

# How do we get our house in order?

## God's clock

My brother, Japie Jackson, wrote an article entitled, "**God's Clock**". In this article he discussed the events and timing of the much-prophesied end time conflict, and then he ended with the following admonition to his readers, "**If there ever was a time to put our house in order, it is now!!!**"

One reader wrote back to ask how one should go about getting one's "**house in order**", and Japie asked me to reply to this truly relevant question. I have been quite stirred by the question, and praying for wisdom from the Holy Spirit, I feel that I should answer as follows:

One finds among the many pages of Scripture certain dynamic statements which makes a person sit up and take note. These statements of truth are like guiding lights to light the way for us as we walk through these dark and troublesome times. Scripture gives us direction for individuals, for families and for nations. However, restoration – **getting our house in order** – must always start with the **individual**, and not just any individual. It starts with **ME**, with **YOU**. Let us consider then some of these pertinent Scriptures and apply them to ourselves personally.

When the Holy Spirit turned my own life around, He spoke to me about my own **HEART CONDITION**. So that is where such a study must start.

## Laying all on the altar for God

As you start reading this teaching, may I encourage you from the outset to read this with an open mind and heart and realise that it is not possible for any person to *get his or her house in order* unless such a person is willing to **lay all on the altar for God**. *Getting our house in order* is not a **"quick fix"** to sorting out the problems we are facing. *Getting our house in order* is about **handing over the reins of our lives to King Jesus** and letting Him take control. It is about submitting to His will. It starts with the individual (you and me), and then it spills over into our marriage and family relationships, and then further afield to the community and environment we live in.

*Getting our house in order* is about getting **out of Egypt** and leaving it behind. The nation of Israel leaving Egypt and crossing through the Red Sea is described by the Apostle Paul as **baptism** (1Cor 10:1,2). Baptism means a **death to the old life** (Egypt) and a resurrection to a new life (the promised land).

I believe that the **wilderness** that we are going through as a nation, and even internationally, is bringing us to a place where we need to seriously evaluate our spiritual foundations. What are the foundations upon which our lives have been built? What do our hearts really look like? Through the words of the prophet Hosea, God spoke to the nation of Israel in a dark time of their nation:

*Hos 2:14 "Therefore, lo, I am enticing her, and have caused her to go to the wilderness, and I have spoken unto her heart." (Youngs Literal Translation)*

I would like to issue a serious challenge to you to evaluate your life before God in all honesty. May God speak kindly, but directly to each of our hearts, questioning the motives for all we do. This certainly is a time for us to **get our house in order**. Let us do some straight talking!

## A dangerous doctrine

Paul writes some harsh words. Let us consider the statements which he makes in the following two passages of Scripture:

*1Tim 4:1 "But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will **fall away from the faith**, paying attention to **deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons** ..."*

*2Tim 3:5 "... holding to a **form of godliness**, although they have denied its power ..."*

We note here that Paul warns of demonic DOCTRINES, and a FORM OF GODLINESS. This immediately tells me that these demonic doctrines must be something which takes on a RELIGIOUS format, as the fruit of the evil doctrine is said to produce a FORM of godliness. In other words, it looks good and pious on the outside, but it is rotten on the inside – filled with lies and deception and thus turning people away from true **faith in God**.

Let us think about this seriously. If submission to any church doctrine produces the net result of replacing people's faith in God with faith in something else, then such a doctrine is surely inspired by demons. Would you agree with me? Paul calls this a **"form of godliness"**.

That means it still comes under the heading of **"religion"**, because it looks good from the outside. However, no religious practice can guarantee a person's salvation if it does not have faith in God at its core.

You will remember that Jesus strongly challenged the religious practices of His day, and the Scribes and Pharisees hated Him for it. It was the Jewish RELIGIOUS LEADERS that sent Jesus to the cross, shouting, **"Crucify, crucify!!"** If I were to challenge your religious practices, would you join in the throng shouting, **"Crucify, crucify!!"**? Or are you willing to seriously evaluate your own spiritual life, and like the Pharisee, Paul, allow God to bring you to a dramatic Damascus road experience where your **house can be brought back into order**? Consider seriously what I am about to say, and evaluate your own spiritual situation accordingly ...

Now as we look at history, we see especially in the Roman Catholic controlled Dark Ages how many false (demonic) doctrines emerged. One of those doctrines was the exaltation of Mary as a goddess, to be worshipped. It is still common practice among Catholics to worship Mary. That is clearly a demonic doctrine, producing a form of godliness while removing the very essence of the truth of the gospel message – faith in God.

As we study history, we find many other similar doctrines emerging in the Dark Ages, deceiving millions of people into believing that because they are religious, go to mass, pray the Rosary, say their Hail Mary, etc, they are automatically saved. With the Reformation of the 1500s to 1800s, the scales started falling off, and people

started to see and preach the truth. Martin Luther, among others, preached strongly that the **"just can be saved by faith alone"**. Luther nailed an edict on the church door in Wittenberg in which he cited 95 points where the Roman Catholic church had departed from the truth. Demonic doctrines were rife and deceived millions of people for many centuries.

Whilst the reformation fires burned brightly and millions of people, with great joy, turned back to a true faith in God alone, the religious leaders of the Roman Catholic church vehemently opposed the Reformation to the point of persecuting the Protestants. Some **50 million Protestants were brutally murdered** by the Catholics, exposing the demonic spirits behind those deceptive teachings.

