"How to Have a Heart for God"

Deuteronomy 5:29

Much attention is given today toward that which drives the body (physical fitness), but not that which drives your life!

*Our hearts by nature are sinful (Mt. 15:18).

--Full of iniquity	(Gen. 6:5)
--Blind	(Rom. 1:21)
--Hard	(Ex. 8:15, 32)
--Deceitful	(Jer. 17:9)
--Proud	(Prov. 18:12)
--Covetous	(II Pet. 2:14)
--Lustful	(Mt. 5:28)
--Hateful	(Mt. 5:22)

*God sees the heart of everyone (I Sam. 16:7).

1. Be regenerated in your heart by God's Spirit

Ezek. 36:26 - *"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."*

(Acts 16:14; II Cor. 4:6; cp. Prov. 20:9)

(The good condition of our heart ultimately depends on God's gracious dealings with us - I Sam. 10:26; I Chron. 29:18-19)

2. Be purified in your heart by faith

Acts 15:9 - *"And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith."*

(As your knowledge of God's Word grows, your faith can grow, and as your faith grows, your heart is purified)

3. Prepare your heart to seek the Lord

II Chron. 12:14 - *"And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the LORD."*

a. Be broken (over sin) (Ps. 34:18 - *"The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit")*

b. Be teachable (Mt. 13)

c. Be tender (not hard) (Heb. 13:8)

4. Purpose in your heart to not defile yourself

Dan. 1:8 - *"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."*

5. Protect your heart from unwelcome intruders

Prov. 4:23 - *"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."*

a. Purge your heart from worldliness (James 4:4, 8 - *"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. . . Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."*)

b. Closely associate with people having a pure heart (II Tim. 2:22 - *"Flee also youthful lusts; but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart")*

6. Pursue after God with all your heart

Jer. 29:13 - *"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."*

7. Pray for God to give you a clean heart

Psalm 51:10 - *"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."*

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**** How can you have a heart for God***

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(Ezek. 36:26; Acts 16:14; II Cor. 4:6; cp. Prov. 20:9)

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4. **<u>Purpose</u> in your heart to not defile yourself**
   Dan. 1:8

5. **<u>Protect</u> your heart from unwelcome intruders**
   Prov. 4:23

   a. <u>Purge</u> your heart from worldliness James 4:4, 8

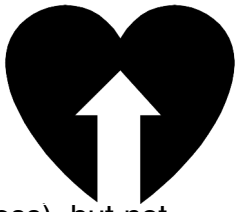
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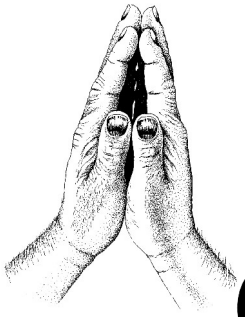
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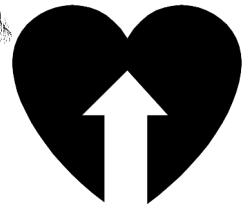
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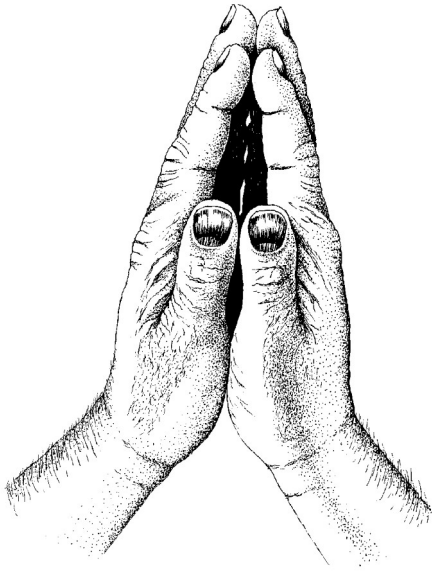
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