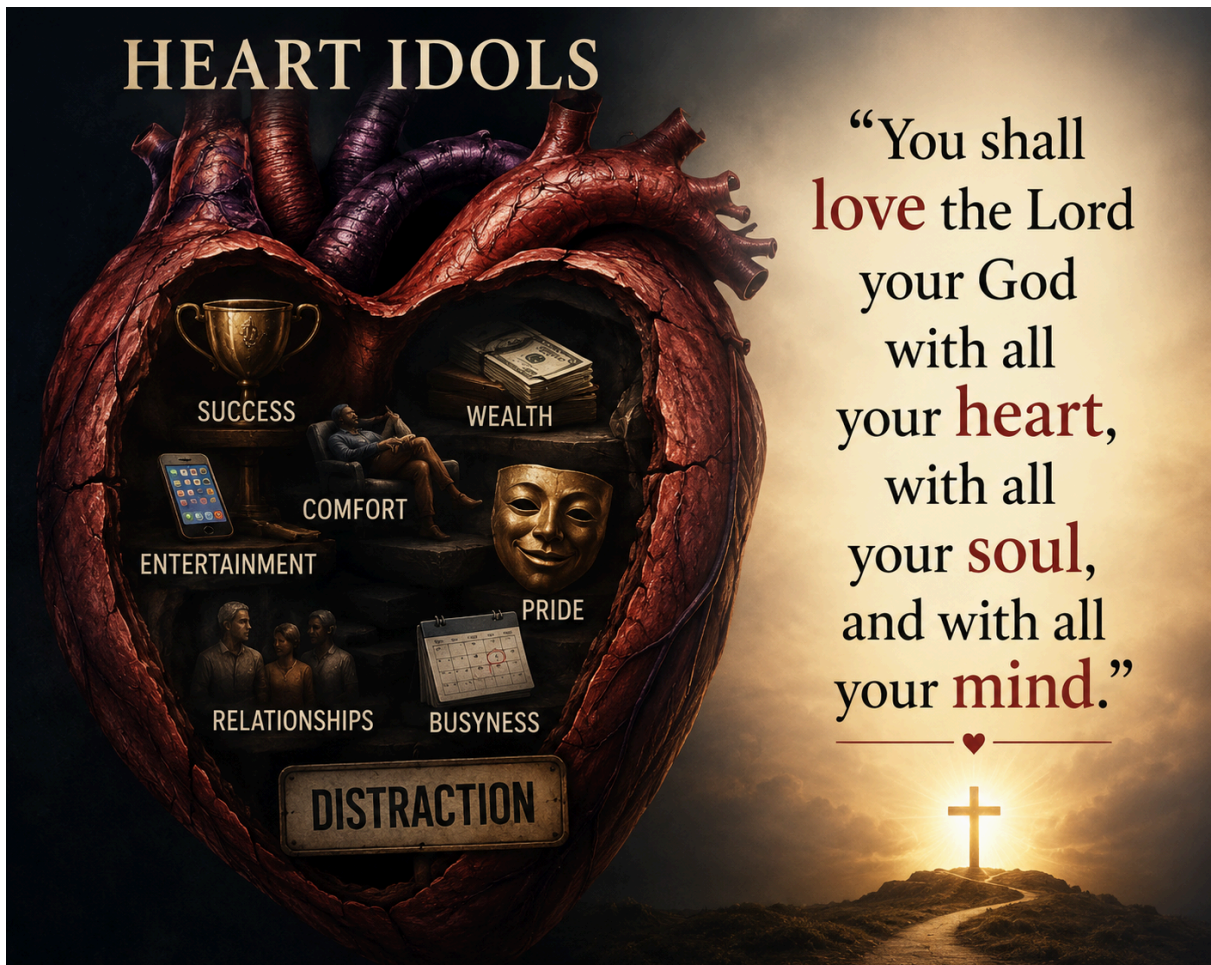


Heart Idols



God is not only concerned with outward practice, but with what quietly rules within us—those hidden loyalties, desires, and compromises we carry while still seeking His guidance. It is a reminder that God **does not just speak to people who ask questions for the sake of it**, but to hearts that are willing to be fully His. A contrite heart.

[Ezekiel 1 Now some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me. 2And the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 3“Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity. Should I let Myself be inquired of at all by them?

