelief"

Mar 9:24 And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I ***believe; help thou mine unbelief.*** KJV

Most Christians are trying to get more faith. They are getting into the Word, read and study it. But very few Christians know unbelief also comes by hearing. When listening to many other negative and or wrong messages throughout the day, it contradicts their faith. After studying the Word of God, you can dismiss everything by watching TV or listening to the news and negative people for the rest of the day.



FAST & PRAYER

The most misquoted scripture in the Bible is probably Matthews 17:21. Just on eye level when reading it, it may sound if it says “**this kind**”, referring to the demon, but it is not.

Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

Matthews 17:21 KJV

Remember the context of our scripture, which is talking about faith and unbelief. So, when Jesus is talking about ‘**this kind**’ He was not referring to a demon, but to “**this kind of unbelief**”. Demons are not listening to the amount of faith, but they must obey the Name of Jesus! There is not one single demon who will not obey the Name of Jesus!

Unbelief can come through **ignorance**.

You just do not know or have the knowledge of it. If you do not know what the word says, you will just not know it. If you are taught the **wrong** thing. You can have the unbelief of not speaking in tongues because people are teaching a false doctrine. It is teaching the wrong truths to somebody.

The antidote for these is just, to tell the truth.

Then we have the unbelief that comes through our 5 senses, what we can see, hear, smell, taste and feel. E.g., when you pray for somebody to be healed and suddenly the person dies. The situation gets worst! You are hearing and seeing something that is contrary to your belief. Those things will just minister unbelief to you.



Here is the situation.

The disciples had many successes in the past, but when they saw this boy falling on the ground and into the fire, their 5 senses took over and because of their unbelief they just could not cast the demons out.

Prayer and fasting are the cure for this kind of unbelief.

When you start praying to God, you are moving beyond the physical realm and moving into the spiritual realm. Over time you start training your 5 senses that there are more than just your 5 senses.

We are speaking, praying and hearing from a God that you cannot see or hear, but one day you will hear his voice. You have trained yourself over time and suddenly your spiritual senses open. This is what Jesus said how you need to train your senses that they are not fighting you but submit to you to heal the sick.

In today's modern world of technology, we are just more and more exposed to all the negative thoughts in our world. The media is not out there to report and influence as in a positive way, but rather to sell sensation which comes with all the problems of the whole world. We can't even handle our own personal problems, but are now facing and hearing all the world's problems. It drains and fades away all faith from any person.



The hardest people to heal are people with medical background. It is because they have been taught so much unbelief. They have been told that if you see this, it is incurable and they only have so long to live. And there is just no room for faith for the supernatural. They have so much unbelief because of their profession what they saw in their lives.

This kind of unbelief can only be dealt with prayer and fasting!

This is profound – Jesus is saying: “go back to the Word – study it – until your unbelief is been replaced by the Word of God”.

Luke 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible. KJV

It is with prayers and fasting that we get our senses exercised again to get our faith and belief back that anything is possible for GOD.

For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their **senses exercised to discern both good and evil.** Hebrew 5:13 KJV

Our appetite is such a strong desire, that it almost stands in our way of spiritual truths. Every day when not having anything to eat for an hour or four, most people get so miserable you can't be around with them. This is a very strong desire and when you are fasting you are denying your flesh! Fasting will afflict you and that is how you overcome. You reach a place



where you lose your appetite. It will prove to you that man does not live by bread alone, but by the Word of God.

Matthews 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, ***Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*** KJV



Hardness of Heart

"A Warning"

*WE COME TO THE SECOND PART OF HARDNESS OF THE HEART – THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SAME COIN. THIS IS A PART THAT GOD DEALT WITH ME ON THE NIGHT OF **24 MAY 2017** AND POINTED ME TO ISAIAH 6. IT HAD SUCH AN IMPACT ON ME, THAT IT WENT OVER INTO ME MINISTERING TO MY HOUSEHOLD AND WE TOOK COMMUNION. THE MOMENT I STARTED TO SPEAK, AN EMOTION CAME OVER ME HARD TO DESCRIBE. AFTERWARD, MY DAUGHTER CAME TO ME AND TOLD ME THAT SHE SHOW IN THE SPIRIT HOW JESUS CAME DOWN, WASHED MY FEET AND ANGELS CAME WITH A MIGHTY SWORD OF FLAME AND PURIFIED US!*

THAT WAS JUST AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE FOR ALL OF US!

"THE HARDENING OF YOUR HEART"

Throughout history, humanity has rebelled against God. It started in the Garden of Eden and it continues until today. The children of Israel rebelled in the wilderness despite all the miracles and provision of God. Even in the New Testament, the Jews rejected Jesus Christ. It is heart breaking when you follow scriptures from Genesis to Revelation and see



how God with longsuffering and with goodness constantly outpoured His love on His people. In return, man's heart has hardened more and more over time. My life changed the moment I realized that God never imputed the sins of this world on mankind!

