



# THE HEART OF THE MATTER IS THE MATTER OF THE HEART

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2026: OUR YEAR OF FRUITFUL LABOUR | 2 Chronicles 15: 7

- The success and outcome of every diligent effort flow from how well we guard our hearts. The heart is the decisive factor in whether our labour yields the fruit God has promised (**Proverbs 4:14-27**).
- If we fail to guard our hearts diligently, we risk repeating the tragedy of King Asa, who began well with God but ended in spiritual decline. Scripture warns that a strong start does not guarantee a faithful finish (**2 Chronicles 16:7-12, Proverbs 4:23**).
- The tragedy of King Asa and others in Scripture who began well but ended poorly can be traced to the condition of their hearts and the direction their hearts turned at critical moments in their journey (**2 Chronicles 15:1-18, Jeremiah 17:9, 1 Kings 11:1-13**).
- When you drift from God's presence, you expose yourself to the enemy's oppression. Satan gains no access to our lives except through the ground we willingly give him (**Ephesians 4:25-30, James 4:7, Colossians 1:13-20**).
- Scripture affirms that the human heart is profoundly deceitful and inclined toward wickedness (**Genesis 8:21, NKJV, Jeremiah 17:9, NLT**).
- We compare ourselves with others to excuse our own sin, judging theirs as worse so we can feel justified. Scripture exposes this as self-deception rooted in the same corrupted heart (**Mark 7:20-23, Romans 1:21-32, TPT**).
- The core problem of Israel was the heart, constantly straying from God and bent toward evil. Their repeated failure was not circumstantial, but internal (**Psalms 95:10, Jeremiah 17:9, Ezekiel 33:31**).
- Every human heart has a propensity towards evil, but in Christ there is both promise and provision for a new heart, one empowered by grace to live above sin (**Ezekiel 36:25-27, Ephesians 2:1-5**).

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- The difference between believers and unbelievers is the Spirit of God, who restrains us from sin and convicts us when we fall. Yield to His conviction, and you thrive; resist, and He may withdraw, leaving you to your own ways (**John 16:8, Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20**).
- When you overestimate yourself, you place your value above God's word. Nothing done in secret remains hidden; all will be revealed in time (**Luke 12:2-3, Romans 12:3, Ecclesiastes 12:14**).
- By God's grace alone, we are empowered to live a life that pleases Him. His grace found us, for apart from it, we are nothing (**Ephesians 2:1-5, Titus 2:11-12, 1 Corinthians 15:10**).
- God has fulfilled His promise by forgiving our sins, cleansing us, and giving us a new heart through His Spirit. It is our duty to guard and preserve this gift (**Ezekiel 36:26-27, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Proverbs 4:23**).
- Intimacy with God is the foundation and source of every fruitful labour, sustaining all human effort like a root sustains a branch. Therefore, intimacy must take priority over service (**John 15:4-5, Matthew 6:33, Psalm 1:1-3**).
- People will offend you, but without a deep relationship with God, offences can push you away from His presence. Guard your heart and remain rooted in Him (**Psalm 1:1-3, Ephesians 4:26-27, Matthew 5:44**).



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in 2026 and beyond must be divinely inspired, flowing from intimacy with God (**John 15:4-5, Proverbs 16:3, Colossians 3:23-24**).

- God has given us everything we need for life and godliness. We must embrace His promises, apply them, and yield to His Spirit to stay steadfast and avoid turning from Him (**2 Peter 1:3-4, Philippians 2:13, Galatians 5:16**).



### PRAYER POINTS

1. Father, thank You for Your abundant mercy that restores us whenever we stray. Help us never to take it for granted (**Psalms 103:8-12, Lamentations 3:22-23**).
2. Lord, help us grasp the value and cost of Your sacrifice on the cross, understanding the weight of Your love and redemption (**1 Peter 1:18-19, Romans 5:8**).
3. Father, let intimacy with You come before all service. May our connection with You guide every action and decision (**John 15:4-5, Matthew 6:33**).
4. Lord, grant us grace to embody Your values and Spirit faithfully, transferring them to others without compromise or mixture (**Philippians 2:5-11, 2 Corinthians 3:18**).
5. Help us embrace every promise You have given for life and godliness, applying them daily and yielding to Your Spirit at all times (**2 Peter 1:3-4, Galatians 5:16, Colossians 3:16-17**).
6. May our hearts remain alert and sensitive to Your instructions and the nudges of Your Spirit in every moment (**Romans 8:14, Isaiah 30:21**).
7. Father, help us keep our hearts with diligence, that we may fulfil the purpose You have ordained for our lives in 2026 and beyond (**Proverbs 4:23, Jeremiah 29:11, Ephesians 2:10**).