

# **Activate Series**

## **Part 1**

### **Soft Heart**

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**"Scripture quotations taken from the Amplified Bible."**  
[www.Lockman.org](http://www.Lockman.org).

Today we are going to receive something brand new from the Lord.

The "Active Series" has been designed to provide the Christian with some of the factors to bring their walk with God to a better place. The word activate has the idea of becoming active in our Christianity.

Stand: Join hands across the auditorium.

Father speak to us, change us, we look to you as the great master.

**Question: Are you backslidden?**

When a believer has become cold and hard it is a serious situation.

Hard hearted, slipped in his commitment to Christ and is not as sensitive in his life to Christ.

Becoming cold can happen very easily.

When our hearts become hard and stony, only we can take steps to remedy this.

If we do not repent and come back, it will lead us from one sin to another until our behavior becomes heinous.

Harden not your heart. ( This is mentioned 28 Times in the Bible)

### **Hebrews 3:8 also 15**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

**8** Do not harden your hearts, as [happened] in the rebellion [of Israel] and their provocation and embitterment [of Me] in the day of testing in the wilderness,

Here seeing all the wonderful miracles the deliverance the outstanding

God cannot work with you when you harden your heart. God cannot function in the body of believers when the heart is hardened.

God's GLORY cannot fall when the hearts are hard.

### **Demonstrate a hammer on a large STONE**

**Hit the stone hard with the hammer so all can hear it is hard.**

Bible likens this to a hard heart.

Like a stone.

Pour some popcorn seed on to the stone.

Try to get the seed into the stone.

Hammer the seed into the stone.

Demonstrate that seed bounces off a heard stone and when it is hammered it destroys the seed.

### **Give everyone in the room a stone**

Squeeze it, feel it, close your eyes, When God touches my heart what pulse does he feel? Am I like the Children of israel? Is my heart stony and unresponsive.

James 4:8

### **Hosea 10:12**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

**12** Sow for yourselves according to righteousness (uprightness and right standing with God); reap according to mercy and loving-kindness. Break up your uncultivated ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, to inquire for and of Him, and to require His favor, till He

comes and teaches you righteousness and rains His righteous gift of salvation upon you.

### Clues to your heart becoming hard.

- 1) If you do not hunger and thirst for God, is it because my heart has become hard.
- 2) If you have no desire to do this then its likely your condition is especially serious.
- 3) Displeasing behavior, we have to break up the heart.
- 4) What once grieved a believers heart no longer bothers him.

### How to soften your heart

- 1) To soften your heart, you have to receive his Spirit. We have to be sensitive to his voice and listen to the Holy Spirit.
- 2) Conform to His word, break up the hard ground of our heart.

Condition of the heart is most serious thing in the world.

Nothing more important than the condition of our heart.

### **Proverbs 4:23**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

**23** Keep and guard your heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life.

We can make excuses or we can bow before his holiness and repent.

An insensitive heart makes excuses. It says, "I don't want to deal with the condition of my heart".

A Sensitive heart says, "Show me, show me how I can please you".

### **Proverbs 21:2**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

**2** Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs and tries the hearts.

What is the truth about your heart today?

## **3 Indicators to backsliding.**

**1) Lost sensitivity to sin and things that once deeply disturbed your spirit.**

**James 4:4**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

4 You [are like] unfaithful wives [having illicit love affairs with the world and breaking your marriage vow to God]! Do you not know that being the world's friend is being God's enemy? So whoever chooses to be a friend (GK Bulumai - counsels himself to just dabble just a little bit) of the world takes his stand as an enemy of God.

Some words that describe a hard heart:

- 1) Unthankful
- 2) Calloused
- 3) hard
- 4) Compromise
- 5) Spiritual adultery

Nothing should take the place that belongs to God.

What are some of the things that don't bother you anymore?

Watching movies with swearing and sex.

Secretly watch porn.

Unrighteous Magazines.

Social drinking.

Tolerate old habits.

Negative conversations.

Foul language. Swearing or cussing.

Gossip.

Dirty jokes.

Critical attitude, toward leaders in church and government.

## **2) When it doesn't bother you any more, your heart is becoming hard.**

This grieves the Holy Spirit.

### **Ephesians 4:23**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

**23** And be constantly renewed in the spirit of your mind [having a fresh mental and spiritual attitude],

**24** And put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God's image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness.