4“Therefore speak to them, and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Everyone of the house of Israel who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, and then comes to the prophet, I the Lord will answer him who comes, according to the multitude of his idols, 5that I may seize the house of Israel by their heart, because they are all estranged from Me by their idols.” ’

6“Therefore say to the house of Israel, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Repent, turn away from your idols, and turn your faces away from all your abominations. 7For anyone of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell in Israel, who separates himself from Me and sets up his idols in his heart and puts before him what causes him to stumble into iniquity, then comes to a prophet to inquire of him concerning Me, I the Lord will answer him by Myself. 8 I will set My face against that man and make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of My people. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.

9“And if the prophet is induced to speak anything, I the Lord have induced that prophet, and I will stretch out My hand against him and destroy him from among My people Israel. 10And they shall bear their iniquity; the punishment of the prophet shall be the same as the punishment of the one who inquired, 11 that the house of Israel may no longer stray from Me, nor be profaned anymore with all their transgressions, but that they may be My people and I may be their God.” says the Lord God.’]”

A Warning For Us Today.

The key point is that their idols were not necessarily physical statues. The idols were in their hearts. Anything that takes God's rightful place in our affections, trust, obedience, or devotion can become an idol—money, status, pleasure, family, relationships, traditions, or even the business of life, constant distractions.

God says they had also **put before themselves** "that which causes them to stumble into iniquity." In other words, they were deliberately holding on to things that led them into separation from God, they had erected an idol while at the same time seeking God's guidance.

The Lord's question is striking: **"Should I let Myself be inquired of at all by them?"** They wanted God's direction without surrendering their idols. They wanted divine guidance without repentance. They wanted God's voice while refusing God's authority.

The main point remains the same today. God desires truth in our hearts towards Him. He is not merely interested in outward worship, church attendance, or religious activity or works, so it appears outwardly we are pleasing God. He looks at our hearts towards Him.

Let's consider an example.

After my traumatic heart event some years ago, I recovered well, but a few months later I began experiencing symptoms of anxiety, fear, and heart palpitations. I went back to hospital several times for reassurance that my heart was still healthy. During this period, the Lord gently showed me that my focus had shifted. Instead of trusting Him, I had become consumed with my health and the fear of what might happen. My heart and health had begun to occupy a place that belonged to God alone.

I repented and turned my attention back to the Lord, choosing to trust Him rather than be ruled by fear. As I did, the anxiety gradually lost its grip on me.

This does not mean that health concerns are unimportant or that we should ignore genuine symptoms. God cares about our bodies and understands our fears. However, when our health, our worries, or any other concern becomes the centre of our thoughts, identity, and trust, it can become a hidden idol of the heart. We unintentionally give it a place that belongs to God alone.

The Lord calls us to trust Him through every storm, knowing that our security is ultimately found in Him and not in our circumstances.

Christ Tell Us

Matthew 6.24 “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.] In other words, we can only serve One Master.

Christ also draws our attention again to the heart, Matthew 15. 8 ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 And in vain they worship Me, **Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.**’ [Religious teaching]

10 When He had called the multitude to Himself, He said to them, “**Hear and understand:** 11 Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.” 12 Then His disciples came and said to Him, “Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?”

13 But He answered and said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. 14 Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”

15 Then Peter answered and said to Him, “Explain this parable to us.” 16 So Jesus said, “Are you also still without understanding? 17 Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? 18 But those things which proceed out of the **mouth come from the heart**, and they defile a man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

Heart Idols

Jesus teaches us and warns us not to fall into the same trap of the heart erecting “hidden, unseen idols. We have to put Him first place in all and every situation. He is our everyday saviour Matt 22.37 Jesus said to him, “**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.**’ 38 **This is the first and great commandment.**

What Action Can We Take Today?

Heart idols are serious because they can quietly draw our attention, trust, and affection away from God. The Lord is calling each of us today to examine our hearts and honestly ask whether anything has taken His rightful place.

Take some time to make a list of the things that occupy your thoughts the most. These may include stress, worry, fear, health concerns, finances, family problems, housing issues, work pressures, ambitions, or anything else that continually weighs on your heart.

Then prayerfully bring each one before the Lord. Ask yourself: "Have I been trusting in this, fearing this, or focusing on this more than I have been trusting God?" Where the Holy Spirit reveals a misplaced priority, repent and surrender it back to Him.

Remember, God is not seeking perfection but a heart that is willing to be searched, corrected, and drawn closer to Him.

Let us all do this with sincerity as we end in prayer:

Psalm 139:23–24 "Search me, O God, and know my heart;
Try me, and know my anxieties;
And see if there is any wicked way in me,
And lead me in the way everlasting."

May the Lord reveal every hidden idol, strengthen our trust in Him, and give us hearts that love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind."