

Having a Soft Heart in a Hardened World



“I saw before my very eyes a vague notion transformed to a personal conviction.”

Tim Keller



“Truth doesn’t matter much unless
your heart is personally attached to it.”

Jonathan Edwards





The **Bible** uses the word "**heart**" primarily to refer to the ruling center of the whole person, the spring of all desires. ...

According to the **Bible**, **the heart** is the center not only of spiritual activity, but of all the operations of human life.



Above all else, guard your heart,
for everything you do flows from it.

Proverbs 4:23

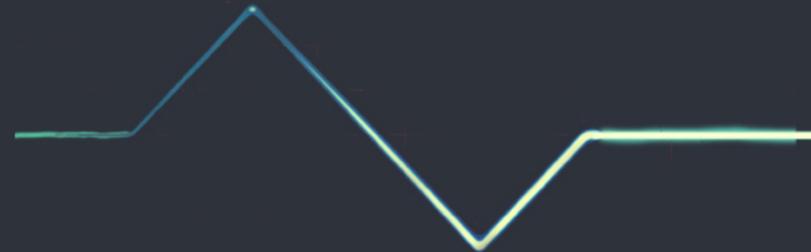
Create in me a pure heart, O God,

Psalm 51: 10



“The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

1 Samuel 16: 7



“For *out of the heart* come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander...”

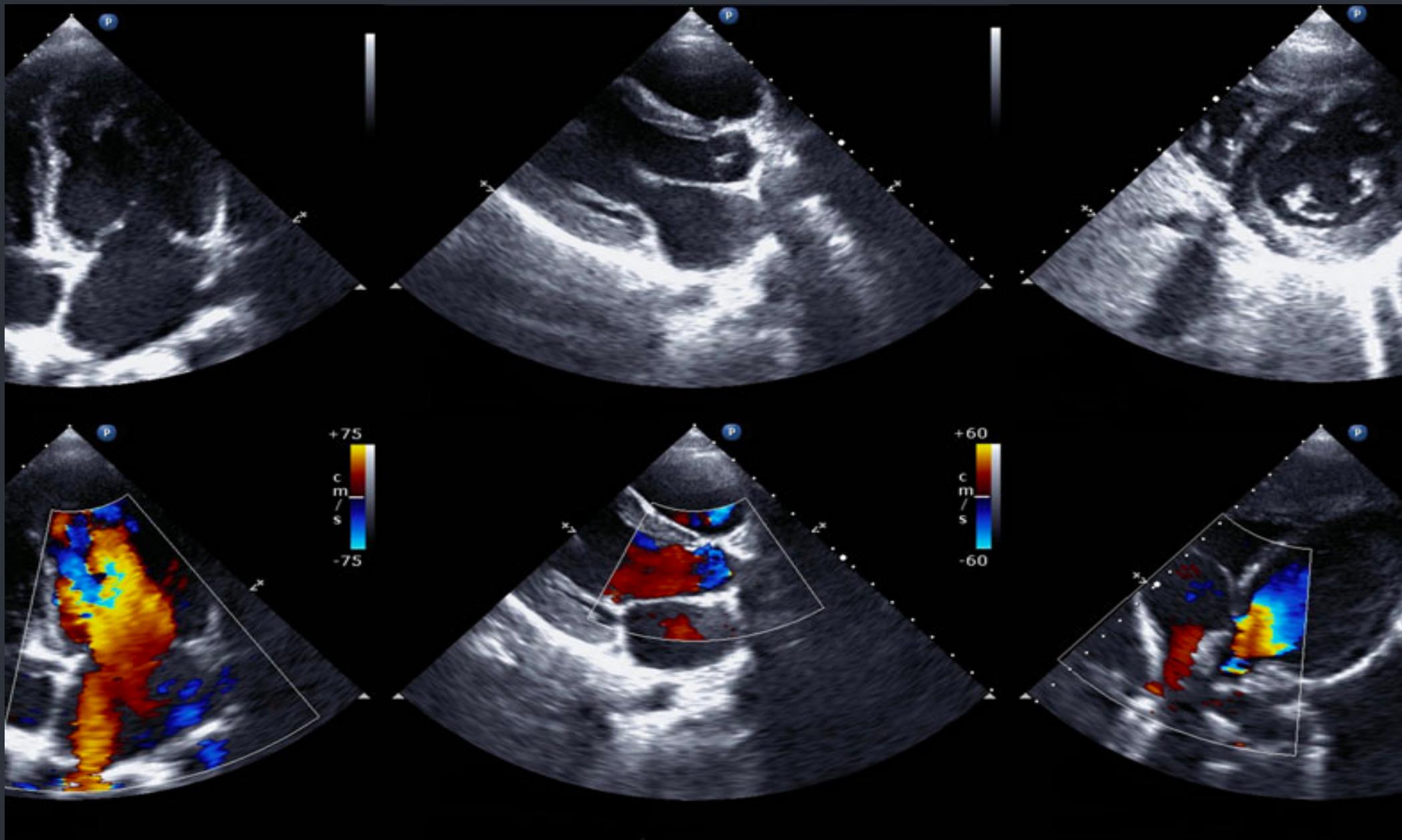
Matt. 15:18



They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

Luke 24:32





What's the condition of your heart?



So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

Eph. 4: 17-20



Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

Eph. 4: 17-20



Hard - hearted

Pointless thinking

Darkened Understanding

Separated from God

Ignorant of truth

Insensitive to others

Indulgent

Greedy



Hard - hearted

Pointless thinking
Darkened Understanding
Separated from God
Ignorant of truth
Insensitive to others
Indulgent
Greedy

Soft - hearted

sensible
aware
united with God
wise
compassionate
disciplined
generous



“A soft heart before God is critical for the glory of God,
the abundance of our own lives and
reaching the world we desire to influence.”

Ruth Haley Barton







If we want an indication
of the condition of our hearts,
all we need to do is to
examine how we treat other people.







Splendid

Shine



“The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live.”

Exodus 1: 17



If you fear God you really have nothing to fear, but if you don't fear God you have everything to fear.



Having a soft heart does not mean that you are weak. It takes a great amount of courage to have a soft heart before God.







“I found a place in the bathroom to call my own: I retreated there as soon as I awakened, and stayed there until I slept. It was my sacred garden, where I spoke with God, meditated on his words, and nurtured my heart. When I meditated on scripture, it touched the source of my faith and strengthened the core of my soul. While horror swirled around me, I found refuge in a world that became more welcoming and wonderful with each visit.



Even as my body shriveled, my soul was nourished through deepening relationship with God. That place was like a little slice of heaven where my heart spoke to His Holy Spirit and His Spirit spoke to my heart. He assured me that while I lived in His Spirit, I'd never be abandoned, never be alone, and never be harmed.



I sat stone-still on that dirty floor for hours on end, contemplating the purity of His energy while the force of His love flowed through me like a sacred river, cleansing my soul and easing my mind.”



“We’ll be here waiting, dear sister.
Now heal your heart. You must love,
and you must forgive those who
have trespassed against us.”







