

Matters of the Heart...

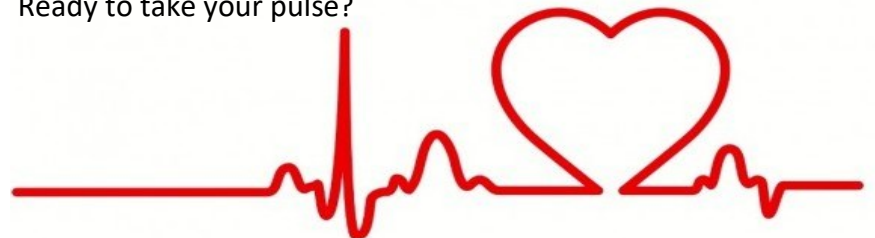
The heart is an interesting “organ”— it can play softly, or angrily, burst with joy or fill with sorrow. It can revive with hope and be dashed with disappointment. It accelerates with energy, and slows with rest. Each beat of our heart reminds us we are ALIVE! Without the heart we are no longer. The heart is an irreplaceable piece of our body and spirit.

The Bible mentions the human heart almost 300 times. In essence, this is what it says: The heart is that spiritual part of us where our emotions and desires dwell. The heart is the core of our being, and the Bible sets high importance on keeping our hearts pure. *Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life (Proverbs 4:23).*

It's interesting to note, since God has emotions and desires, He, too, can be said to have a “heart”. We have a heart because God does. (David was a man “after God’s own heart” — Acts 13:22.)

Over the next 30 days, we will be examining the heart. Even more importantly, we will be looking at our own heart to see if it is beating with, and for, our Creator. Some of the days will be fun and light, others will be a struggle. But KNOW everyday, God is working on your heart to mold it into the “organ” He can play for His glory!

Ready to take your pulse?



(Italic portion from www.gotquestions.org/heart)

1. A New Heart



The Beat

Read Ezekiel 11:19, 20; Ezekiel 36:25-27; 2 Corinthians 5:17.

The Pulse

According to God’s words to Ezekiel, how does a person get a new heart?

(Ezekiel 11:19) _____

What does God give with a new heart? (Ezekiel 11:19) _____

What is the evidence of a new heart? (Ezekiel 36:27) _____

When we receive a new heart, what else becomes new according to

2 Corinthians 5:17? _____

Can we retrieve the “old”? Why or why not? _____

The Rhythm

When God performs a heart transplant, He gives us a new heart. The power of the Holy Spirit changes our hearts from sin-focused to God-focused. We do not become perfect (1 John 1:8); we still have our sinful flesh and the freedom to choose whether or not to obey it. When we are separated from God with hardened hearts, we find it impossible to please Him. We tend toward selfishness, rebellion, and sin. With new hearts, we are declared righteous before God (2 Corinthians 5:21). The Holy Spirit gives us a desire to please God that was foreign to us in our hardened state. 2 Corinthians 3:18 says that we “are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit”. God’s desire for every human being is that we become like His Son, Jesus (Romans 8:29). We can become like Jesus only when we allow God to rid us of our old, hardened hearts and give us new hearts. Have you received a new heart? Does your life reflect it?

(portions of this lesson are from <https://www.gotquestions.org/new-heart.html>)

2. A Heart for God



The Beat and The Pulse

As you read the following verses, place the reference next to the description of what it looks like to have a heart for God. Read Proverbs 23:26; Psalm 9:1; Matthew 6:21; Acts 15:8; Psalm 138:1; Proverbs 3:5; Psalm 19:14; Psalm 37:31.

A heart for God is trusting: _____

A heart for God is thankful: _____

A heart for God is meditative: _____

A heart for God is filled with His Word: _____

A heart for God sings: _____

A heart for God is known by Him: _____

A heart for God finds his treasure in God: _____

A heart for God gives his heart to God and delights in Him: _____

The Rhythm

How do you measure up to this list? Do you see areas where you and your heart need growth, or discipline? You may be very good at giving thanks, or singing your praise to the LORD, but how are you at meditating on the LORD and His Word? What about finding your treasure in Him, and not in the tangible world in which we live? Is your heart filled with God’s Word, like there isn’t one little corner that isn’t touched by God’s Word?

How different would your life look if you were able to live out each of the eight attributes listed above? Take time to write out a short prayer to ask God to help you have a heart for Him, and Him alone.

Amen