

Imagine What God Can Do...to Change a Heart

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Exodus 7:14-12:32

Heart Monitor #1: When God changes our hearts He gives us a new perception of the world.

So Pharaoh's heart remained hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said. Pharaoh turned and went into house, and he did not take even this to his heart. –Exodus 7:22b-23 (ESV)

Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said. –Exodus 8:19 (ESV)

Heart Monitor #2: When God changes our hearts He gives us a new realization of the source of power.

Then Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God within the land." –Exodus 8:25 (ESV)

So Pharaoh said, "I will let you go to sacrifice to the Lord your God in the wilderness; only you must not go very far away. Plead for me." –Exodus 8:28 (ESV)

But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that my name may be proclaimed in all the earth. You are still exalting yourself against my people and will not let them go. –Exodus 9:16-17 (ESV)

Heart Monitor #3: When God changes our hearts He gives us a new understanding of personal pain.

Then Pharaoh hastily called Moses and Aaron and said, "I have sinned against the Lord your God, and against you. Now therefore, forgive my sin, please, only this once, and plead with the Lord your God only to remove this death from me." –Exodus 10:16-17 (ESV)

Heart Monitor #4: When God changes our hearts He gives us a new experience of intimate sacrifice and loss.

At midnight the Lord struck down all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh who sat on his throne to the firstborn of the captive who was in the dungeon, and all the firstborn of the livestock. And Pharaoh rose up in the night, he and all his servants and all the Egyptians. And there was a great cry in Egypt, for there was not a house where someone was not dead. –Exodus 12:29-30

Heart Surgery: God offers to give us hearts for eternity when we allow Jesus to take our experience of intimate loss and make a personal sacrifice for it.

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. –Hebrews 9:24-28 (ESV)