John Foxe in his famous *Book of Martyrs* has the following to say about the persecution of the Protestants: he writes that in the French town of Bezzieres at the turn of the sixteenth century, *"The Roman Catholics pressed the Albigenses to comply with their request; (ie. to renounce their faith) but the Albigenses nobly answered that they would not forsake their religion for the price of a frail life: that God was able, if He pleased, to defend them; but if He would be glorified by the confession of their faith unto death, it would be a great honour to them to die for His sake. They added that they had rather displease the Pope, who could but kill their bodies, than God, who could cast both body and soul into hell ... A general assault was made, and the place taken by storm, when every cruelty that barbarous superstition could devise, was practised.*

*"The city being fired in various parts, new scenes of confusion arose; in several places the streets were streaming with blood. Those who hid themselves in their dwellings had only the dreadful alternative to remain and perish in the flames or rush out and fall by the swords of the soldiers. The bloody legate cried out to the troops, 'Kill them! Kill them all! Kill man, woman, and child!' ... Thus, the beautiful city of Bezzieres was reduced to a heap of ruins; and SIXTY THOUSAND persons of different ages and both sexes were murdered."*

This incident was most certainly not isolated. Of the atrocities that took place in Paris, Foxe gives the following account "... the armed soldiers ran about slaying all the Protestants they could find within the walls of the city. This continued for several days; but the greatest slaughter took place during the first three days, in which above 10 000 men and woman, of all ages and conditions, are said to have perished. These brutal deeds were not confined within the walls of Paris but extended into other cities and quarters of the realm, especially to Lyons, Orleans, Toulouse, and Rouen, where the cruelties were unparalleled. Within the space of one month, 60 000 Protestants are said to have been slain in France alone ...

*"When the intelligence of the massacre was received at Rome, the greatest rejoicings took place, and a medal was struck to commemorate this victory of the faith! ... 2 000 were murdered in the city of Poitiers in one day, and the license of massacre continued several days afterwards. At Meldis, 200 were cast into prison; and, being brought out as sheep to the slaughter, were pitilessly cut to pieces. At Orleans 1 000 men, women,*

*and children were slain. The citizens of Augustobona, hearing of the massacre at Paris, shut the gates of their town that no Protestants might escape, and cast all they suspected into prison, who were afterwards killed. At Lyons 800 perished most miserably; the children hanging on their fathers' necks, and the fathers embracing their children. 300 were slain in the archbishop's house, and the monks would not suffer their bodies to be buried. At Toulouse 200 were murdered. At Rouen 500 were put to death ... At Bourdeaux, by the investigation of a monk named Angerius, 264 persons were slaughtered ..."* And so the account goes on and on. Foxe tells us that the rivers Seine, Loire and Rhone actually ran red with the blood of the saints.

One account summarises the persecutions by the Roman Catholic church against the Christians as follows, "*Christians were horribly tortured, tested, and tried during those centuries. Pope Innocent IV issued an official document which stated that heretics (those who would not bow to the Romish system) were to be crushed like venomous snakes. His soldiers were promised property and remission of all their sins if they killed a heretic! Victims of the Inquisition were stretched and torn apart on the 'rack'. Some were crushed and stabbed to death in the 'iron virgin.'*" (The 'iron virgin' was a casket made of iron designed as an image of the mother Mary. It was split in two and hinged as a cupboard door. The inside was full of spikes and knives. A victim was placed inside and the door slowly closed crushing and stabbing him to death. How is that for the real character of the so-called '*Blessed Mother Mary*' which the Catholics worship in place of Christ?!)

*"There was the thumb screw, an instrument made for disarticulating the fingers, and 'Spanish Boots' which were used to crush the legs and feet. Pinchers were used to tear out fingernails or applied red-hot to the sensitive parts of the body. Every imaginable method of torture was used that fiendish men could imagine. Those who wouldn't bow to the Pope's system were shut up in caves and dungeons, were nailed to trees, tormented with fires, scalded with oil or burning pitch; melted lead was poured into their eyes and ears and mouths; they were scalped, skinned, flayed alive; heads were twisted off and eyes gouged out; women were defiled, their breasts cut off; babies were brutally beaten, whipped, stabbed, dashed against trees - in front of their parents - then thrown to hungry dogs and swine ..."*

Friends, this is history, and the atrocities which happened were done in the name of "*religion*". It is easy to recognise the demonic activity behind this cruelty – all based on false demonic doctrines designed by the devil to deceive people.

As the Protestant Reformation grew, it became obvious to many in their new-found faith, that the 95 doctrines/abuses mentioned by Martin Luther were not the only demonic doctrines, and new movements within the Protestant Reformation started to develop. One of these were the "*Anna Baptist*" movement. They began to realise that the doctrine of child baptism had no Scriptural foundation, and that baptism was something which should follow repentance. I shall deal with this in more detail in a moment.

In the early 1900s there was a supernatural world-wide outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon believers who were



seeking God. People started to be filled with the Spirit, speaking in tongues again as in the book of Acts, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit were practised again in a new "**Pentecostal**" movement. And so, through the last hundred years or more, a greater understanding of more and more Biblical truth has come to be revealed and preached throughout the world.

However, one of the greatest truths to be revealed after Martin Luther's "*The just shall live by faith*", must certainly be the exposure of the Roman Catholic practice of child baptism. One of the most dangerous lies (doctrines of demons as described by Paul) which hampers the growth of real Christian living, is when the powerful act of obedience through **baptism** was reduced by Roman Catholicism to a **mere religious ritual**. Sadly, this doctrine was carried over into many Protestant churches and is still widely practised today.

One of the saddest things that I have observed through many years of ministry – especially in the more formal denominations – is the spiritual death which so often accompanies the distorted unbiblical religious ritual of baptism – where the baptism is understood to be a mere religious ritual (formality), supposedly guarantying eternal life to the baptised person, whilst **no place or opportunity is made for repentance**. This is especially true in child baptism, but not only limited to such. Many adults also submit to baptism as a religious rite which must be performed. Yet there is often no change of life to accompany the baptism. It is not the method of baptism which I am questioning here. It is the change of heart which should accompany the baptism which I am highlighting.

When such a child (or adult) is submitted to this baptism as a mere religious ritual – a demonic lie – that person’s spiritual ability to respond to a personal relationship with Jesus, and to hear the voice of God in his or her life is severely hampered. The child grows up to believe the lie that they are eternally saved through that act of baptism, whilst they had never truly repented from their sinful past. From the moment of submission to any demonic deviation from truth, such a person is robbed of spiritual insight or understanding of truth regarding spiritual matters. Their spiritual ears are **blocked** and they cannot perceive truth. A **demonic veil comes over their eyes**, and they need an **outright miracle of the grace of God** before the light of truth can dawn into their hearts and minds again. I don’t think that parents quite realise the serious spiritual consequences of what they are doing to their children when they submit them to this or any other false religious ritual.

