

What Type of Heart?

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.—Ezekiel 36:26

I hear people say the cardiologist told them they have a weak heart. The Bible also talks about different kinds of hearts. The verse above is a promise to Israel but the truth about hearts can be applied to individuals.

Heart stands for a person's whole nature and the *new heart* signifies the new birth, one who has received a new nature as a result of accepting Christ as their Savior. This verse and II Corinthians 5:17 indicate that when we accept Christ we receive a new nature and old things are passed away.

One of those old things should be our *stony heart*. This is the hard heart of rebellion. This stubborn, self-willed heart demands its own way. It is determined to follow its will rather than God's will.

The new heart is the *heart of flesh*. It is pliable and responsive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. It allows the Holy Spirit to produce the fruit of the spirit in the life of the believer.

The following verses in Jeremiah 36 tell what will happen when the nation of Israel repents. We can learn from these verses because they are true of the believer also. When one repents he receives forgiveness (v. 25), regeneration (v. 26), and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (v. 27). As a result, he will know God (v.38), hate sin (v. 31-32) and glorify the Savior (v.32).

May we know our God, hate sin, and glorify the Savior with our new heart!