

5. Read the passage below. What is the role of the Spirit in transforming our hearts?
 Deuteronomy 30: 6 The Lord your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.
 Jeremiah 31: 33 "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people."
 Ezekiel 36: 25 "I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

6. Read Galatians 5:22-25 . What is one step you can take to live more in step with the Spirit, cooperating with his transforming work in your heart and life.
 Galatians 5: 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

SPIRIT

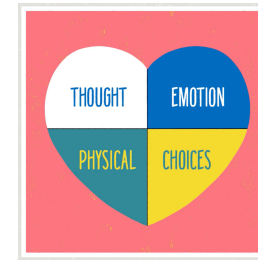
"How Can I Love God with All My Heart?"
 Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Ezekiel 36:26

God calls us to love him with all our _____, all our soul, and all our strength. But we don't. Our love for God is absent, limited, or (at best) divided.

The Bible's answer to our _____ to love God with all of our heart, soul, and strength is heart surgery, and the surgeon is the Holy Spirit.

The Heart

Where you think and make sense of the world



Where you feel emotions

Where you make choices motivated by your desires

"In the Bible, the heart is the center of all parts of human existence. As in the well-known Proverb, 'guard your heart because from it flows your whole life.'" (BibleProject)

"Every day God's people are called to devote to God their whole body and mind, their feelings and their desires, their future and their failures. This is what it means to Love the LORD your God with all of your heart." (BibleProject)

The Spirit

"You have to start on page one of the Bible where the uncreated world is depicted as this dark, chaotic place. But then above the chaos, God's Spirit is there _____ ready to bring about life and order and beauty." (BibleProject)

"The Spirit is the way the biblical authors talk about God's personal _____. The Hebrew word is Ruakh." (BibleProject)

"Just like wind (ruakh) and breath (ruakh) are invisible, God's Spirit (Ruakh) is invisible. Wind is powerful, and so God's Spirit is powerful. And just as breath keeps us alive, so God's Spirit _____ all of life." (BibleProject)

Where is God leading you with your BLESS list this week?



“God’s Ruakh gives special _____ to people for specific tasks.” (BibleProject)

“Here’s the problem as the prophets saw it. While God’s ruakh had created a really good world, humans have given in to _____. They’ve unleashed chaos into it through their injustice. A new type of disorder.” (BibleProject)

The Heart and the Spirit

Deuteronomy 30: 6 The Lord your God will circumcise your hearts and the hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.

Jeremiah 31: 33 “This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

Ezekiel 36: 25 “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”

“The prophets said the Spirit would come, just like in Genesis 1, but now to transform the human heart, to _____ people to truly love God and others.” (BibleProject)

“God’s Spirit is empowering Jesus to begin the new creation. And we see this happening when he heals people or forgives their sins. He’s creating life where there once was _____.” (BibleProject)

“Today, the Spirit is still hovering in dark places, pointing people to Jesus, transforming and empowering them so they can love God and others. And the Christian hope is that the Spirit is going to finish the job. The story of the Bible ends with a vision of a new humanity living in a new world that’s _____ with God’s love and life-giving Spirit.” (BibleProject)

The Heart, The Spirit and You

- You _____ the heart-transforming Holy Spirit when you put your faith in Christ Jesus.
- You live in confident _____ (i.e., hope) of the completely new heart you will receive in the new creation.
- You _____ with the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in your life as you await the new creation.

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week’s sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. What is a skill you wish you have wished you could master, but you discovered you couldn’t master it no matter how much you tried because of some built-in limitations? (No need to go deep on this one. Keep it light.)
3. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-5. What does it mean to love God with all your heart (Don’t forget to review the heart graphic and BibleProject highlights in the sermon outline. If you want to go deeper, watch the BibleProject video on “Lev/Heart” in the “Shema Series.”)
4. Read Ezekiel 37:1-14. The Hebrew word for “Spirit” (Ruakh) is also the word for wind and breath in Hebrew. What they all have in common is invisible energy. These three meanings come together in interesting ways in Ezekiel 37. How do the “breath” (ruahk) and “wind” (ruakh) and God’s Spirit (Ruakh) interact in this passage.