Submitting to demonic doctrines is extremely dangerous. Demonic doctrines can be recognised by the fruit which they produce – **a supposed guarantee of eternal life whilst the person continues in an unabated life of sin**. The gay issue produces similar consequences. A mere submission to a religious ritual without a real change of heart cannot bring about a change of life; and such a religious rite certainly cannot guarantee eternal salvation. Be careful!!

It is not my purpose in this document to criticise various churches or hurt people who hold such special religious practices as dear. I understand that, especially in the case of child baptism, this is something that is cherished by many people, and they find it difficult to comprehend

the possibility that something which their family has been practising through many generations might actually be a deviation from Biblical truth. Even a slight deviation from the truth is a lie, and therefore a deception designed by the enemy of our souls with the purpose of severing our relationship with God and thus destroying us.

It is my sincere heart's desire to help people in their dilemma. For this reason, I wish to highlight the core of the matter and really emphasise that, however special any religious practice might seem, it has to be **honestly examined in the light of Scripture**. If such a practice is merely done as a religious rite, just because my parents or grandparents, up through the generations have practised it, it does not necessarily make it right. If the particular religious practice does not bring about any **real change of heart**, then it is merely dead religious works which hold no spiritual value whatsoever. Religious practices do NOT save us. It is **faith in God which saves us**, and to get our houses in order, we must set this record straight.

Biblical baptism is a deeply spiritual truth which accompanies a dramatic change of life for the believer being baptised – like Paul's Damascus road experience. The **first thing** which Paul did **after** his dramatic conversion was that he was **baptised** (Acts 9:18). The person being baptised, **REPENTS** of their sin and **DIES to their old life. Without REPENTANCE, a DEATH TO SIN cannot be achieved.**

Peter preached on the day of Pentecost, **"REPENT, and let each of you be BAPTIZED in the name of Jesus Christ for the FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS ..."** (Acts 2:38).

Repentance and baptism always work together. This action of baptism together with repentance, cuts off the old (Egypt) life and causes us to be ***born again into a new resurrection life of obedience in the power of the Holy Spirit***. Biblically, ***salvation ALWAYS PRECEDES baptism!*** There is no instance in the Bible in which baptism precedes salvation.

Paul wrote,

*Rom 6:1 "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?"*

*Rom 6:2 "May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?"*

*Rom 6:3 "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?"*

*Rom 6:4 "Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."*

*Rom 6:5 "For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection,"*

*Rom 6:6 "knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin;"*

*Rom 6:7 "for he who has died is freed from sin."*

*Rom 6:8 "Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him ..."*

Baptism is NOT a dead religious ritual. ***Baptism is a heart matter.*** Something happens deep in our hearts when we ***respond in obedience to God's Word.*** There is a ***Godly sorrow*** for the life of sin which we had been living, and that ***Godly sorrow leads us to true repentance.***

*2Cor 7:10 "For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death."*

The following are comments made on an article written by Dr Ray Pritchard regarding the connection between baptism and circumcision, quoting Col 2:10–13:

***"And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised Him from the dead."***

***"There are those who equate circumcision with baptism. The reason seems to be that these concepts are mentioned together by the Apostle Paul. However, I would rather contend that the circumcision of Christ refers strongly to the circumcision of the heart, where the***

***heart of stone is removed, and we are given a heart of flesh. By removing the heart of stone, we die to our old nature. By receiving a heart of flesh, we are born again, and are resurrected to a new life in Christ.***

***"When we see baptism as taking the place of Old Testament circumcision of children, some denominations see that as the beginning of salvation. Others say it is an entrance into the Christian Church and community, and I have encountered many who have an attitude of being 'OK' because they were baptised as infants. It brings a sense of 'we all are Christians' which makes us ineffective or even paralysed Christians, if ever we even were real Christians. This is dangerous!!"***

I agree with Dr Pritchard. ***This is dangerous!!*** It is a departure from the Biblical truth of a ***circumcision of the heart*** and ***true repentance*** being involved with the act of baptism. Such a departure from the truth can only be a demonic lie, lulling people into a spiritual sleep of falsely thinking that they are saved just because they submitted to a religious ritual, whatever that religious ritual might be.

***Getting our house in order*** must therefore of necessity begin with this ***Godly sorrow leading to true repentance***. It is a ***HEART MATTER***. Therefore, I believe it necessary to pursue the Biblical teaching of a change of heart, and to do this I am going to quote five chapters of my *Book 1* of the *Receive the Holy Spirit* series entitled, ***Gateway to the Kingdom***. These chapters deal extensively with the teaching about the

**circumcision of the heart**, and I share here my own testimony of how my life was dramatically turned around as I responded to the Holy Spirit's direction.

I trust that the following chapters quoted from my book *Gateway to the Kingdom* will help you to understand this essential teaching of the heart. May I encourage you to get the full series of three books on the work of the Holy Spirit. Book 3 specifically deals in detail with the subject of Baptism.

## Part 2

### A HEART CONDITION



# Chapter 8

## THE NEW HEART-CHANGING COVENANT

### Heart of stone/heart of flesh

We find the following profound prophetic word in the book of Ezekiel, speaking about the New Covenant which God planned. This concerns the much-promised RESTORATION about which almost every prophet speaks repeatedly. Read through this beautiful prophecy about the restoration of Israel and notice how the involvement of the Holy Spirit is at the centre of the promised change of the heart of the nation.

*Ezek 36:22 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'Thus says the Lord YHWH, It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for My holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you went.*

*36:23 "I will vindicate the holiness of My great name which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst. Then the nations will know that I am the YHWH,' declares the Lord YHWH, 'when I prove Myself holy among you in their sight.*

*36:24 "For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land.*

*36:25 "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I WILL CLEANSE YOU FROM ALL YOUR FILTHINESS and from all your idols.*

*36:26 "Moreover, I will GIVE YOU A NEW HEART and PUT A NEW SPIRIT WITHIN YOU; and I will REMOVE THE HEART OF STONE FROM YOUR FLESH AND GIVE YOU A HEART OF FLESH.*

*36:27 "I will PUT MY SPIRIT WITHIN YOU and CAUSE YOU TO WALK IN MY STATUTES, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances."*

What is important to note is that the restoration begins with a **CHANGE OF HEART**, accomplished through the work of the Holy Spirit and the Word.

