

Which Heart Have You?

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Acts 2:

Have you ever thought about the number of people who obeyed the gospel on the day of Pentecost? (Acts 2:); likewise, have you ever wondered why more people do not obey the gospel today?

This is true, even though Jesus tasted of death for all men.

Heb. 2:9, *“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”*

Jesus died for the ungodly.

Rom. 5:6, *“For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.”*

And God is not willing that any should perish.

2 Pet. 3:9, *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*

The masses “walk by” on the other side — rejecting God’s call and grace.

2 Thess. 2:14, *“Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

The Bible teaches that only a few will be saved.

The way is strait and narrow.

- John 14:6, *“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”*
- Matt. 7:13-14, *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”*

The whole world lies in darkness.

- 1 John 5:19, *“And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.”*
- Matt. 22:14, *“For many are called, but few are chosen.”*
- Matt. 7:21-23, *“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the*

will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”

Jesus teaches us very specifically why only a few will be saved:

The parable of the sower. Luke 8:5-15, “A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.”

Jesus said few will make it.

Why? It's not because God doesn't love them.

John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

The problem lies within the heart of man.

In this lesson, we want to study four types of hearts, which basically represent the positions of all who hear God's Word, and see why only a few will make it.

The heart that Satan keeps:

Notice these two verses:

- Luke 8:5, *“A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.”*
- Luke 8:12, *“Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.”*

We learn here that Satan is present each time the Word is sown. He doesn't want God's power to have its way. Satan never misses an assembly, church meeting, etc.

There are many ways that Satan steals the Word out of a human heart.

- Through lies and deception (Adam & Eve). Satan is the father of all liars.
- By causing you to delay your obedience as Agrippa did. He wants you to believe you have plenty of time.
- He confuses you with false doctrines about God's plan of salvation.
- He tries to convince you that a life of sin is the best.
- He wants you to believe that you are okay.

Satan is in the word-stealing business. Do not let him steal the Word from your heart.

The heart that temptations get:

Notice these two verses:

- Luke 8:6, *“And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture.”*
- Luke 8:13, *“They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.”*

This pictures that, with great joy, some obey the word. The Word gets into the heart and stays for awhile.

Satan does not cease. He sets up a trap, or snare.

1 Pet. 5:8, *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”*

The temptations that lead to falling are as varied as the individuals. A Christian can fall.

- 2 Pet. 2:20, *“For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.”*
- Gal. 5:4, *“Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.”* (Law of Moses).

The text reveals that these fall because they have no root.

We must be rooted in love and God’s Word.

- Eph. 3:17-18, *“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;”*
- Col. 2:6-7, *“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.”*
- James 1:14-15, *“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”*

The Christian must flee from every appearance of evil.

1 Thess. 5:22, *“Abstain from all appearance of evil.”*

He must not go near his old manner of life. He must realize that he is a “babe.”

1 Pet. 2:1-2, *“Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”*

The heart that is overcome with cares, pleasures, and riches

Notice these two verses:

- Luke 8:7, “*And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.*”
- Luke 8:14, “*And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.*”

These, too, receive the Word. They obey. Then they go forth. After awhile, something happens.

They are choked. They are “seized” or “throttled,” just as a person would be choked in a physical sense. These have suffocated or drowned spiritually.

The various things that destroy their spiritual life:

Cares. (This could be a worrying about anything; i.e. food, clothing, job, health, etc. We must do what we can, then turn the rest over to God.)

Matt. 11:28-30, “*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*”

Riches. (Love or desire for money, or what it can buy.)

James 5:1-7, “*Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you. Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.*”

Pleasures. (The pursuit of desires. Putting the things of the world before God. We must not love the world.)

James 4:1-7, *“From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*

They “bring no fruit to perfection.” They start many things, but never finish.

We must complete what we start.

Luke 9:62. *“And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”*

We must finish the race.

2 Tim. 4:6-8, *“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”*

The cares, riches, and pleasures of this world will cause you to lose your soul.

The heart that makes it

Notice these two verses:

- Luke 8:8, *“And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.”*
- Luke 8:15, *“But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.”*

This heart is pictured as “good ground.” It is a prepared heart.

Qualities of the heart that makes it to heaven.

It is an honest heart.

An honest heart will search after the truth, and will accept it.

- John 8:32, “*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*”
- John 17:17, “*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*”
- Matt. 5:6, “*Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*”

The honest heart is changeable.

- Acts 2:37, “*Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?*”
- Acts 8:27-40, “*And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more:*”

and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.”

It is a good heart.

Pure and holy. Matt. 5:8, *“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”*

It is forgiving. Matt. 6:14-15, *“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*

It hears the Word. It has a ready disposition.

- Rom. 10:17, *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*
- James 1:19-21, *“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”*

It keeps the Word. It becomes a permanent part.

James 1:21, *“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”*

It is a doer of the Word.

James 1:22, *“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”*

It brings forth fruit.

Gal. 5:22-25, *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”*

The vine and the branches.

John 15:1-14, *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that*

abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."

It is a patient heart.

It is longsuffering. 1 Cor. 15:58, *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."*

Like Job of old. James 5:11, *"Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy."*

It realizes that it takes time to grow, glow, and go.

Conclusion

Yes, a few will make it.

The heart with the proper work and attitude could make it.

Which heart have you?

You must be honest with yourself and God.