Romans 4:8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord ***will not impute sin***. KJV

God only filled us with the goodness of Jesus Christ and declared to us: "Not Guilty"!

Romans 8:30 And having chosen us, he called us to come to him; and when we came, he declared us "***not guilty***," filled us with Christ's goodness, gave us right standing with himself, and promised us his glory. TLB

We grew up with the wrong theology, were taught that God was mad, and punished the people of the Old Testament. Clearly, scripture is telling us something different:

Romans 5:13 We know that it was Adam's sin that caused this[b] because although, of course, ***people were sinning from the time of Adam until Moses, God did not in those days judge them guilty of death for breaking his laws***—because he had not yet given his laws to them nor told them what he wanted them to do. TLB

No – God did not impute any sin on the human race – but instead sacrifice His Son, Christ Jesus to take upon Him all our sin – and only through Him, we get our right standing before the throne and the Father.



Romans 8:30b gave us **right standing with himself**, and promised us his glory. TLB

When the people stood at the Jordan River and God desired for His people to enter the promised land to enter His rest, his joy and in his peace – instead of believing in Him, they rebelled again. And God's wrath came upon them and sent them back into the wilderness. Thousands of years later, in the book of Hebrews, Scripture still refers to this incident:

Hebrews 3:5-7 and again in this passage, "THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST." Therefore, since it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly had good news preached to them failed to enter because of disobedience, He again fixes a certain day, "Today," saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, **DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS.**"

The GNB version uses the words "**stubborn**" and "**rebelled**" like your ancestors.

Hebrews 3:7 So then, as the Holy Spirit says, "If you hear God's voice today, 8 do **not be stubborn**, as your ancestors were when they **rebelled** against God, as they were that day in the desert when they put him to the test. 9 There they put me to the test and tried me, says God, although they had seen what I did for forty. GNB



Because of this stubbornness and rebellious spirit, your heart hardens and you are reaching a place of an unrepentant heart.

Rom 2:5 But because of your stubbornness and **unrepentant heart** you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.

years. GNB

We participate in a race and henceforth we need to be steadfast unto the end. Do not be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. When you hear His voice, harden not your hearts.

Heb 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest **any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.** 14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence **steadfast unto the end;** 15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, **harden not your hearts**, as in the provocation. 16 For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit **not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.**

And this is what this "warning" is all about.

During the night of 24 May 2017, God showed me the vision of what happened with the prophet Isaiah in Chapter 6. When I woke up, I asked God what this is all about. As I studied scriptures and read commentaries on this scripture, I felt the message to be this;



"Delivering a message of impending disaster to his already doomed fellow children whose persistent hardening of heart has so dulled their moral sensitivity that nothing will prompt them to heed the warning".

This is the first time God gave me a **message of warning** to his people. But with this, also a revelation, that I think people still misunderstand God's intentions. And I will try my best to put everything in place for the reader.

ISAIAH'S VISION OF THE LORD

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphim: each one had six wings; with twain, he covered his face, and with twain, he covered his feet, and with twain, he did fly. 3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, *is* the LORD of hosts: the whole earth *is* full of his glory. 4 And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 Then said I, Woe *is* me! for I am undone; because I *am* a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. 6 Then flew one of the seraphim unto me, having a live coal in his hand, *which* he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: 7 And he laid *it* upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. Isaiah 6:1-7 KJV



Warn my people on the earth who were fast ripening for this judgment of hardening (reprobation), for calling them to repentance! As in the days of Isaiah, also today it seems if the call to **repentance is fruitless**, and the children of God hardening themselves. And even now the goodness of God draws his people to Himself and tries to lead the people to repentance, and the long-suffering of God had been wantonly abused by the people.

Romans 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and **longsuffering**; not knowing that the **goodness of God** leadeth thee to **repentance**? KJV

O, my friend, if you can just see something of God's heart today – His love kindness for you to acknowledge the truth. The truth will set you free.

2 Timothy 2:25 In **meekness instructing those that oppose themselves**; if God **peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth**; KJV

In meekness, I bring this message.

THE VISION

In the year, that King Uzziah died the vision was given to the prophet Isaiah because the throne of David was empty.

- God never empties places in our homes and hearts, or in the nation or the Church, without being ready to fill them.



- He sometimes empties them that He may fill them.
- Sorrow and loss are meant to prepare us for the vision of God, and their effect should be to purge the inward eye, that it may **see Him**.
- The **essential point of the vision** is the **revelation of Jehovah as king** of Judah.
- That revelation guaranteed **defense** and demanded **obedience**.