The **HEART OF STONE** is removed first. That is stubbornness and arrogance. That is accomplished through **REPENTANCE**. I shall deal with this aspect later in this book. Once the heart of stone is removed, it is replaced with a heart of flesh - in other words a **SOFT HEART**. Only then can the Holy Spirit work with the heart, depositing the Word of life and healing into the renewed heart, bringing about restoration both individually and nationally. No restoration can take place without this essential **"heart transplant"**.

I add here the rest of the encouraging chapter so that the context of the prophetic message regarding the restoration of Israel can be seen.

*Ezek 36:28 "You will live in the land that I gave to your forefathers; so you will be My people, and I will be your God.*

*36:29 "Moreover, I will save you from all your uncleanness; and I will call for the grain and multiply it, and I will not bring a famine on you.*

36:30 *"I will multiply the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field, so that you will not receive again the disgrace of famine among the nations.*

36:31 *"Then you will remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good, and you will loathe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and your abominations.*

36:32 *"I am not doing this for your sake,' declares the Lord YHWH, 'let it be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, O house of Israel!'*

36:33 *"Thus says the Lord YHWH, 'On the day that I CLEANSE YOU FROM ALL YOUR INIQUITIES, I will cause the cities to be inhabited, and the waste places will be rebuilt.*

36:34 *"The desolate land will be cultivated instead of being a desolation in the sight of everyone who passes by.*

36:35 *"They will say, 'This desolate land has become like the garden of Eden; and the waste, desolate and ruined cities are fortified and inhabited.'*

36:36 *"Then the nations that are left round about you will know that I, the YHWH, have rebuilt the ruined places and planted that which was desolate; I, the YHWH, have spoken and will do it.'*

36:37 *"Thus says the Lord YHWH, 'This also I will let the house of Israel ask Me to do for them: I will increase their men like a flock.*

*36:38 "Like the flock for sacrifices, like the flock at Jerusalem during her appointed feasts, so will the waste cities be filled with flocks of men. Then they will know that I am the YHWH."*

The book of Jeremiah makes a similar prophetic statement about the new covenant which YHWH promised to make with His "ecclesia" (called out) nation:

*Jer 31:31 "Behold, days are coming,' declares YHWH, 'when I will make a NEW COVENANT with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,*

*31:32 "Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,' declares YHWH.*

*31:33 "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,' declares YHWH, 'I will PUT MY LAW WITHIN THEM and on THEIR HEART I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*

*31:34 "They will not teach again, each man his neighbour and each man his brother, saying, "Know YHWH," for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,' declares YHWH, 'for I will FORGIVE THEIR INIQUITY, and their sin I will remember no more."*

The passages of Scripture speaking about the heart are so numerous that they alone would fill volumes of books. It is one of the central themes of the Bible.

Understanding this message will unlock our understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit.

Let us see what Jesus had to say about this.

# Chapter 9

## JESUS' TEACHING ABOUT THE HEART

Jesus, quoting a prophecy from Isaiah about the condition of the heart, said the following to the religious leaders of His day:

*Mat 15:7 "You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you:*

*15:8 "This people honours Me with their lips, but THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.*

*15:9 "But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men."*

It is so easy to be caught up with religious traditions and rituals but have no real relationship with the Lord. The Holy Spirit responds to any heart which is upright and longs for Him. The book of James puts this very bluntly:

*James 1:26 "If anyone thinks himself to be RELIGIOUS, and yet does not bridle his tongue but DECEIVES HIS OWN HEART, this man's religion is WORTHLESS."*

Here we see how religion itself, practiced with all its supposed holy rituals, but with a heart condition that is not right, is deceptive and worthless. Just going to church and practicing religious rituals does not make one a holy person. God is wanting to have a personal relationship with us. It is that relationship which makes us holy and changes our lives. It is therefore vitally

important that our heart condition be examined with all honesty.

Jesus speaks about the heart condition often.

*Mat 13:14 "In their case the PROPHECY OF ISAIAH is being fulfilled, which says, 'You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive;*

*13:15 "For the HEART of this people HAS BECOME DULL, with their ears they scarcely hear, and they have closed their eyes, otherwise they would see with their eyes, hear with their ears, and understand with their heart and return, and I would heal them."*

The word "dull" in the Afrikaans Bible is rendered "stomp", which is the same word used for a "blunt" knife. The Holy Spirit wants to use us, but the knife (heart) is blunt. We don't hear His voice anymore.

### **The "treasure" of the heart**

In the previous chapter of Matthew, Jesus describes the heart condition as follows:

*Mat 12:33 "Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad; for the tree is known by its fruit.*

*12:34 "You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? FOR THE MOUTH SPEAKS OUT OF THAT WHICH FILLS THE HEART.*

*12:35 "The good man brings out of his GOOD TREASURE what is good; and the evil man brings out of his EVIL TREASURE what is evil."*

This passage essentially speaks about the principle of *"sowing and reaping"*, which the Bible often alludes to. God set that principle in motion as a part of the covenant of the rainbow after the flood of Noah had receded (*Gen 8:22*). Paul also mentions it in his letter to the Galatians:

*Gal 6:7 "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for WHATEVER A MAN SOWS, THIS HE WILL ALSO REAP.*

*6:8 "For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life."*

Jesus' reference to this principle is therefore significant in that He applies this to the condition of the heart. When a seed is planted into the heart, that seed will grow into a tree and bear fruit, and the fruit it bears is evident from what proceeds out of a man's mouth. His words and deeds reveal the heart condition.

