

Hardness of heart can happen to you!

Got understanding?

I am writing this newsletter from my hotel room in Cambodia. I have been teaching the Word to a very hungry and dedicated group of people. Many of them ride long distance on their bicycles after work to come to Bible school and then ride the long & dangerous drive back home in the dark. Selah!

While the majority were getting major revelations, and I would hear wonderful testimonies, yet a few of them still would not seem to grasp the simplest of truths. That night the Lord reminded me of His own experience. In *Mark 4* only a fourth of the crowd who heard the Word, accepted it, understood it and produced fruit. He brought to my attention that the ones with a stony or hard heart received the Word with much joy but still would not produce any results. But how can one who enjoys the Word have a hard heart? This puzzled me!

A hardened heart...

When we talk about a hard heart, we think of a rebellious heart, one who hates or despises God. But it is not automatically so! Remember *Mark 8:17* & *Mark 16:14*, Jesus rebuked the twelve apostles for the hardness of their heart. This therefore raises some valid questions.

What is Hardness of heart? And if the twelve who loved God so much and were given to understand the mysteries of God were still susceptible to hardness of heart, then it means that I myself am not immune from it. *Mark 16:14* says that He rebuked their hardness of heart because they did not believe.

What caused this unbelief? They chose to believe what they saw, felt or thought, instead of the truth. In *Mark 8:18*, Jesus asked a very interesting question. "Do you not remember?" He was referring to the previous miracles He had just performed. He had fed the multitudes twice and yet having no bread still seemed to be a major dilemma to the disciples.

Have you had a heart check up?

Why couldn't they believe that a lack of bread was no problem for Jesus? Because they had forgotten all the mighty miracles He had performed, because they had forgotten that with Jesus there was no impossibility! They were more sensitive to their natural world than to the Lord. They chose once again to put their trust in what they could see, feel or touch.

How about us? Healed by God? Bills paid miraculously? Protected from that fatal car accident? We have so many testimonies to tell, but yet when faced with a new challenge, we can easily forget that with God nothing is impossible. What He has done, He wants to do it again!

When we abandon our trust in God by giving in to logic, to our fears and our feelings, this my friend will harden one's heart. *Ps. 78:8,11* A generation that did not set their heart alright... and forgot His works and His wonders that he had shown them.

So what is our solution? First, repent & then put your trust in God again, rehearsing the miracles & victories, no matter how big or small. Abraham did not weaken in faith for he did not consider the impotence of his own body...

No unbelief or distrust made him waver the promise of God, but he grew strong and was empowered by faith as he gave praise and glory to God. *Rom. 4:19-20*. He became stronger in his faith as he remembered all the wonderful things God had already done in His life.