The hovering Seraphim was in the attitude of service. The significance of their attitude is visualized;

- "With two he covered his face that he might not see, and
- with two he covered his body that he might not be seen" and
- "with two he stood ready for service, by flight whithersoever the King would send."
- Such awe-stricken reverence, such humble hiding of self, such alacrity for swift obedience, such flaming ardors of love and devotion, **should be ours**.

Their song celebrated the holiness and the glory of YEHÔVÂH of hosts. We must always remember that the root-meaning of '**holiness**' is **separation**, and that the popular meaning of **moral purity** is secondary and derivative.

- That **separation**, of course, **includes purity**, as may be seen from the immediate effect of the vision of the prophet, but the conception is much wider than that.
- God's 'glory' is the flashing lustre of His manifested holiness, which fills the earth as the train of the robe filled the temple.



The effect of the vision on the prophet

The vision kindled as with a flash Isaiah's **consciousness of sin**.

- He expressed it in regard to his **words** rather than his **works**, partly because in one aspect **speech** is even **more accurately than act a cast**, as it were, of character.
- Not only the **consciousness of sin**, but the dread of **personal evil consequences** from the vision of the holy God, oppressed his heart. We see ourselves when we see God.

One flash on a heart the thought of God's holiness, and, like an electric searchlight, it discloses flaws which pass unnoticed in dimmer light. The easy-going Christianity, which is the apology for religion with so many of us, **has no deep sense of sin** because it has **no clear vision of God**.

"I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear; but now my eye seeth Thee: wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes." Job 42:6

Then flew one of the seraphim unto me —

*By God's command; having a live coal in his hand — Both a token and an instrument of **purification**, as the next verse explains it; which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar — of burnt-offering, which stood in the court of the priests, where the prophet appeared to himself to be the vision.*



The seraph took it from the altar, to show that men are to expect the expiation of sin, and purification from it, only by such means as God hath appointed, and particularly by the mediation of Christ, whom that altar manifestly represented, and by that purifying and refining grace of the Holy Spirit, which was signified by this live coal, and is conferred on none except through the merit of Christ's sacrifice

Sin Recognised

The next stage in Isaiah's experience is that ***sin recognized and confessed is burned away***.

- **Cleansing** rather than **forgiveness** is here emphasized.
- The latter is, of course, included, but the main point is the **removal of impurity**.

It is mediated by one of the seraphim, who is the messenger of God, which is just a symbolical way of saying that God makes penitents 'partakers of His holiness,' and that nothing less than a **divine communication will make cleansing possible**.

- It is affected by a live coal.
- Fire is purifying, and the New Testament has taught us that the true **cleansing fire** is that of the **Holy Spirit**.
- But that live coal was taken from the altar. The atoning sacrifice has been offered there, and our cleansing depends on the efficacy of that sacrifice being applied to us.



And he laid it upon my mouth — So as only to touch my lips, and not to burn them.

- **All vain-glory, ambition, ignorance, and pride, would be done away with one view of Christ in his glory.**
- We are undone if there is not a **Mediator** between us and this holy God.
- A glimpse of heavenly glory is enough to convince us that all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags. (Isaiah 64:6)
- Nor is there a man that would dare to speak to the Lord, if he saw the **justice, holiness, and majesty of God**, without **discerning** his glorious **mercy and grace in Jesus Christ**.
- The live coal may denote the assurance given to the prophet, of pardon, and acceptance in his work, through the atonement of Christ.
- Nothing is powerful to cleanse and comfort the soul, but what is taken from Christ's satisfaction and intercession.

This was done to signify, not only that all the gifts and graces that purify the mind and fit us for the discharge of any particular duty or function, come from God; but that there must be a real application and communication of them to our souls. It is not sufficient that we **hear, think, and speak of them**; or even that we desire them, and believe them to be attainable; but we **must really receive and possess them**.

Observe this, reader. It is of infinite consequence to thy salvation.

- Lo, this hath touched thy lips, and thy iniquity is taken away —



- This is a sign that the **guilt of thy sin is removed** by pardoning mercy, and thy corrupt disposition and inclination to sin, by renewing grace; and, therefore, **nothing can hinder** thee from being accepted by God, as a worshipper, in concert with the holy angels; or from being employed by God, as a messenger to the children of men.

The **taking away of sin** is **necessary to our speaking** with **confidence and comfort, either to God in prayer, or from God in preaching**; and those shall have their sin taken away who complain of it as a burden, and see themselves in danger of being undone by it. It is a great comfort to those whom God sends, that they acknowledge God, and may, therefore, speak in his name, assured that he will bear with them.