My wife and I were travelling with a lovely Christian lady once. We were both passengers in the lady's car, she was driving. As we passed through an automatic, electric gate, the gate started closing while we were not yet through. The lady got a fright and swore.

No sooner had the horrible word proceeded from her mouth, than she realised that we were in the car, and started apologising profusely for what she had just said. I sat there smiling to myself, and I thought, ***"That word was planted into her heart a long time ago."*** It was



the momentary pressure which squeezed it out of her mouth. Like a tube of toothpaste, what is inside will come out when it comes under pressure.

Jesus speaks here of a good or evil "**treasure**" that has been deposited into the heart. This "**treasure**" is who we really are. Everything on the outside is a mere mask of false identity.

# Chapter 10

## EXAMINING THE HEART

### Jeremiah reveals the core of the problem

*Jer 17:1 "The sin of Judah is written down with an iron stylus; with a diamond point it is engraved upon the tablet of their heart..."*

Here we see that the heart is like a tablet (writing media of their day), and the sins are indelibly engraved thereupon. I remember when I was in High School that many of us boys had the habit of using the points of our compasses to scratch our names on the wooden desks. The problem is that if one realised afterwards that one had made a mistake, one could not just take a rubber and quickly erase it. It was there to stay!

In the same way our sins or painful experiences in life are etched onto our hearts. We might wish that we had never done those things or that we could forget them, but they are etched deep into our hearts. These are the things which cause people to have restless nights and suffer many diseases such as cancers and all the psychosomatic diseases which, according to the medical profession, form about 87 to 95% of all illnesses.

My question is, ***"Can those deeply painful memories, guilt feelings, bitterness, hatred or anger ever be wiped away?"***

I trust that these teachings about the Holy Spirit will answer these questions. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not just an empty religious ritual. It is a living

encounter with the third Person of the Holy Trinity, and this encounter will completely transform any person who is willing to open their hearts to Him, asking Him to bring about a transformation which in our own power is impossible.

## **The “deceptive” heart**

Jeremiah continues his discourse:

*Jer 17:5 "Thus says YHWH, 'Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from YHWH.*

*17:6 "For he will be like a bush in the desert and will not see when prosperity comes, but will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, a land of salt without inhabitant.*

*17:7 "Blessed is the man who trusts in YHWH and whose trust is YHWH.*

*17:8 "For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit."*

This passage confirms the principle of sowing and reaping. Whilst it warns about the negative effects of sowing the wrong seed into our heart, it also gives us a promise that if we sow the right seed – faith in YHWH – blessings will come.

However, the reason I quoted this Scripture is mainly because it is the preamble for a vitally important concept which it introduces. Jeremiah continues:

*Jer 17:9 "The HEART IS MORE DECEITFUL THAN ALL ELSE, and is desperately sick; who can understand it?"*

*17:10 "I, YHWH, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds."*

Let us try to understand what Jeremiah is saying here. He says firstly, that the heart is "**deceitful**". What does that mean? Deception can be described by several words. The dictionary uses words such as fraud, cheat and MISLEAD, to describe this word.

If I had a very old car with 500 000km on the clock which I wanted to sell, and I washed it and polished its wheels and turned the clock back to 120 000Km, that would be deceitful. But what would I actually be doing? I would be MISLEADING a potential buyer by presenting the car as if it is much younger than it really is. It would be a misrepresentation of the true value of the car. It is like putting a mask on and pretending to be someone I am not.

***That is deception.***

Now Jeremiah says that the heart is deceptive above all else. May I ask,

***"Whose heart is he talking about?"***

Oh, I'm sure it must be the other person's heart! It could surely not be my heart, could it?

Yes sir, madam, ***my heart and yours***. We humans have a tendency to want people to think that we are beautiful people. However, if they could really see what was going on in our hearts, they might be shocked.

## **Deceiving ourselves?**

Let us examine the nature of this "***deception of the heart***" further. Jeremiah has something interesting to say to the Jewish leaders in chapter 37. To understand the significance of what he says we should consider some history.

120 years before Jeremiah's prophecy, the northern ten tribes of Israel had been overpowered by the Assyrians, taken captive, and banished to Assyrian territory just below what is now known as the Black Sea. This happened during the time of Isaiah's life and caused consternation and much fear to the southern two tribes of Judah and Benjamin (the Jews). The Assyrians had in fact come further south and captured all the rural towns and farming population of Judea. All that remained was Jerusalem and some of the other fortified cities.

Now 120 years later, these remnants were under threat of Nebuchadnezzar, the cruel king of Babylon (the Chaldeans). Jeremiah continually warns the residents of Jerusalem to ***repent and turn back to the Almighty***, but they refuse to believe his warnings. Chapter 37 is then written on this background.

Jeremiah warns:

*Jer 37:8 "The Chaldeans will also return and fight against this city, and they will capture it and burn it with fire.*

*37:9 "Thus says YHWH, 'DO NOT DECEIVE YOURSELVES, SAYING, "The Chaldeans will surely go away from us," for they will not go.'"*

Here we read about this **"deception"** again. But there is an interesting twist. One could understand if it was that they were trying to deceive other people. However, here they are said to be **"DECEIVING THEMSELVES"**. Is that not strange? Why would one want to deceive himself?

How were they deceiving themselves? Whilst the warnings from Jeremiah were abundant, and the facts of the advance of the Babylonian army were staring them in the face, they were still choosing to believe a lie. How were they deceiving themselves? This is how ...

Firstly, **"We are God's chosen race, God will not hand us over to our enemies. We will be safe. God will protect us."**

Secondly, **"We live in Jerusalem, God's chosen holy city. God will never allow this city to be overthrown. We will be safe. God will protect us."**

Thirdly, **"God's temple which Solomon built is here in our city. It is God's dwelling place. There is no way that God will allow our enemies to conquer us and destroy His temple. We are safe. God will protect us..."**

**"WE CAN LIVE HOW WE LIKE, WE ARE SAFE, GOD WILL PROTECT US!"** There is the deception. Jeremiah warned them that **unless they repent**, they will be destroyed. The leaders refused to believe his warnings, and true to the prophetic warning, Nebuchadnezzar entered Jerusalem and captured it. He destroyed that beautiful temple, stripping all the gold off it, and took all the Jews captive to Babylon.

