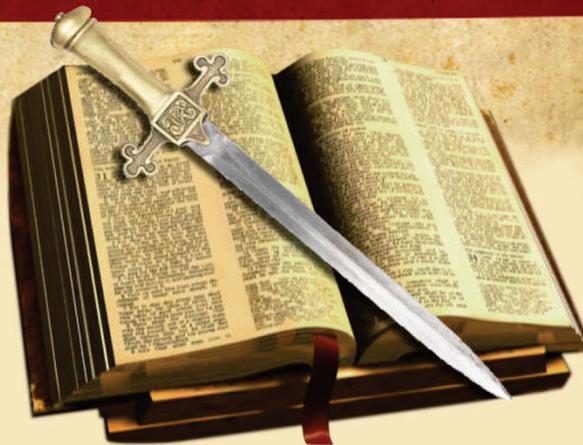


# Setting Your Heart on the Kingdom



## JEREMIAH

### *Need Wisdom? Don't Follow Your Heart!*

*(The Principle of Fallen Nature and Wise Choices)*

Jeremiah 17:9-10

*“Are you confused about a decision? Do you need wisdom when you don't know what to do? Well, just follow your heart and everything will be Okay.”* Have you ever heard anyone say this before? Don't believe it! It's a lie from Hell itself! Cain followed his **Jealous Heart**...and it produced the first murderer in the human race. Lamech obeyed his **Covetous Heart**...and men became polygamists. When the people of Sodom and Gomorrah did what their **Lewd Hearts** desired...sexual perversion entered the world. King Saul's **Heart was Filled with Despair**...and he died disgracefully at his own hand. A **Lustful Heart** drove even the great King David to adultery and murder. And in Jeremiah's day, the nation of Judah followed their **Idoltrous Hearts**...and that whole generation died in foreign exile. No, my friend, don't follow your heart. *For even the Lord Himself has said, “The heart is more deceitful than all else and desperately sick!”*

*The heart represents the inner self...the center of human appetites, emotions and passions.* Created with freedom of choice, Adam and Eve held the option of directing their hearts either toward or away from the purposes of God. *But when sin corrupted their souls, the human race lost their ability to choose God.* Enslaved to selfishness and sin, they constantly set their hearts on evil (*Gen. 6:5*). Even after redemption, the battle isn't over (*Rom. 7:14-24*). Though a person's spirit is born again, his soul is not! Forever the fallen nature of mankind must be dominated.

*How then can you make wise decisions when faced with difficult dilemmas? The answer is surprisingly simple...believe God more than your heart!* Study God's character and learn how Jesus dealt with life's issues. Read God's Word and spend time in His presence. His truth and wisdom will become your guide (*Hosea 14:9*). Train your senses to think as His thinks, knowing the end of a matter (*Heb. 5:14*). Seek godly counsel from seasoned eldership (*Heb. 13:17*). Don't let your heart operate from the fallen nature. It always leads you astray! It will even condemn you after you've been forgiven (*1 John 3:19-21*)! *Trust your heart ONLY when it reflects the true character and ways of God.*

*Next: The Kingdom of God in Ezekiel...In Your Darkest Hour!*

