

Weekly Devotions: TO LOVE GOD IS TO OBEY HIM 7

Is Your Heart Hardened towards God?

To be obedient we not only need to have ears that hear; we need to have hearts that are ready to submit to God by obeying His will and word. Sadhu Sundar Singh, the Indian Christian missionary, said, "***The capital of Heaven is the heart in which Jesus Christ is enthroned as King.***"

Everything boils down to our heart; whether God reigns in our heart and whether what He wants and expects take priority. A heart that trusts God and has a reverent fear of Him will comply with His commands and avoid doing anything that grieves Him. Sin, unbelief and disobedience will harden our heart towards Him.

Read Hebrews 3: 7-19

The writer of Hebrews reminded the Jewish Christians not to be like their forefathers who were rebellious and unfaithful. Throughout the history of Israel, the relationship between God and His people was often marred by their disobedience and apathy. God delivered them from slavery in Egypt, led and cared for them during the 40 years in the wilderness but they were stiff-necked and rebellious.

Instead of being thankful to God for setting them free from bondage, looking after their daily needs and protecting them from their enemies, they were always complaining. They saw the power of God but they continued to doubt Him and looked to human powers for help. God instructed them not to worship other gods and to obey His commandments but they consistently ignored His warnings, disobeyed the laws and worshiped foreign gods. Their heart was hard and disobedient.

The generation of Jews who came out of Egypt were not allowed to enter the Promised Land because of their unbelief and doubt of God's promise of enablement.

Questions to Ponder

1. What warning did the Holy Spirit give to the Jewish believers in the 1st Century (3: 7-8, 15)? How can our heart be hardened towards God?
2. What did God say about the people of Israel whom He had delivered from slavery in Egypt (10, 16-19) and what were the consequences of their disobedience (11, 18)? What would God say of the Church today?
3. What type of heart will lead us to fall away from God (12-13)? Would you describe your heart as totally soft, somewhat hardened or very hardened towards God? What practical steps can you take over the next few weeks or months to soften your heart?