

Lesson 26  
The Believer's Heart  
Col 2:1-3

I. Heart Summary:

1. Heart has come to stand for the center of the moral, spiritual, intellectual life of man.
2. The heart contains the reservoir of memory about one's predispositions, feelings, attitudes, beliefs, values, affections, life experience and history concerning a thing, person or situation.
3. Every interpretation of experience passes through the heart; thus, one's understanding of a situation is shaped by the heart. Prov 23:7; Matt 6:21

II. The Believer's Heart

1. The Believer has a two-heart potential.
  - a. The natural heart of the natural man. Jere 17:9
  - b. The New heart of the born again believer. Ez 36:26
2. The heart contributes heavily to our understanding of experience.
  - a. The heart interacts with the will to shape our responses to experience.
  - b. Therefore the Believer must be diligent to protect the heart. Prov 4:20-23

III. The Processes of the Heart

1. The process is inferred in Scripture. Mark 8:16-18; James 1:13-15
2. The process has long been understood: Chapter 13 Imitation of Christ "Someone has said very aptly: "Resist the beginnings; remedies come too late, when by long delay the evil has gained strength." First, a mere thought comes to mind, then strong imagination, followed by pleasure, evil delight, and consent.

Thus, because he is not resisted in the beginning, Satan gains full entry. And the longer a man delays in resisting, so much the weaker does he become each day, while the strength of the enemy grows against him."

3. Distinguishing Between the Two Hearts

<b>O l d</b>	Full of iniquity	Pure	<b>N e w</b>
	Loves evil	Loves Good	
	Fountain of evil	Unblamable in holiness	
	Sensual	Faithful	
	Worldly minded	Heavenly minded	
	Impenitent	Contrite	
	Wayward	Sincere	
	Blind	Understanding	
	Malicious	Tender	
	Foolish	Wise	
	Deceitful	True	
	Unstable	Fixed	

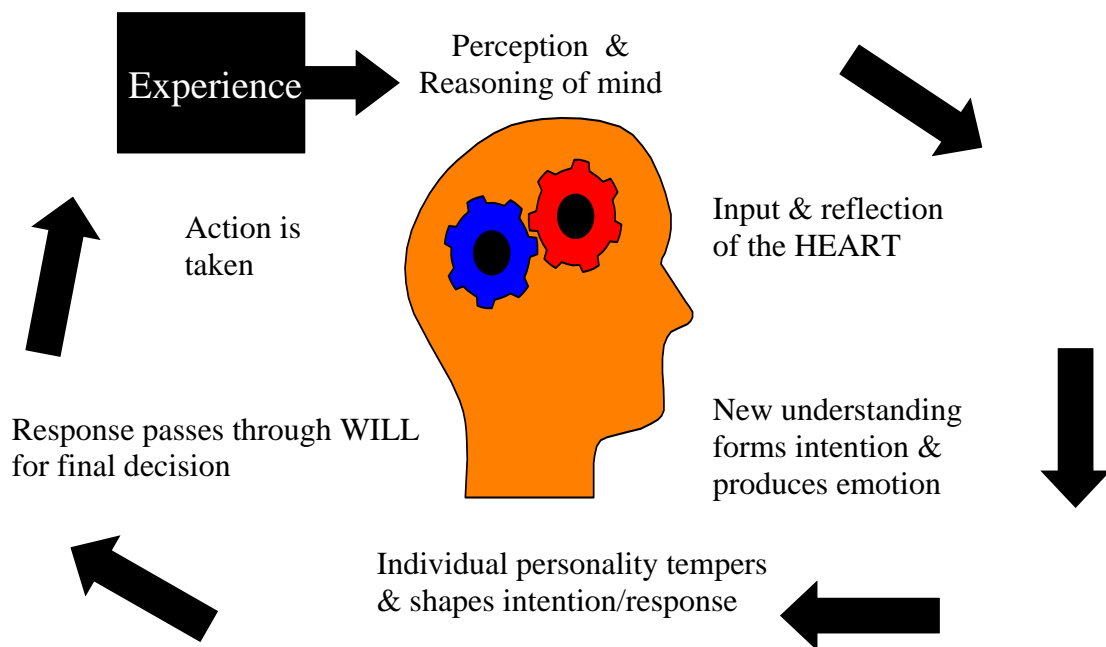
4. Composition of the Immaterial Soul (A Black Box)
  - a. Mind: perceives through the senses of the brain.

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- b. Intellect/reasoning
- c. Emotion
- d. Personality
- e. Will: Decision-making
- f. Heart: Repository for stored memory; Attitudes Values Beliefs; Affections Predispositions; Life Experience & history

5. Social psychology research on human perception: **A model**

### The Interpretation Response Cycle



- a. The Holy Spirit intervenes at the point of **perception**. Matt 4:3-4; 2 Kings 6:15-17
- b. What we perceive **triggers** our understanding and sets our response in motion.

- IV. Application: What if anything, can a believer do control, to direct or influence what occurs within the heart?
- 1. Our only defense is to perceive our circumstance from God's point of view. Prov. 3:5; John 6:61-63
  - 2. God's point of view can only be perceived if we "walk" according to the Spirit. Matt 4:3-10; Romans 6:4; Romans 8:1-6; 2 Cor 5:7; 2 Cor 10: 3-5; Ps 119:128; Gal 5:16