

My Head vs. My Heart: Where I live now determines my eternal destiny

Ro 8:6 (Written to Christians) **To be carnally minded** (naturally minded or head-ruled) **is death** (to God)

If I have believed what God did for me in Christ on the cross, reconciling me to Himself, no longer counting all my past sins (self-will) against me, and have been born again, then this is how and where it all began: my old, sinful, stubborn heart of stone was taken away, and God gave me an obedient, God-willed heart that is no longer self-willed but wants to do what He wants. He took away my heart of stone and gave me a tender one that is now able to hear, believe, know and obey God:

Ez 36:26a **I'll give you a new heart, put a new spirit in you...** MSGE

Ez 36:26b **I will take away your stubborn heart of stone and give you an obedient heart.** TEV

Jer 24:7 **I will give them a heart to know me...** NIV Heb 3:8 **...do not harden your hearts...**

Almost all of us found out then that a war was on between our new God-willed heart and our old sin-prone flesh or human nature, primarily our brain. Although I received a new nature in my heart, with a renewed conscience, my human nature and its head remained exactly the same. The truth is, if I do not learn to live in my new God-willed heart and know what that means I will revert to living in my head or carnal mind where self-will resides and my heart will become stone-like again, possibly for eternity. So,

What really is my head and what does it mean to live in my head?

First, my head is not the mind of Christ. It is the mind of my flesh or human nature, my carnal (natural) mind, intellect or brain. It was given to me to take in information received from my five physical senses of taste, touch, hearing, smell and sight, and then process that information while interacting with the visible world we physically live in. It, like the rest of my human nature, which cannot inherit the kingdom of God, is poisoned with Satan's pride of refusing to be submitted to and dependent on God, received from our first parents when they believed his words over God's. Being corrupt, it cannot be transformed to be more like Christ. Its nature is unchangeably evil, it is God's enemy, and is not submitted to God's rule. It is hostile to God and cannot please God. Although it can see the existence of God by the miraculous evidence He has left us in nature and the skies, because it is finite, it cannot know God who is infinite nor know the things of God.

1 Co 2:14 **The natural man** (intellect) **cannot receive** (believe) **the things of the Spirit of God...nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned** (only received by revelation to the heart).

I am living in my head (just like I did before I was born again) if I have returned to going my own way, taking my decisions based on what I receive from my senses and reasoning with my brain or what I just flat-out want to do myself without asking God what His will is. I try to probe and mentally understand the Bible's words with the intelligence of my brain instead of by faith with God's power denying myself, and not leaning into my own human understanding. In short, my want-to's (my will) are governed and controlled by the human part of me instead of by my heart, in turn under the control of God's Spirit. I mainly think whatever thoughts I want to. If I live in my head, I am dead to God, risking my eternity.

Ro 8:7 **...a person becomes an enemy of God when he is controlled by his human nature...** TEV

Ro 8:6 **...the mind of the flesh** (sense and reason without the Holy Spirit) **is death** (to God)... AMP

What and where exactly is my heart?

Pr 20:27 **The spirit of a man is the lamp of the Lord, searching all...his heart** (KJV - belly).

Philem 20 **Yes, brother** (sister) **...refresh my heart** (KJV - bowels) **in the Lord.**

My heart is also known as my spirit, seen in multiple verses of the Bible. It is the real me, the invisible, immortal part of me God put in my body while I was a little baby still in the womb. It is the place where God illuminates me with His living words which are Light, and so strengthens me with more of His divine nature. In several places in the Bible, including the verse above, "heart" is also translated "belly"; my heart or spirit is located in the vicinity of my lower abdomen or gut. The heart is designed exclusively to see and communicate with God, fellowship with Him, and know Him by revelation (His Spirit revealing His words to my spirit, not my head). My heart is what God calls a cistern or well, intended to receive an increasing flow of and be full of God's living words and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, from which others can draw living water. It is God's dwelling place, His field, His throne. His kingdom is in and rules in the hearts of true Christians who are also living there. He dwells with the humble and contrite.

God only looks on the heart, not our outward appearance or the intelligence of our brains. I can only hear His voice and believe with my heart, not my head, and I can only know God with my heart and in my heart. I can only speak alive, anointed words from my heart. God only shows Himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are fully His. I can only receive more of God and be changed into His likeness in my heart. I can only love others from a pure heart. Only those who allow Him to establish their hearts blameless in holiness will be ready to meet Him when He comes back for His saints and only they will enjoy eternity with Him. Is the condition of my heart and where my will is important to God? Extremely.

God shows us the importance of living in and having tender hearts by contrasting two types of people:

First, on the good side:

2 Ki 22:19 ...**your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself** (you surrendered your will to God)

1 Pet 3:4 ...**the hidden person of the heart...a meek and humble spirit, which is of inestimable value in God's sight.**

Second, on the wicked side:

Ezek 28:17 (Satan) ...**your heart was lifted up...** Ex 8:15 ...**he hardened his heart...**

Rom 2:5 ...**because of your stubbornness** (hardness - NKJV) **and unrepentant heart...** NASB

How do I stop being head-ruled, living in my head and start being heart-ruled, living in my heart or spirit?

- Humble myself and agree with God: I see my need to be heart-ruled and no longer head-ruled:
Eph 2:3 ...**we all once conducted ourselves in the...flesh, fulfilling the desires of...the mind...**
Eph 4:17 ...**no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind** (brain)...
- Receive the Holy Spirit and let Him fill and control me (this is the primary key to living in my heart):
Ro 8:9 **But you are not in the flesh** (head) **but in the spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God lives in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.** NKJV/TEV
- Daily receive more of God's living words in my heart, letting Him keep my heart soft, free from sin:
Prov 2:1 **My son** (My daughter) ...**receive My words, and treasure my commands within you...**
- Guard my heart from the intrusion of wicked thoughts, either directly or in the form of wrong words:
Prov 4:23 ...**guard your heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life** (for it determines the course of your life. NLT). AMP

Do I have a stony heart, again living in my head, or a tender heart toward God, living there right now?