

Tonight's Lesson: "A Leader With a Different Heart"

Introduction:

1. The Bible uses the word "heart" to describe who a person truly is on the **inside**.
 - *"But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, **but the Lord looketh on the heart.**" 1 Samuel 16:7*
2. **What characterizes a spiritual leader's heart?** The Bible gives us several key principles.

I. **First, Christ *rules* it. Ephesians 3:17**

- A. Christ's Spirit may live in our spirit, but every day we decide whether He will have **control** of our heart.
- B. There is an ongoing battle for **control** of our heart.
 - *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." Galatians 5:16-17*

II. **Second, integrity *guides* it.**

- A. Two times, David is said to have walked in integrity of heart. 1 Kings 9:4, Psalm 78:72
- B. Integrity is the **cornerstone** of character. Without it, a leader has no basis for **ministry** to others.
 - *"**The integrity of the upright shall guide them:** but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them." Proverbs 11:3*

III. **Third, God's Word *Changes* it.**

- A. If Christ rules the heart, He reveals areas of the heart that need to **change**.
- B. How does Christ change our heart? He uses the **Word**. 2 Corinthians 3:14-18

- *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12*

IV. Fourth, trials *reveal* it.

- A. Trials have a way of bringing to the surface what is in the heart.
- Trials reveal our **love** for the Lord. James 1:12
 - Trials reveal our **faith**. 1 Peter 1:6-7
 - *“So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure.” 2 Thessalonians 1:4*
 - Trials reveal our heart **attitude** about God. 1 Peter 4:16, 19
- B. How did Paul and Silas respond to a deep trial in Acts 16:23-25?
- C. This trial revealed the heart of Paul and Silas. Trials **always** do!

In Conclusion:

1. A leader for God is **different** than the crowd. Why? Because his heart is different.
2. The leader’s heart:
 - Christ **rules** it.
 - Integrity **guides** it.
 - God’s Word **changes** it.
 - Trials **reveal** it.
3. God is looking for leaders with a different heart!