Readiness for Service

The third stage in the prophet's experience is the **readiness for service** which springs up in his purged heart. God seeks for volunteers. There are no forced men in His army. His previous experiences made Isaiah quick to hear God's call, and willing to respond to it by personal consecration. Take the motive-power of redemption from sin out of Christianity, and you break its mainspring, so that the clock will only tick when it is shaken. It is Christ who died for our sins to whom men say, "Command what Thou wilt, and I obey".



THE PROPHET'S COMMISSION

He was not sent to his work with any illusions as to its success, but, on the contrary, he had a clear premonition that its effect would be to deepen the **spiritual deafness and blindness of the nation**.

- We must remember that in Scripture the certain effect of divine acts is uniformly regarded as a divine design.
- Israel was so sunk in **spiritual deadness** that the issue of the prophet's work would only be to immerse the mass of 'this people' farther in it.
- To some more **susceptible souls**, his message would be a true divine voice, rousing them like a trumpet, and that effect was what God desired; but
- To the **greater number, it would deepen their torpor and increase their condemnation**.

If men love darkness rather than light, the coming of the light works and only judgment remains.

Isaiah recoils from the dreary prospect and feels that this dreadful hardening cannot be God's ultimate purpose for the nation. So he humbly and wistfully asks how long it is to last. The answer is twofold;

- Heavy with a weight of apparently utter ruin in its first part, but disclosing a faint, far-off gleam of hope on its second.
- **Complete destruction**, and the **casting of Israel out from the land**, are to come.



But though a **good tree is felled**, a **stump remains** which has life in it, so, even in the desperate state of Israel, there will be in it **‘the holy seed,’** the **‘remnant,’** the **true Israel**, from which again the **life shall spring**, and stem and branches and waving foliage once more **grow**.

EZEKIEL 3

After the message God gave me in Isaiah 3, He pointed me to Ezekiel 3! Where Isaiah had been cleansed with a coal from the fire and then been separated and ready for service. As Isaiah must remember that Israel was so sunk in spiritual deadness that the issue of his works would only be to immerse the mass of this people farther in it, likewise must Ezekiel also deliver a message – not to far-off foreign land where he could not understand the language – but to the people of Israel!

Ezekiel 3: The Living Bible (TLB)

3 And he said to me: “Son of dust, eat what I am giving you—**eat this scroll! Then go and give its message to the people of Israel.**”

² So I took the scroll. ³ “Eat it all,” he said. And when I ate it, it **tasted sweet as honey**. ⁴ Then he said: “Son of dust, I am sending you to the people of Israel with my messages. ⁵ I am not sending you to some far-off foreign land where you can’t understand the language—⁶ no, not to tribes with strange, difficult tongues. (If I did, they would listen!) ⁷ I am sending you to the **people of Israel**, and they won’t

listen to you any more than they listen to me! For the **whole lot of them are hard, impudent, and stubborn.**

As these people are stubborn and hard, so did God made Ezekiel hard and stubborn too, so that he will not be afraid of them even when they have angry looks.

⁸ But see, I have made you hard and stubborn too—as tough as they are. ⁹ I have made your forehead as hard as rock. So don’t be afraid of them, or fear their sullen, angry looks, even though they are such rebels.”

Just as Isaiah, Ezekiel must deliver a message: **“This is what the Lord God says”**

¹⁰ Then he added: “Son of dust, let all my words sink deep into your own heart first; listen to them carefully for yourself. ¹¹ Then, afterward, go to your people in exile, and whether or not they will listen, tell them: **‘This is what the Lord God says!’**” ¹² Then the Spirit lifted me up, and the glory of the Lord began to move away, accompanied by the sound of a great earthquake. ¹³ It was the noise of the wings of the living beings as they touched against each other, and the sound of their wheels beside them. ¹⁴⁻¹⁵ The Spirit lifted me up, and took me away to Tel Abib, another colony of Jewish exiles beside the Chebar River. I went in bitterness and anger, but the hand of the Lord was strong upon me. And I sat among them, overwhelmed, for seven days.

The message was very strong from the Lord – if you do not warn my people, then you are under the penalty of death and I will punish you.



¹⁶At the end of the seven days, the Lord said to me: ¹⁷“Son of dust, I have appointed you as a **watchman for Israel**; whenever I send my people a warning, pass it on to them at once. ¹⁸If you **refuse to warn the wicked when I want you to tell them, ‘You are under the penalty of death; therefore repent and save your life,’** they will die in their sins, but I will punish you. I will demand your blood for theirs.

But, says the Lord, if you warn them and they still do not repent, then they will die in their sins, but you are blameless!