**25** Therefore, rejecting all falsity and being done now with it, let everyone express the truth with his neighbor, for we are all parts of one body and members one of another.

**26** When angry, do not sin; do not ever let your wrath (your exasperation, your fury or indignation) last until the sun goes down.

**27** Leave no [such] room or foothold for the devil [give no opportunity to him].

**28** Let the thief steal no more, but rather let him be industrious, making an honest living with his own hands, so that he may be able to give to those in need.

**29** Let no foul or polluting language, nor evil word nor unwholesome or worthless talk [ever] come out of your mouth, but only such [speech] as is good and beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need and the occasion, that it may be a blessing and give grace (God's favor) to those who hear it.

**30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God [do not offend or vex or sadden Him], by Whom you were sealed (marked, branded as God's own, secured) for the day of redemption (of final deliverance through Christ from evil and the consequences of sin).

**31** Let all bitterness and indignation and wrath (passion, rage, bad temper) and resentment (anger, animosity) and quarreling (brawling, clamor, contention) and slander (evil-speaking, abusive or blasphemous language) be banished from you, with all malice (spite, ill will, or baseness of any kind).

**32** And become useful and helpful and kind to one another, tenderhearted (compassionate, understanding, loving-hearted), forgiving one another [readily and freely], as God in Christ forgave you.

### **3) Regarding iniquity or sin in my heart.**

You can not win this game of sin.

#### **Psalm 66:18**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

**18** If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me;

## **True repentance**

### **Psalm 38:18**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

**18** For I do confess my guilt and iniquity; I am filled with sorrow for my sin.

How long has it been that you have truly wept before the Lord.

We all need to be set free from wrongful emotions that held you separate from the Lord.

We need to open up our heart to the Lord to allow our heart to beat like his.

### **Psalm 51:17**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

**17** My sacrifice [the sacrifice acceptable] to God is a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart [broken down with sorrow for sin and humbly and thoroughly penitent], such, O God, You will not despise.

Some people cry easy so tears are not a sign of a contrite heart.

Genuine contrition means to be repentant.

Does God feel your heart today, is it like a stone.

### **3) No longer reads the Word and is prayerless.**

#### **Psalm 119:10-11**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

**10** With my whole heart have I sought You, inquiring for and of You and yearning for You; Oh, let me not wander or step aside [either in ignorance or willfully] from Your commandments.

**11** Your word have I laid up in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

MAKE A STAND! PUT A STANDARD ON YOUR LIFE THAT SAYS: "NO BIBLE, NO FOOD", OR NO SPIRITUAL FOOD, NO PHYSICAL FOOD. Do not eat until you have read the Bible.

Sounds like legalism to me!!! Thats just what christians want today, no discipline to spend time with God. This should not be so.

#### **Psalm 5:3**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

**3**In the morning You hear my voice, O Lord; in the morning I prepare [a prayer, a sacrifice] for You and watch and wait [for You to speak to my heart].

**Quote: A.W. TOZER. A sinning man stops praying and a praying man stops sinning.**

If prayer or reading the Word is not your priority then everything else has become your priority.

What if people ate physical food the way they ate spiritual food? What would the world look like?

Most believers are starving. They live their own way, they have become starved of God.

Pray with everyone!

Close with Altar Call.

### **Additional information.** **Repentance.**

In our lives there are basically two evils that everyone has dabbled in at one time or another. All of sin, iniquity and transgression can be attributed these two things.

If we can evaluate our behavior at all times and do right, we will not fail in our walk of righteousness.

These two things are:

- 1) Forsaking the way that is good.
- 2) Treading forbidden paths.

Both of these evils are found in one portion of scripture in the Word. Psalm 2:11-12.

Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry and ye perish from the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him.

The issue of fear should be addressed here. Most people do not fear God as is evidenced by the behaviors the world portrays.

The world needs to realize that there is a God who will not and cannot tolerate sin even in it's fractional form.

If they understood that His intolerance could destroy them eternally, they would re-think their behaviors.

Examining the following scriptures will give further insight to our behavior of fearing God.

Ecclesiastes 12:13. Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring into judgement, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Deuteronomy 10:12 And now, O Israel, what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul. (Deuteronomy 13:4, Joshua 4:24)

Joshua 24: 14 "Now fear the Lord and serve Him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshipped beyond the river and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. (1 Chronicles 16:30, 2 Chronicles 19:7, Proverbs 3:7)

Isaiah 8:13 The Lord Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy, He is the one you are to fear, he is the one you are to dread.

