

Teaching: “hardness of heart, what is it”

That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke, Lord, who has believed our report? and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, He has blinded their eyes, and **hardened their heart**; that they should not see with *their* eyes, nor understand with *their* heart, and be converted, and I should heal them , **John 12:38-40**.

This prophecy is taken from **Isaiah 53:1**.

Hardness of heart applies to all of us, conditions can be:

- ♦ Believing that the Lord is limited in some way, (His arm is shortened), ie He must work through the worlds physical laws, (This mindset s very common in today’s society).
- ♦ Not believing (unbelief) in, not being open to or expecting the supernatural, ie: Jesus' disciples not regarding the feeding of the multitudes, **Mark 16:14, Mark 6:49-52**
- ♦ Being in fear of the supernatural, of the unknown. ie: To not be in fear, we need to keep our mind stayed on Him, **Isaiah 26:3**.
- ♦ Being cruel to others, holding them in bondage, ie: The Egyptian Pharaoh would not let the people go but rather forced them to be slaves, **Exodus chapters 7-14**.
- ♦ Not wanting the best for others or exulting yourself above you brothers, ie: Jesus healing the woman on the Sabbath day and the Pharisees objected, **Mark 3:5**.

We usually think of Pharaoh in Egypt as having a hard heart. But who really hardened Pharaoh's heart? Of the ten plagues it is recorded, God hardened his heart 3 times, Pharaoh hardened his heart 4 times and 3 times scripture just says Pharaoh's heart was hardened.

Conclusion:

Hardness of heart is our choice, God simply grants us our own hearts desire, **Psalms 21:2**.

Scriptures on hardness

- ♦ When they saw Him walking on the sea, they supposed it to be a spirit, and cried out: And He came to them in the ship and they were sore amazed, For they considered not *the miracle* of the loaves: for their heart was hardened, **Mark 6:49-52**.
- ♦ And they reasoned among themselves, saying, *It is* because we have no bread. When Jesus knew *it*, He said to them, **Why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened?** **Mark 8:16-17**.
- ♦ Jesus said to the Pharisees: ,”**Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so,**” **Matthew 19:8, Mark 10:5**.
- ♦ Jesus healing a man on the Sabbath asked the Pharisees: **“Is it lawful to do good on the sabbath days, or to do evil? to save life, or to kill?** But they held their peace. And He looked on them with anger, being grieved for the _____ of their hearts, And He healed the man, **Mark 3:5**.
- ♦ Jesus appeared to the 11 disciples as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen Him after He was risen, **Mark 16:14**.