¹⁹But if you warn them, and they keep on sinning and refuse to repent, they will die in their sins, but you are blameless—you have done all you could. ²⁰And if a good man becomes bad, and you refuse to warn him of the consequences, and the Lord destroys him, his previous good deeds won’t help him—he shall die in his sin. **But I will hold you responsible for his death and punish you.** ²¹But if you warn him and he repents, he shall live, and you have saved your own life too.”

Furthermore the Lord told Ezekiel that He will make his tongue stick to the roof of his mouth so that he can’t reprove – but when there is a message to deliver, then the Lord will loosen his tongue.

²²I was helpless in the hand of God, and when he said to me, “Go out into the valley and I will talk to you there”— ²³I arose and went, and oh, I saw the glory of the Lord there, just as in my first vision! And I fell to the ground on my face. ²⁴Then the Spirit entered into me and set



me on my feet. He talked to me and said: “Go, imprison yourself in your house, ²⁵and I will paralyze you so you can’t leave; ²⁶and I will make your tongue stick to the roof of your mouth so that you can’t reprove them; for they are rebels. ²⁷**But whenever I give you a message, then I will loosen your tongue and let you speak,** and you shall say to them: ‘The Lord God says.’ Let anyone listen who wants to, and let anyone refuse who wants to, for they are rebels.

TLB

THE MESSAGE OF PAUL

Romans 1 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

Then the Lord pointed me to the message of Apostle Paul in Romans 1.

Interesting that Paul makes a distinction between the flesh and the Spirit of Jesus.

³[The Gospel] regarding His Son, Who as to the flesh (**His human nature**) was descended from David,

⁴And [as to His **divine nature**] according to the **Spirit of holiness** was openly designated the Son of God in power [in a striking, triumphant and miraculous manner] by **His resurrection from the dead**, even Jesus Christ our Lord (the Messiah, the Anointed One).



⁵ It is through Him that we have **received grace** (God's unmerited favor) and [our] apostleship to promote obedience to the faith *and* make disciples for His name's sake among all the nations,

⁶ And this **includes you**, called of Jesus Christ *and* invited [**as you are**] **to belong to Him**.

Similar, you are in the flesh a descended from your earthly father and mother! Our human body is flesh and born out of a corruptible seed;

*"That which is **born of the flesh is flesh**; and that which is **born of the Spirit is a spirit** (John 3:6).*

That is why we need to be born again of the Spirit to be saved;

"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be **born of water and of the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God (John 3:5).

Our mortal body must put on the spirit which is immortal and this corruptible body must put on incorruption to enter internal life: "For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality (1 Corinthians 15:53). I love you so much and never even imputing your sins on you (God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation 2 Corinthians 5:19).



But, Paul referred to Jesus also as to His divine nature according to the Spirit of holiness, raised from the dead that we received the everlasting grace which opens the door to eternal life. There is a **mystery** - a revelation hidden from all ages and generations that **Christ is in YOU!**

Colossians 1:26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; **which is Christ in you**, the hope of glory:

Man, this is just profound truths.

Paul is revealing the mystery, the revelation hidden for many ages – but now we know: "**Christ is in you**".

You are a **new creature**: "*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things become new*" (2 Corinthians 5:17). **Perfectly made**; "*That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works* (2 Timothy 3:17) and having now the **mind of Christ**; "*For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ* (1 Corinthians 2:16). You now have "**The measure of Faith**", which is the same faith Jesus had on earth – "according to as God hath dealt with every man the measure of faith (Romans 12:3). Your newborn spirit is as perfect as Christ, vacuum packed and **sealed with the Holy Spirit** and will never change again: "*In whom ye also*



trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise (Ephesians 1:13).

Now God announced it: “it includes YOU”. Jesus called you and invited you as you are to belong to Him!

Romans 1:6 And this ***includes you***, called of Jesus Christ *and* invited ***[as you are] to belong to Him***.

Then Paul is also making a very important announcement, I believe, in this context, which I shall explain later. He said: “***I am willing and eagerly ready to preach the Gospel to you***”. The same with Isaiah, when he saw the Glory of God and when God purified him, Isaiah immediately became a volunteer as Paul to go and warn the children of Israel and to preach the Gospel – the good news.

What good news?

For it is God’s power – His resurrection power – that is working unto salvation for deliverance from eternal death.

¹⁵ So, for my part, I am willing *and* eagerly ready to preach the Gospel to you also who are in Rome. ¹⁶ ***For I am not ashamed of the Gospel*** (good news) *of Christ*, for it is God’s power working unto salvation ***[for deliverance from eternal death]*** to everyone who believes *with* a personal trust *and* a confident surrender *and* firm reliance, to the Jew first and also to the Greek, ¹⁷ For in the Gospel a

righteousness which God ascribes is revealed, both springing from faith and leading to faith [disclosed through the way of faith that arouses to more faith]. As it is written, The man who through faith is just *and* upright shall live *and* shall live by faith.

