

Hardening The Heart

Proverbs 28:14 says, "*Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.*" A hardened heart is one that has turned away from God. It is a willful decision and the only way it can be corrected is with a willful decision to turn back to the Lord.

A good example of a hardened heart is Pharaoh. In Exodus 5:1-2, Pharaoh began with a heart opposed to God. With each plague, Pharaoh made a choice to further harden his heart. Although the Bible says that God hardened Pharaoh's heart (Exodus 7:13; 9:12; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:8), Pharaoh was the one who decided to reject God's will. Each plague from God gave him the opportunity of softening or hardening the heart, but he turned from the opportunity.

After the children of Israel were delivered, Israel hardened her heart (1 Samuel 6:6; Psalm 95:7-11; Jeremiah 7:25-26). The Hebrew writer detailed the process (3:1-4:16). In Romans 11:7-12, Paul said that the same was true of Israel in reacting to Christ.

The solution to the hardened heart is found in Hebrews 4:12-13. The word of God is designed to make us compare ourselves in relation to truth. A similar thought is found in Acts 2:47, where when those at Pentecost were faced with the fact of their sin, they repented and obeyed, resulting in their salvation. It has been said that the same sun that softens wax, hardens clay. What will be your response to truth? Will you harden your heart? If not, contact us for further study and find out how to be saved through Christ.

Kyle Campbell