What caused the Jewish leaders to be so blind as to **deceive themselves** – to their own destruction? Jeremiah often warns them of **pride**. However, in the Book of Obadiah we see a direct reference to the reason for the **deception of the heart**. This time the prophet addresses the nation of Edom (descendants of Esau).

*Obad 1:3 "The ARROGANCE OF YOUR HEART HAS DECEIVED YOU, you who live in the clefts of the rock, in the loftiness of your dwelling place, who say in your heart, 'Who will bring me down to earth?'"*

*1:4 "Though you build high like the eagle, though you set your nest among the stars, from there I will bring you down, declares YHWH."*

Clearly the **heart problem is that of arrogance**. The Edomites were very arrogant people, believing that they were invincible. **"No-one will be able to conquer us!"** Their **arrogance tripped them up**. The Scripture often warns us against pride.

Was this not the heart condition of the farmers in Zimbabwe? I was there and a part of that. We said, **"Mugabe will never take us out. He needs us. He**

***cannot do without us. We are the best farmers in the world."***

There were about 6000 farmers, and agriculture was the main export and wealth-generating industry for the country. Now, there are less than 300 farmers left, and the country is in ruins.

***Pride is an ABOMINATION to God.*** Several times we see that YHWH calls the cruel king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon (Satan's city), ***"MY SERVANT". He used Nebuchadnezzar to judge His own nation because of their pride and arrogance,*** and because of their idolatry. God's Law made it clear that we are to have no other gods before Him. That includes our farms and possessions and anything we love more than Him.

***Prov 16:18 "PRIDE GOES BEFORE DESTRUCTION, and a haughty spirit before stumbling. "***

***1Pet 5:5 "You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE."***

***Prov 16:5 "Everyone who is proud in heart is an ABOMINATION to YHWH; assuredly, he will not be unpunished."***

If we want to experience a genuine move of the Holy Spirit in and through us, then there can be absolutely ***no place for pride,*** and ***He*** needs to take ***first place*** in our lives.

This series of books is not about steps to get the blessings of the Holy Spirit. It is about meeting the



Holy Spirit on HIS TERMS; and building an *intimate relationship with Him* as we submit completely to Him.

# Chapter 11

## A LIFE-CHANGING DISCOVERY

In the year 2000, the land invasions started in Zimbabwe. In the first three years some 80% of the national cattle herd had been slaughtered and many farmers had already been evicted from their land, and most of them left the country.

The Holy Spirit had led me to buy a farm in 2002, and I was farming amid the devastation of the land. Towards the end of 2004, with the diminishing population affecting all the churches, the eldership of the Dutch Reformed Church approached me and asked me if I would be willing to accept the position of Dominee (minister) of their church. There were only three ministers of their denomination left in the country, and the prevailing situation made it impossible for them to bring any ministers from South Africa.

Though I was not a member of the church, I recognised this as an amazing opportunity to assist these people in growing spiritually. In fact, they told me that they were asking me to come as they wanted revival in their church, and they were no longer satisfied with their traditional way of worship. They wanted a change.

What I did not realise at the time, was that it was **ME** who needed a change of heart. I accepted the call and stepped into the position on a part time basis as I was still farming.

I ministered to these dear people for about six years. Towards the end of that time, the Holy Spirit started to reveal things from the Scriptures to me which I had never understood before. It was to do with the heart of man. ***God does not look on the outward appearance but rather at the heart condition.***

I started to preach about these things, and the more I preached, the more the Holy Spirit revealed to me. I preached about the heart for about six months, Sunday after Sunday.

The more I preached the more a window to my own heart opened, and I did not like what I saw. It is easy to preach to other people about how they need to change. However, when the finger points back to myself, it is neither comfortable nor easy.

I saw that David had prayed in *Psalm 51, "Create in me a clean heart O YHWH."* I started to pray the same.

***"My own heart needs to change, O Lord."*** I saw much pride and other horrible things that were hidden to other people. But it was not hidden to God. He was revealing who I really was, and I did not like what I saw. I kept crying out to God to help me and to cleanse my heart.

### **A new understanding**

As mentioned earlier, one early morning in my time of devotions, I read a Scripture which I did not understand. This was a message from God for His people Israel. Moses writing...

*Deut 30:6      "Moreover YHWH your God will CIRCUMCISE YOUR HEART and the heart of your descendants, to love YHWH your God with ALL YOUR HEART and with all your soul, so that you may live."*

I wanted to love the Lord with all my heart and all my soul, but my heart was sick. It was full of uncleanness. Me, the minister! I did not know how to get all that junk out of my heart. Oh, I wanted so much to be free of all the pride and selfishness and evil thoughts; but try as I may I just could not seem to win.

Here, instinctively, I saw that the Holy Spirit was offering me a way out, a way to victory, and it had something to do with... ***the CIRCUMCISION of the heart!!*** I had no idea what this meant. I have been in churches since I was a little boy, and I have never once heard a preacher preach about the CIRCUMCISION of the heart. I did not know what it meant.

I knew that Jesus had sent the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth, to teach us. So, I prayed,

***"Holy Spirit, please explain this Scripture to me I want to understand it."***

The Holy Spirit was so gracious. He pointed me back to the Old Testament Abrahamic Covenant symbol of circumcision. Every little boy born into the nation of Israel had to be circumcised on the 8<sup>th</sup> day. A man who was not circumcised was excluded from the commonwealth of Israel. To enter and take part in the Kingdom of God (as seen through Israel), the ritual of circumcision was a non-negotiable necessity.

The Old Testament always forms a foundation for understanding the New Testament. Whilst Paul teaches that the physical circumcision is of no value, he does allude to the circumcision of the heart as being imperative. And here, in Deuteronomy, I found an essential key. YHWH said that HE would circumcise the HEARTS of His people Israel.

So then, what is the circumcision of the HEART? The Holy Spirit revealed this profound truth to me in a very simple way.

