

The Study of Man *The Heart, Part 2*

I. “Heart” is used throughout Scripture as a metaphor.

1. Conceptually it includes the mind, emotions, and will (Duet. 8:5; Jn. 14:1; 2 Cor. 9:7).
2. The heart metaphor connotes/suggests one’s intent (Heb. 4:12; 1 Pet. 4:1 *cf.* 1 Cor. 4:3).
3. The ‘natural’ heart can only desirer independence from God, unrighteous thoughts (Gen. 6:5).

II. Examples of how understanding the Biblical concept of “heart” clarifies so called “problematic” passages in Scripture.

1. The Pharisees added to The Law and developed a false faith (Mt. 15:1-20 *cf.* Duet. 4:2).
2. Committing adultery ... in the heart (Mt. 5:28-29 *cf.* Mt. 6:13-14; Gal. 6:1; Prov. 23:7).
3. Satan could change the intent of one’s heart during Jesus’ earthly ministry (Mk. 4:11-15).
4. Satan can motivate a Christian to lie during the Dispensation of Grace (Acts 5:3).
5. Lusts come from the heart (Rom. 1:24).
6. Christ will reward “good works” according to how and why the Christian determined to perform the work—intent (1 Cor. 4:5).
7. The natural heart is darkened to spiritual truth (Rom. 1:21; Eph. 4:18).

III. Conclusion: Since “heart” is used about 762 times in the Old Testament and 151 times in the New Testament, it is important to understand the term in order to comprehend the workings of the human mind and motivation in Scripture.