

**Skegness Community Church - Weekly Bible Study 2025**  
**52 passages of Scripture that every believer should know**

**Week 26 - THE HEART OF THE MATTER**

**1 Samuel 16:7**

**“The Lord does not look at the things a man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”**

When the prophet Samuel went to Bethlehem to anoint the future king of Israel, he sought out a son of Jesse. The proud father lined up his six strong and strapping, hardened and handsome sons before the prophet. They were the personification of the best the flesh had to offer. However, Samuel was not impressed. He inquired if there was not another son. Indeed there was. He was a “ruddy” shepherd boy named David who was out tending his father’s sheep. The rest is history, and Samuel reminded us that “man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” In the early chapters of Genesis, we see three clues that reveal to us what God’s Word really means when it refers to the heart.

**THE HEART IS OUR INTELLECT**

***“The Lord saw how great man’s wickedness on earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil all the time.” (Genesis 6:5)***

This is the first use of the word *heart* in the Bible. Here, it is associated with the thought process, the intellect. When the Bible speaks of the hearts, it is not referring to the actual physical organ that pumps blood throughout our circulatory system, but to the thoughts that help shape our being. The heart is our intellect, the thinking part of our being. When we read that the Lord looks upon our heart, we understand that He is watching how we think, whether our thoughts are pure or not. Yes while man can only observe our outward appearance, the Lord has the capacity to look into our hearts, to know what we really think.

**THE HEART IS OUR EMOTIONS**

***“(The Lord) was grieved - and His heart was filled with pain.” (Genesis 6:6)***

When the Lord saw the rebellion of man, it grieved Him in His heart. The heart is the seat of our emotions. It is not simply our intellect: it involves our feelings as well. How many thousands of love songs have been written about the heart? When the good Samaritan saw the beaten man on the road to Jericho, the Bible reveals that he had compassion; his heart went out to him. The night before the crucifixion, with His disciples in the garden of Gethsemane, the Lord revealed that “My soul (heart) is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death” (Matthew 26:38). Compassion, grief, sorrow, and even happiness are all emotions that emanate from the heart. When the Scriptures speak of the heart, they are speaking to us of our intellect and our emotions.

**THE HEART IS THE EXERCISE OF OUR WILL**

***“Then the Lord said in His heart, ‘I will’” (Genesis 8:21)***

This third appearance of the word *heart* refers to the essence of our own will, our volition. The prodigal son was out in the far country, a long way from home, when his heart was changed. He changed his mind. Or, as the Scripture says, “he came to his senses” (Luke 15:17). Once this happened, he changed his volition. He said, “I will set out and go back to my father” (v18). Then he got up and turned his heart - his intellect, his emotion, his volition - towards home. It is God Himself, at our conversion, who takes that old heart of ours and gives us one that is brand-new. For He said, “I will give them a heart to know Me, that I am the Lord. They will be My people and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with all their heart” (Jeremiah 24:7).

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As you memorise this verse, meditate on the truth that, while man may look on the outward appearance, God is looking upon our hearts. He is mindful of our thoughts, our emotions, and our will. Today is a good time to “return to the Lord with all your hearts” (1 Samuel 7:3).

**And that is the real heart of the matter.**