Matthew 10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather be afraid of the one who can destroy both body and soul in hell. (Luke 23:40, Romans 11:20)

1 Peter 1:17 Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers in reverent fear.

1 Peter 2:17 Show proper respect to everyone; love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the King. (Revelation 14:7)

## **Back to repentance.**

Repentance is giving up my thoughts, feelings and ways for God's thoughts, feelings and ways.

Webster's defines repentance as:

To feel so contrite and penitent so as to change one's way.

The Greek meaning of the word is as follows:

To change one's mind

The Hebrew meaning of the word is as follows:

To turn, to return, or to turn back.

Righteousness gives one a reason to not have to repent.

Taking the Amplified Bible and expounding every scripture that has to do with repentance including all the "amplified" words we see the following statements:

Cut to the heart. Think differently. Change your mind. Regretting your sins and changing your

conduct. Change your mind for the better. Amend your ways with abhorrence for your past sins, change your views and purpose to accept the will of God in your inner selves instead of rejecting it. To feel remorse and self reproach for ones` sins against God. To be contrite. Sorry. To want to change direction.

The proof of authentic repentance requires:  
a) Restitution. (Luke 3: 8-14, Luke 19:1-9)

Luke 3:8-14

8. Bear fruits that are deserving and consistent with [your] repentance [that is, conduct worthy of a heart changed, a heart abhorring sin]. And do not begin to say to yourselves, We have Abraham as our father; for I tell you that God is able from these stones to raise up descendants for Abraham.
9. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees, so that every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and cast into the fire.
10. And the multitudes asked him, Then what shall we do?
11. And he replied to them, He who has two tunics (undergarments), let him share with him who has none; and he who has food let him do it the same way.

12. Even the tax collectors came to be baptized, and they said to him, Teacher, what shall we do?
13. And he said to them , Exact and collect no more than the fixed amount appointed to you.
14. Those serving as soldiers also asked him, And we, what shall we do? And he replied to them, Never demand or enforce by terrifying people or by accusing wrongfully, and always be satisfied with your rations (supplies) and with your allowance (wages).

#### Luke 19:1-9

1. And Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it.
2. And there was a man called Zacchaeus, a chief tax collector, and [he was] rich.
3. And he was trying to see Jesus, which One He was, but he could not on account of the crowd, because he was small in stature.
4. So he ran on ahead and climbed up in a sycamore tree, in order to see Him, for He was about to pass that way.
5. And when Jesus reached the place, He looked up and said to him, Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.
6. So he hurried and came down, and he received and welcomed him joyfully.
7. And when the people saw it, they all muttered among themselves and indignantly complained,

He has gone in to be the guest of and lodge with a man who is devoted to sin and preeminently a sinner.

8. So then Zacchaeus stood up and solemnly declared to the Lord, Lord, The half of my goods I [now] give [by way of restoration] to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone out of anything, I [now} restore four times as much.

9. And Jesus said to him, Today is [Messianic and spiritual] salvation come to [all the members of] this household, since Zacchaeus too is a [real spiritual] son of Abraham.

How to stay on track with God

- b) Bible reading.
- c) Meditation on God's word.
- d) Scripture memorization.
- e) Praying the scriptures.
- f) Praise to the King.
- g) Worship of the King.
- h) Acts of humility.
- i) Correction of misbehavior. This means that we have to apply the Word of God to our lives.

### **Are you having a quiet time?**

Our daily focus, the all consuming thought of our every conscious moment needs to be on God.

If we look at the aspect of "Girl friend", "Boy friend", enormous amounts of time are consumed thinking about the other person. Our infatuation with the other person is overwhelming and consuming. This is how it should be with God.

His law is something that we should be thinking about and meditating on all the time. Our love for Him should be continuous.

It should not stop throughout the day.

Our every waking and sleeping moment needs to be on God and our love for Him.

Joshua 1:8 Do not let this book of the law depart from out of your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Psalms 61:8 Then will I ever sing praise to your name and fulfill my vows day after day.

Proverbs 8:34 Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway.

Ephesians 6:18 And pray in the spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

With this in mind, keep alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18 Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.