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# Words of Truth

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## It Is Not Good To Have A Divided Heart

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The world we live in provides us with many things to take up our time, finances, and emotions. Most people have very hectic lives. The saying, "I have a lot on my plate" is an understatement for most people. Between work, family, extracurricular activities, and entertainment there is little time left for God in the lives of many people.

Some people find themselves worrying more about the things that don't matter than the spiritual things that do matter. This happened to Martha (the sister of Mary and Lazarus). Notice what occurred in the life of Martha: *"Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her"* (Luke 10:38-42).

We have to learn from the mistakes of people like Martha (cf. Romans 15:4 and I Corinthians 10:1-12). We have to realize that we cannot have things in our lives that prevent us from putting the Lord first in all things (Luke 14:25-33). When you study through the Scriptures, you find that God is not at all pleased when our priorities are off (Matthew 6:33, Matthew 16:24-26, Matthew 22:37, and Colossians 3:1-4).

All of our actions start within our hearts (Matthew 12:35, Mark 7:20-23, Luke 6:45, and Luke 8:15). Knowing that your heart is the starting place for your actions allows you to know where you have to start making corrections. For God to be first in one's life, his or her heart cannot be divided.

### God Is Not Pleased With A Divided Heart

Notice what the Lord said about Israel: *"Israel is an empty vine, he bringeth forth fruit unto himself: according to the multitude of his fruit he hath increased the altars; according to the goodness of his land they have made goodly images. **Their heart is divided; now shall they be found faulty: he shall break down their altars, he shall spoil their images"*** (Hosea 10:1-2). The Lord is not pleased when He is just another option in our lives. He wants us to choose to fully follow Him or not (I Kings 18:21). He has been clear that we cannot serve two masters (Matthew 6:24 and Luke 16:13).

When the Lord addressed the middle-of-the-roaders in Laodicea, He painted a picture of disgust toward them because they were not fully dedicated to Him. Notice what He said: *"And unto*

*the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth” (Revelation 3:14-16).*

With the Lord, you are not in the middle of Him and someone or something else. You are either with Him or against Him (Matthew 12:30 and Luke 11:23). When it comes to our hearts, God expects us to keep His word and seek Him with our whole heart (Deuteronomy 4:29, Psalms 119:2, and Jeremiah 29:13). Yet, people think they can “get away” with only giving the Lord part of their attention. Many have falsely concluded that what is in one’s heart is private, even from the eyes of God.

### **Don’t Think That You Can Hide A Divided Heart From God**

Read the following Scriptures and see if you can hide what is in your heart from God: *“But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart... Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God trieth the hearts and reins... Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart... The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good... Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts... If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works... I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings... For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things... And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works” (I Samuel 16:7, Psalms 7:9, Psalms 44:21, Proverbs 15:3, Proverbs 21:2, Proverbs 24:11-12, Jeremiah 17:10, I John 3:20, and Revelation 2:23).*

We cannot hide our thoughts, actions, or our intentions from God. That is made abundantly clear in the Scriptures you just read. You also read that the Lord judges us not just by our actions, but also upon what’s in our hearts (i.e. Jeremiah 17:10). God is very fair. Our reward or our punishment for eternity is really up to us. Whether you are good or bad, based upon His terms (Matthew 7:21-23), you’ll be rewarded or punished because of YOU (Job 34:11, Proverbs 12:14, Jeremiah 32:19, John 5:28-29, and II Corinthians 5:10). Therefore, you have to do some tests on your heart and make sure it is not divided.

### **Conclusion**

No honest person can read the Scriptures in this article and conclude that they can be saved with a divided heart. Moreover, no honest person could conclude that he or she can hide that divided heart from the Judge of all men. If you are a person who has a divided heart you are very unstable when it comes to spiritual things (James 1:8). If you want Heaven as your eternal home, you’re going to have to make your heart set now and stop being indecisive when it comes to God (James 4:8-10).