With the physical circumcision a little skin is cut off from the most sensitive part of the male organ. The Bible calls that piece of skin, "*the FLESH*". I suddenly realised what the circumcision of the heart was.

The heart is the most sensitive part of our being. The Holy Spirit communicates with our heart. Some call this our "*conscience*". We are supposed to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit regularly and easily. We find thousands of references all over Scripture where YHWH "*SPOKE*" to people. They heard His voice and responded to it. Jesus said,

*John 10:27      "My sheep hear My voice"*

Then why do most people never or seldom hear the voice of the Holy Spirit? It is because the heart is covered with the "*FLESH*". Our fleshly desires shout so loudly for the comforts of this life and selfish pleasures, that the deafening clatter drowns out the gentle sound of the Holy Spirit's voice. It is not that the Holy Spirit is not speaking. It is that there is just too much clatter around us for us to hear His voice.

## A dangerous prayer

When I realised this, I got onto my knees and asked the Holy Spirit, ***"Please Lord, whatever the price, please circumcise my heart. I want to know Your voice. I want to be led by You, I want to know You, I want to be connected to the Vine. I want Your living water flowing in and through me."***

I did not know what the cost would be. But I yearned for the Holy Spirit to be in control of my life.

*Psalm 42:1      "... As the deer pants for the water brooks, so my soul pants for You, O God.*

*42:2      "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God ..."*

I was desperate. I wanted a clean heart. What followed was beyond what I had expected – in every way imaginable. When we get serious with the Lord, things start happening!

A few days later I was reading from Luke,

*Luke 14:33      "So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions."*

The Holy Spirit spoke to me clearly and said,

***"Unless you are willing to give up your farm and everything you have, you cannot be My disciple."***

I was shocked. Surely not! I could not answer the Lord. In fact, I was stunned. A week or two went by and I still

had not given the Lord an answer. Then in my devotion time I read another similar Scripture, and again the Holy Spirit said to me clearly,

***"Unless you are willing to give up your farm and everything you have, you cannot be My disciple."***

I started to reason with the Lord. *"Lord you know that You told me to buy this farm in 2002 during the farm invasions. I am probably the only white farmer that bought a farm since the land invasions started. You made it possible for me to buy. The whole deal was an outright miracle. Why are You now asking me to give the farm up?"*

The Holy Spirit was silent.

Another week or two went by and then again in my devotions I read another similar Scripture. Again, the Holy Spirit spoke to me,

***"Unless you are willing to give up your farm and everything you have, you cannot be My disciple."***

I realised that He was serious, and I bowed my knees and knelt on the floor.

***"Anything Lord. I am willing to give it all. I place You above all else in my life."***

About four days later, as I was cutting silage, four vehicles came racing down my farm road and stopped in my yard in a cloud of dust. I knew instinctively what this was. It was the government coming to take my farm. A

peace came over me that is not possible to manufacture. I walked up to the group of some 30 angry, hate-filled, burly men and greeted them in a friendly manner.

There is no need for me to go through all the details of what happened next, but, needless to say, I blessed the supposed new owner of the farm. Almost three months later I had the privilege of praying for the land commissioner who had led that group of people to take my farm. He had had a stroke subsequent to the farm invasion and the Holy Spirit told me to go and pray for him. When I did, the Lord healed him miraculously. That led to me being given the farm back again.

### **A hasty exit**

About five months later I was arrested and falsely charged with an offence carrying a life-long prison sentence. I spent a night in jail. The next day I was released on bail, with the court case set for April of 2013. The magistrate was obviously bought and judged against me, in violation of normal legal procedures. The night before the completion of the final verdict, I was warned to flee the country, and my wife and I escaped by aeroplane with a suitcase of clothes each. I had left my farm and cattle, tractor and truck and implements and furniture in our beautiful house. We closed the doors and fled.

Arriving in South Africa in wheelchairs in a traumatised state, my wife and I were broken people. However, we decided that to sit in a heap and feel sorry for ourselves is not what the Lord would want, and so in our brokenness we started reaching out to others, and thus



a massive ministry throughout South Africa was launched. We made a decision never to ask for money when we ministered, but to trust the Lord entirely to supply our every need. The miracles of provision alone could fill a book. He has been so faithful.

God has now given me another farm – it is the whole of South Africa; and the seeds we now sow is the eternal Word of God, planted into the hearts of men and women throughout this beautiful country, and other countries too.

Let me close this section with another beautiful Scripture from the Old Testament. The first five verses of Isaiah chapter 40 starts with a wonderful promise of revival and restoration. It is then significant to read what follows immediately after. This is surely a prerequisite to that revival:

*Isa 40:6 "A voice says, 'Call out.' Then he answered, 'What shall I call out?' ALL FLESH IS GRASS, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.*

*40:7 "THE GRASS WITHERS, the FLOWER FADES, when the BREATH of YHWH blows upon it; surely the people are grass.*

*40:8 "The GRASS WITHERS, the FLOWER FADES, but the word of our God stands forever."*

Notice that all "*flesh*" is compared to grass and the beauty of the flesh is compared to flowers. They look so beautiful. Yet, when the BREATH of YHWH blows, what happens?

The Hebrew word for BREATH here is: רוּחַ "rûach". It is the same Word that is translated SPIRIT and is used more than 370 times in the Hebrew Old Testament. In other words, we can read this passage as,

*"All flesh WITHERS when the SPIRIT of God BLOWS OVER IT."*

We pray so easily for revival, for the Holy Spirit to move in our land, to move in our churches, to move in our lives. Do we realise what we are praying? When the Spirit moves, all *"flesh"* WILL *WITHER*. We wonder why the pride of our beautiful farms and infrastructure is broken. Is this not the *"withering" of the "flesh"?*

In our ministry we travel through many towns and villages. What we have noticed is that many beautiful, majestic old historical buildings and infrastructures are in ruins. It is a pitiful sight. Places which once were a hive of activity is now filthy, dirty and dilapidated. Isaiah, the prophet who probably speaks more of the glory of the coming Kingdom of God than any other prophet, in his quest for revival, prophesies about these days in which we now live:

*Isa 5:8 "Woe to those who add house to house and join field to field, until there is no more room, so that you have to live alone in the midst of the land! (In other words, those who buy up so much property, adding to their own wealth, that they are living alone – everyone else around them has been forced to move away due to the greed of the wealthy person.)"*

5:9 "In my ears YHWH of hosts has sworn, 'Surely, MANY HOUSES SHALL BECOME DESOLATE, EVEN GREAT AND FINE ONES, WITHOUT OCCUPANTS.

