

**What Is Your Heart's
Default Setting?**

- ✓ **Everything we do in this life is a result of that which is in our heart. 'Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life' (Prov.4:23)**
- ✓ **'Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart' (1 Sam.16:7)**
- ✓ **'What man is there who is fearful and fainthearted? Let him go and return to his house, lest the heart of his brethren faint like his heart' (Deut.20:8)**

- ✓ **Even sickness and health can be determined by the condition of our heart, 'A sound heart is life to the body, but envy is rottenness to the bones' (Prov.14:30)**
- ✓ **Some physical sicknesses are classified as psychosomatic, i.e. they may be emotional or mental in origin but have physical symptoms. The state of the mind influences the health of the body. 'My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh' (Prov.4:20-22)**

The heart is mentioned over 700 times in the Bible

But what is the heart?

It is not the spirit (*pneuma*)

It is not the soul (*psuche*)

It is the heart (*kardia*)

The Hebrew word for 'heart' is *leb*, meaning the inner, centre or middle of a thing

Jesus referred to the heart as a storehouse

'A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil'

(Lk.6:45)

What have we been storing in there?

We retain in our hearts the things which cause us greatest pleasure and the things which cause us most pain

Three of the most powerful influences that have helped shape our hearts

**1) The environment in which we were brought
up**

2) Traumatic experiences from the past

3) What we have been taught

The heart is conditioned by its default settings

**This principle is the main point of the parable
of the sower...**

**...the wayside
...rocky ground
...thorny ground**

**...finally, good ground which represents
*'an honest and good heart'***

Mark records Jesus saying, 'Take heed *what* you hear' (Mk.4:24)

But according to Luke, Jesus also said, 'Take heed *how* you hear' (Lk.8:18)

'Well, that's just the way I see it'

**That's why every truth is not for every person
at every time**

'With many such parables He spoke the word to them as they were able to hear it'

(Mk.4:33)

'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now'

(Jn.16:12)

'Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing'

(Matt.24:45-46)

One of the great blessings of the New Covenant is that we receive a new heart

'I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh'

(Ezek.36:26)

This means that the heart of every Christian is now a sphere of divine influence through the Word of God and the Holy Spirit. He promised,

'I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God and they shall be My people'

(Heb.8:10)

*'Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the
love of God'*
(2 Thes.3:5)

How does He do that?

**By revealing the full extent of His love to us at
the cross**

***'In this is love, not that we loved God, but that
He loved us and sent His Son to be the
propitiation for our sins'***

(1 John 4:10)

Is Christianity meant to be objective or subjective?

'Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us'
(Rom.5:5)

**'Poured out' means an abundant gushing forth.
'In our hearts', i.e. permeating every part until it is filling and overflowing**

'For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life'

(Rom.5:6-10)

**Jesus changed the default setting of
the hearts of the two disciples on the road
to Emmaus**

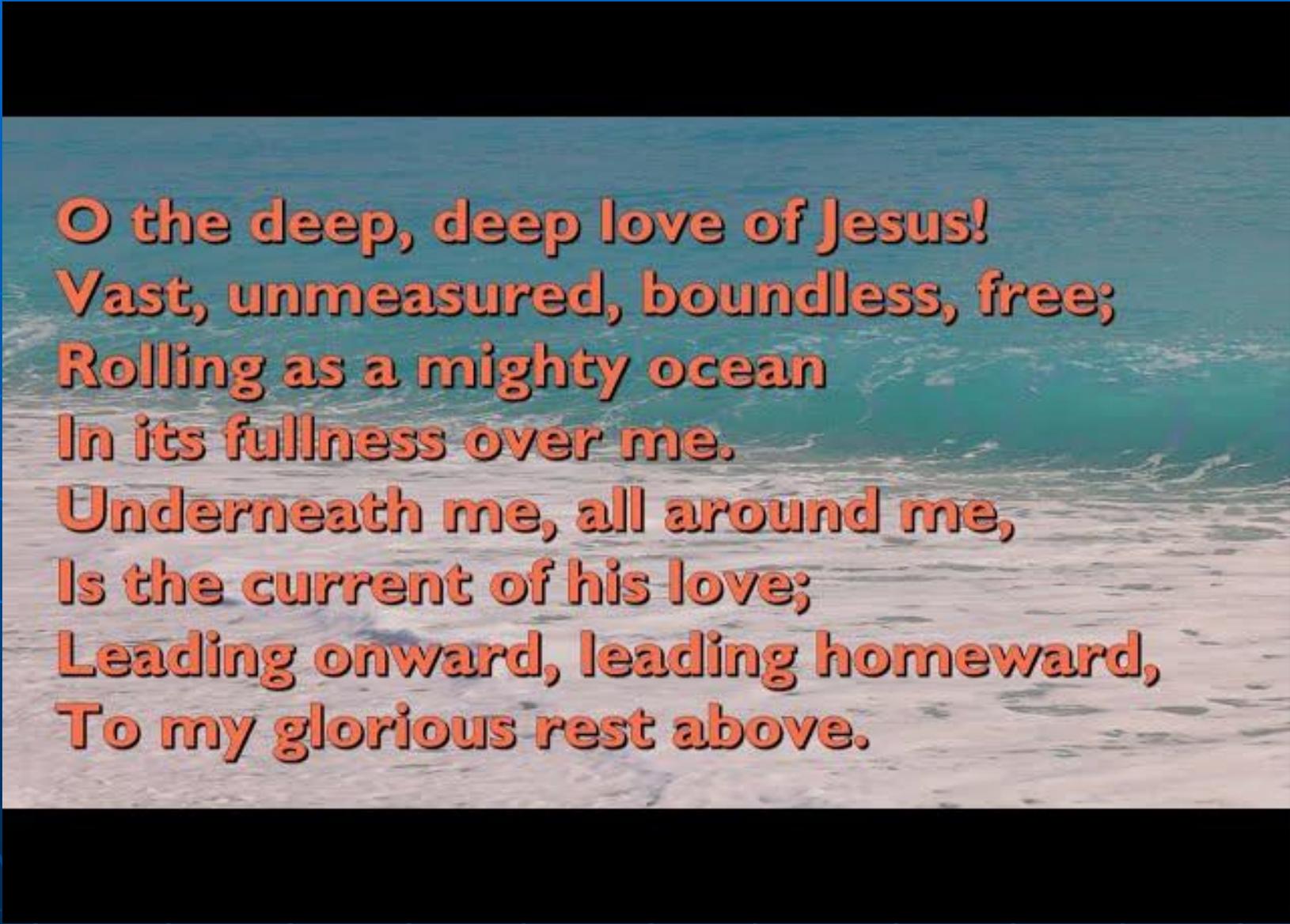
*'O foolish ones, and **slow of heart** to believe
in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought
not the Christ to have suffered these things
and to enter into His glory?'*

(Lk.24:25&26)

*'...beginning at Moses and all the Prophets,
He expounded to them in all the Scriptures
the things concerning Himself' (Lk.24:27)*

*'Did not our **heart** burn within us while He
talked with us on the road, and while He
opened the Scriptures to us?' (Lk.24:32)*

*'For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, **that Christ may dwell in your hearts** through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God'*
(Eph.3:14-19)



**O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me,
Is the current of his love;
Leading onward, leading homeward,
To my glorious rest above.**

