

Knowing our Hearts
John 13:36-38
March 8, 2026

Do you know your own heart? Do you receive hard truth?

Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9; John 2:23-25.

Jesus knew the weakness in the heart of man. (Psalm 103:14)

Does the Bible reveal a low view of human nature? (Psalm 8:4-6)

Our Hearts Want to Follow Jesus, v. 36

The approaching departure of Jesus troubled them.

Where was Jesus going?

Why could Peter not follow him?

You think the Christian life is hard? Try living it without the Holy Spirit!

We Do Not Know Our Own Hearts v. 37

Look at Peter's great boast! I will lay down my life for you! (Matthew 26:33, 35)

What is in your heart? What is your central conviction?

God made the human heart to be His dwelling place; His home.

Jesus Knows Our Hearts v. 38

How does Jesus capture our hearts?

Jesus predicts Peter's future.

Jesus knows the future; Jesus ordains it.

If we knew our hearts, we would not trust them. We would **entrust** them to Jesus.

Meditation

Why We Prefer a God of Our Own Making

Before we can understand renewal, we must ask an uncomfortable question: why do so many people prefer a god of their own design rather than presenting their bodies and souls to their heavenly Father? To worship a self-made image of God is easier than surrender. A god we define does not confront us, correct us, or call us to repentance. He approves what we already love. He affirms what we already desire. He demands little and blesses much at least in our imagination. But the true and living God calls us to present ourselves wholly to Him mind, body, will, and affection. That kind of surrender feels threatening to the old nature. It exposes idols we protect and ambitions we excuse.

Scripture teaches that there is a "god of this world" who blinds minds and distorts desires. Bondage to sin rarely feels like bondage at first. It feels like autonomy. It feels like freedom. It promises approval and self-righteousness. Yet its path quietly robs God of glory and robs us of peace. When we cling to a false image of God, we are not simply mistaken, we are resisting the One who loves us most. We do not see that sin is not merely rule-breaking but allegiance. The enemy does not have our best interest at heart. He is content to let us appear religious, moral, or successful so long as we do not truly surrender to the Father.

The tragedy is not that God withholds Himself. The tragedy is that we prefer the illusion of control over the beauty of communion. The call of the gospel is not merely to adjust our behavior, but to change our allegiance. Instead of offering selective obedience to a god of our imagination, we are invited to present our bodies as a living sacrifice to the true and living God, holy and acceptable, which is our reasonable service. This surrender is not loss but liberation. As we refuse to be conformed to the patterns of this world and allow our minds to be renewed, we begin to discern what is good, acceptable, and perfect in His will. What once felt like restriction becomes freedom. What once felt like surrender becomes restoration.

- Anonymous