

Moments of Inspiration

Inside Out – A Heart Revealed by Iona Simmonds

Proverbs 14:14–17

14 *The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.* 15 *The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.* 16 *A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.* 17 *He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated.*

According to the Bible the heart is the center, not only of spiritual activity, but of all the operations of human life. It is thought to be a sort of "control center" from which all of our decisions are made. We are told we are to "*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life*" (Proverbs 4:23).

Backsliding begins inwardly; it is your heart that first begins to slowly slip away from the Lord, His word, His holiness, and your previous hatred of sin. Such a heart becomes filled with one's own desires and shows itself in the life and conversation of the individual. This individual makes foolish mistakes in a fit of anger. His ways are evil and thus he is despised.

A good man is a man whose heart is right with the Lord; one whose tongue and actions please God. Wise men know they are righteous. They go forward boldly, knowing they have a pure heart which God will reward. Man looks at the outward appearance but

God looks at the heart. Beware (Rev 3:14-16)! The judgments and blessings of God are just and proportionate to the state of your heart.

Application: How is your heart? Hot, cold, or lukewarm? Are your desires aligned with what brings God pleasure? If not, ask God to examine your heart and bring it into conformity with His Holiness.