If you are still walking in the flesh it leads to death.

Romans 7:14 We know that the Law is spiritual; but I am a **creature of the flesh** [*carnal, unspiritual*], having been sold into slavery **under [the control of] sin**. ¹⁵ For I do not understand my own actions [*I am baffled, bewildered*]. I do not practice or accomplish what I wish, but I do the very thing that I loathe [*which my moral instinct condemns*]. AMP

And the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; **adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness**, ²⁰ **Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies**, ²¹ **envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings**, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall **not inherit the kingdom of God** (Galatians 5:19).

So Flesh is everything that is not born-again and not under the control of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.



In verse 16 Paul is saying that he is not ashamed of this Gospel. What Paul is saying in essence is that he discovered the truth and it is good news for you too. He is not ashamed of the Gospel, because when it comes in meekness to you, it is for your correction and for your eternal life.

And this is precisely what Paul is doing when he continues.

¹⁸ For God's [holy] wrath *and* indignation are revealed from heaven against all **ungodliness and unrighteousness of men**, who in their wickedness repress *and* hinder the truth *and* make it inoperative.

¹⁹ For that which is **known about God is evident to them and made plain in their inner consciousness**, because God [Himself] has shown it to them. ²⁰ For ever since the creation of the world His invisible nature *and* attributes, that is, His eternal power and divinity, have been made intelligible *and* clearly discernible in *and* through the things that have been made (His handiworks). So [men] are without excuse [altogether without any defense or justification],

Just look at the words in TLB (The Living Bible) version:

¹⁸ But God shows his **anger from heaven against all sinful, evil men who push away the truth from them**. ¹⁹ For the truth about God is known to them **instinctively**; God has put this **knowledge in their hearts**. ²⁰ Since earliest times men have seen the earth and sky and all God made, and have known of his existence and great eternal

power. So they will have ***no excuse when they stand before God at Judgment Day***. TLB

Paul is saying that the truth about God is known to you **instinctively**. God has put this knowledge in your heart!

The English Oxford Living Dictionaries define "instinctively" as:

*"A person doing or being a specified thing apparently **naturally or automatically**"*

And the Free Dictionary by Farlex:

*These adjectives refer to things that arise from a natural tendency or impulse: an instinctive desire to help others; an **instinctual respect for authority**; an **intuitive feeling that something is wrong**; a visceral reaction to the scandalous news.*

I pray that you understand this:

God automatically put it by nature in your heart, the moment He breathe in the nostrils the breath of life, the knowledge of Him so you have an **intuitive feeling that something is wrong!**

(Gen 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. KJV)



Why?

So you will have no excuse when you stand before God on Judgment Day.

Paul continues: ***Because God instinctively put the truth in your heart, you knew and recognized Him as God.*** BUT many do not honor and glorify Him as God or give Him thanks.

²¹ Because when they ***knew and recognized Him as God***, they did not ***honor and glorify Him as God or give Him thanks***. But instead they became futile ***and godless in their thinking*** [with vain imaginings, foolish reasoning, and stupid speculations] and their senseless minds were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools [professing to be smart, they made simpletons of themselves].

We however, instead of honouring and worshipping God or thanking him for all his daily care (as The Living Bible says it) they became godless, foolish reasoning, stupid speculations and silly ideas of what God was like and what he wanted them to do. The result of this is that their foolish minds became dark and confused. Because of a darkened mind, they claimed themselves to be wise without God and became utter fools instead.

²¹ Yes, they knew about him all right, but they wouldn't admit it or worship him or even thank him for all his daily care. And after a while, they began to think up ***silly ideas of what God was like and what he wanted them to do***. The result was that their foolish minds became

dark and confused. ²² Claiming themselves to be wise without God, they became utter fools instead. TLB

Please note that this is Paul – God's word – and not any of my own word or any opinion. The best is still to come.

When you reach this point – the point of reasoning God out of the equation, then you exchange Him for idols.

²³ And by them the glory and majesty *and* excellence of the immortal God were ***exchanged*** for *and* represented by images, resembling mortal man and birds and beasts and reptiles. AMPC

TLB

²³ And then, instead of worshipping the glorious, ever-living God, they took wood and stone and ***made idols for themselves***, carving them to look like mere birds and animals and snakes and puny men.

This is where ***human reasoning*** kicks in. Most believers will immediately defend saying at this point that we do not have any idols. Is this really true? Anything that requires or takes more time of you than what you spend time with God is your idol. I know these are hard words, but it is the truth. Unfortunately, this is not where it stops. Paul goes on to explain what happens next.



God gave them up in the lusts of their own hearts.