5:10 "For ten acres of vineyard will yield only one bath of wine, and a homer of seed will yield but an ephah of grain."

We blame the corrupt government so easily for the collapse of our infrastructure. Should we not rather look at **our own heart condition** and return to God in **repentance?**

# Chapter 12

## A CHANGE OF HEART

### **A young man's life changes**

My whole life changed when my heart changed. We read a significant story which Jesus told in respect of restoration. Just to get this story in its context, I should mention some verses which precede the story I am about to relate. We start in the previous chapter. Jesus, teaching His disciples, said,

*Luke 14:26 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.*

*14:27 "Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple."*

Then we come to the verse which I have already quoted, which the Lord used to call me to leave my farm and all my possessions:

*Luke 14:33 "So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions."*

Then, in Chapter 15, we first read the moving parable about the shepherd who leaves the 99 sheep to search high and low for the one lost sheep, and upon finding it, comes home with great rejoicing, carrying it on his shoulders.

The next parable is about the penny which a woman lost and again searched high and low until that penny was found. Again, there is great rejoicing.

Then we come to the parable that I want to examine, the prodigal son. This parable is recorded in *Luke 15:11-32*. Let us consider some precious aspects of this parable. I will use my own words to describe the passion behind this story.

Firstly, there must have been some issue in that home for a young man to leave his parents in a heated moment. *"Give me all that is due to me! It is all about me. My rights, my possessions, my own life, what I want."* **See his heart. What his heart is filled with comes pouring out, and it is not pleasant.**

His father lets him go, probably with a deep heaviness in his heart. There must have been many lonely nights and tears shed in the quietness of the night. I know those times. I am also a parent. Yet this father does not run after him to try to stop him. He lets him go.

The Father is a wise man (God). He understands the incredible value and beauty of the *"wilderness"*. There is nothing like the wilderness – **the pigsty** – to **build character**. He lets his son go, knowing that he is heading for the **pigsty**.

The young man hasn't learned those lessons yet. In the beginning he revels in his promiscuous lifestyle. He has lots of friends because he has lots of money. But those friends are only temporary, and slowly, as his money runs lower and lower, his so-called friends also leave. He ends up with no money and is *"lucky"* enough to get a

job working for a farmer. He must look after **pigs**. Can you believe it? This Jewish boy must care for **pigs!** It is the lowest of the low.

What is more, his pay is not enough for his basic necessities of food, and he gets to such a low position that he longs to be able to eat the pigs' food. He is desperately hungry.

It is here in this desperate state that his heart is finally changed. The Scripture uses the words, "**He came to himself.**" Other translations render, "**When he came to his senses.**" It is in this "**desert place**" that one is forced to think clearly, and it is here that one realises one's own mistakes. While things are going well, **pride blocks the truth**. It is only when all possibility of pride is wiped away and we realise that **we have made a mess of things**, that the **truth finally dawns upon us**.

The young man, in his hunger and embarrassment at having to feed pigs, finally sees the truth. It is here that he makes that all important statement of repentance:

I will go back to my father and say to him,

**"Father...**

**I HAVE SINNED!!"**

It is **ME** who needs a change of heart. It is not my father or mother or brother or sister or the government or my boss or anyone else in the world. **I am the one** who stands guilty for the foolish life choices that I have made.

**I AM THE ONE!!!**

## A new lifestyle

This, friends, is where we enter the kingdom. This is the gateway. ***When I empty myself of all the pride and arrogance***, I need to climb off my proud high horse and realise that ***I stand in desperate need of God's help***. I cannot do it by myself. ***It is ME who needs a change of heart***. It is ME who needs the Holy Spirit to take me to heights that I could never accomplish in my own strength.

This attitude, the entrance into the Kingdom, is not just for salvation but for every aspect of our Christian lives. This attitude is a prerequisite to living a Spirit-filled life. We read of this attitude of humility in many of the Apostles' writings. I cite just a few...

*2Cor 4:5 "For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your BOND-SERVANTS for Jesus' sake."*

*Phil 2:3 "Do NOTHING FROM SELFISHNESS OR EMPTY CONCEIT, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves."*

*3:7 "But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ."*

*3:8 "More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the LOSS OF ALL THINGS and COUNT THEM BUT RUBBISH SO THAT I MAY GAIN CHRIST."*

*2Cor 12:10 "Therefore I am WELL CONTENT with WEAKNESSES, with insults, with distresses, with*

*persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN I AM STRONG."*

It is such a strange phenomenon in the Kingdom that it is particularly ***in our own utter weakness*** that our ***greatest opportunities*** lie within our grasp. Hebrews chapter eleven tells of the heroes of faith. Just read through that list, and you will see that each one of those ***"great"*** men and women were at a place of ***utter desperation at some point in their lives***. In that place of weakness, they reached out to God by faith. The summary at the end of that amazing chapter says something significant.

*Heb 11:32 "And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets,*

*11:33 "who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions,*

*11:34 "quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, FROM WEAKNESS WERE MADE STRONG, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight."*

The one common denominator of all the heroes of faith was that at some point in their lives they were all in a position of utter weakness, often despairing even for life itself. In that place of weakness (the circumcision of their own hearts), they put their faith in the Almighty, and the Holy Spirit, in His awesome power, swept into their situation and rescued them.



Let us consider one of these heroes of faith, not often thought about...

***The rest of this book 1 of the series "Receive the Holy Spirit" is not quoted here. If you would like to get this series of books (hard copies), please order them from Magda du Plessis at dieboomzas@gmail.com or contact her on (+27) 0823213236 (South Africa only).***

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