²⁴ **Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their [own] hearts to sexual impurity**, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves [abandoning them to the degrading power of sin],
²⁵ **Because they exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator**, Who is blessed forever! Amen (so be it).

The lust of the eyes, the lust of the body and the pride of life is what conceived sin. We can lust for many things. Let's rather quote scripture then giving a list of my own thoughts:

1 John 2:15 ***Stop loving this evil world and all that it offers you***, for when you ***love these things you show that you do not really love God***; ¹⁶ for all these ***worldly things***, these ***evil desires***—the ***craze for sex***, the ***ambition to buy everything that appeals to you***, and the ***pride that comes from wealth and importance—these are not from God. They are from this evil world itself.*** ¹⁷ And ***this world is fading away***, and ***these evil, forbidden things will go with it***, but whoever ***keeps doing the will of God will live forever.***

This is the Apostle Paul speaking here with similar very direct and hard words:

“Stop loving this evil world and all that it offers to you”



Again, TLB version is saying; that they go ahead into every sort of sex.

²⁴ So God let them go ahead into every sort of sex sin, and do whatever they wanted to—yes, vile and sinful things with each other's bodies. ²⁵ Instead of believing what they knew was the truth about God, they deliberately chose to believe lies. So they prayed to the things God made, but wouldn't obey the blessed God who made these things. TLB

Instead of believing what they knew was the truth about God, they deliberately chose to believe lies.

When you reach this point then men and woman give up even the natural plan God intended for them – woman exchange their natural function for an unnatural and abnormal one, burn with lust for each other and men doing shameful things with other men.

²⁶ For this reason God gave them over *and* abandoned them to vile affections *and* degrading passions. For their ***women exchanged their natural function for an unnatural and abnormal one***, ²⁷ And the ***men also turned from natural relations with women and were set ablaze*** (burning out, consumed) with lust for one another—***men committing shameful acts with men and suffering in their own bodies and personalities the inevitable consequences and penalty of their wrong-doing and going astray, which was [their] fitting retribution.***



And now they suffer in their bodies and personalities; the consequences and penalty of their wrong-doing – a penalty in their own souls.

²⁶ That is why God let go of them and let them do all these evil things, so that even their women turned against **God's natural plan for them** and **indulged in sex sin with each other**. ²⁷ And the men, **instead of having normal sex relationships with women, burned with lust for each other, men doing shameful things with other men** and, as a result, getting paid within their own souls with the penalty they so richly deserved. TLB

Their hearts are hardened to such an extent that they do not acknowledge God or approve of Him or consider Him worth knowing. So God decided at this point to give them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient (Romans 1:28 KJV).

Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain **God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate^{G96} mind**, to do **those things which are not convenient**;

G96

adokimos

ad-ok'-ee-mos

From G1 (as a negative particle) and G1384; *unapproved*, that is, *rejected*; by implication *worthless* (literally or morally): - **castaway**, **rejected**, reprobate.



The word “reprobate” in the original Greek is “adokimos” which means rejected, castaway and by implication worthless – literally and morally! When you decide to reject your salvation - you can never come back into salvation again. Giving them over to a reprobate mind - God takes away the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

Reprobate - means "Beyond Hope"

You aren't convicted of your need for relationship with the Lord unless the Holy Spirit is dealing with you - John 6:44.

As long as He's dealing with you - you aren't reprobate!!

HOWEVER - IF SOMEONE FULFILLS THE QUALIFICATIONS OF HEBREWS 6 - AND RENOUNCES THEIR SALVATION - THEN GOD TAKES THE HOLY SPIRIT AWAY AND THEY BECOME REPROBATE

Without conviction - they no longer know they're doing wrong. Not only do they like it - but they like all those who are in rebellion against God too. Reprobates display a total lack of desire and response toward the Lord.

- **Have you repented and sorry for what you've done - do you desire to be in relationship with the Lord - if so - YOU aren't reprobate!**
- The Holy Spirit is still dealing with you
- Like Paul - you are forgiven because you were ignorant when you did those things - praise God - He's your loving heavenly Father!



God gave them over to do whatever they wished to do – everything that came in their minds: “covetous greed, envy, jealousy, murder, strife, backbiters and gossipers and even hating God.

²⁸ And so, since they did not see fit to acknowledge God or approve of Him or consider Him worth the knowing, **God gave them over to a base and condemned mind to do things not proper or decent but loathsome**, ²⁹ Until they were filled (permeated and saturated) with every kind of unrighteousness, iniquity, grasping and covetous greed, and malice.

[They were] full of envy and jealousy, murder, strife, deceit and treachery, ill will and cruel ways. [They were] secret backbiters and gossipers, ³⁰ Slanderers, hateful to and **hating God**, full of insolence, arrogance, [and] boasting; inventors of new forms of evil, disobedient and undutiful to parents. ³¹ [They were] without understanding, conscienceless and faithless, heartless and loveless [and] merciless. ³² Though they are fully aware of God’s righteous decree that those who do such things deserve to die, they not only do them themselves but approve and applaud others who practice them. AMPC

THE MESSAGE FROM GOD IS CLEAR:

The people reach a stage of spiritual deafness and blindness!

There are still susceptible souls who will listen to the warning and God’s voice, but to the greater number of people, it will increase their condemnation.



If men love darkness rather than light, the coming of the light works only judgment.

From this, God enlightening my understanding of His judgment

God’s judgment is always there for **correction** and for purification.

With **purification** comes **separation** – meaning that you are now holy and separated for God’s purpose only.

If a person’s heart is hardened to such an extent that they turn away from God, complete destruction is the consequence of His judgment.

Why?

Paul gives us the answer in 1 Corinthians – that such a man to be given over into the hands of satan for punishment in the hope that his soul is saved when the Lord Jesus Christ returns! God is more interested in your salvation than in your fleshly body.

And cast out this man from the fellowship of the church and into **Satan’s hands, to punish him**, in the **hope that his soul will be saved** when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. 1 Corinthians 5:5 TLB

Again, Paul addressed the act of abomination and fornication among the people.

1 Corinthians 5:1 It is reported commonly *that there is* **fornication among you**, and such fornication as is not so much as named among



the Gentiles, **that one should have his father's wife.** 2 And ye are puffed up and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. 3 For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, **have judged already**, as though I were present, *concerning* him that hath so done this deed, 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 **To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh**, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. KJV

But just as, a **good tree is felled, a stump remains** which has vital life {or *substance*} in it, so, even in the desperate state of people, there will be in it '**the holy seed**,' the '**remnant**,' the **true spiritual you**, from which again the **life shall spring**, and stem and branches and waving foliage once more **grow** this true. IF you turn back to your God – our Lord Jesus Christ! For Paul started by saying in Romans 1 that he is not ashamed of the Gospel and he is bringing the good news – even realizing that this Gospel may bring severe pain and hurt, he is glad as the pain will turn you back to God!

Read Paul's words now, afterwards in his second epistle to the Corinthians regarding this matter!

2 Corinthians 7:8 I am no longer sorry that I sent that letter to you, though I was very sorry for a time, realizing how painful it would be to you. But it hurt you only for a little while. ⁹ Now I am glad I sent it, not

because it hurt you but because **the pain turned you to God. It was a good kind of sorrow you felt, the kind of sorrow God wants his people to have**, so that I need not **come to you with harshness.**

¹⁰ For God sometimes uses **sorrow in our lives to help us turn away from sin** and **seek eternal life**. We should never regret his sending it. But the sorrow of the man who is not a Christian is not the sorrow of true repentance and does not prevent eternal death.

Now you can get rid of the sin in your life and rejoice in eternal life.

¹¹ Just see how much good this grief from the Lord did for you! You no longer shrugged your shoulders but became earnest and sincere and very anxious to **get rid of the sin** that I wrote you about. You became frightened about what had happened and longed for me to come and help. You went right to work on the problem and cleared it up, punishing the man who sinned. You have done everything you could to make it right. ¹² I wrote as I did so the Lord could show how much you really do care for us. That was my purpose even more than to help the man who sinned or his father to whom he did the wrong. TLB

The AMP version:

2 Corinthians 7:8 For even though I did grieve you with my letter, I do not regret it [now]; though I did regret it --for I see that the letter hurt you, though only for a little while- ⁹ yet I am glad now, not because you were hurt and made sorry, but because **your sorrow led to**



repentance [and you **turned back to God**]; for you felt a grief such as God meant you to feel, so that you might not **suffer loss in anything on our account**. 10 For [godly] sorrow that is in accord with the will of God produces a **repentance without regret**, leading to salvation; but worldly sorrow [the hopeless sorrow of those who do not believe] produces death. 11 For [you can look back and] see what an earnestness and authentic concern this godly sorrow has produced in you: what vindication of yourselves [**against charges that you tolerate sin**], what indignation [at sin], what fear [of offending God], what longing [for righteousness and justice], **what passion [to do what is right], what readiness to punish [those who sin and those who tolerate sin]**! At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in the matter. 12 So even though I wrote to you [as I did], it was not for the sake of the offender nor for the sake of the one offended, but in order to make evident to you before God how earnestly you do care for us [and your willingness to accept our authority]. AMP

To the Overcomer, A Psalm of David

Read Psalm 41

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*"I am the Bright Morning Star -
Surely I come quickly"
Rev 22:16, 20*

