

## Introduction

Story of Becky's Dad having bypass surgery immediately

- Start eating right, buy some fancy new clothes, get a manicure & pedicure, facial, haircut, exercising, maybe run a marathon.

## Getting a New Heart

**READ: Ezekiel 36:26-27**

**And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you.**

Getting a new heart and a new spirit is an act of God not you.

You can not earn it by doing certain things to get it.

You can not be good enough to get it.

You can not pray or cry to God to receive it.

It is not based upon you in any way - We struggle with this in our egocentric world.

It is God alone being merciful and acting in grace.

- If it is based on you God isn't merciful nor is salvation based on grace.
- Nor is God actually the God of salvation, but you are if you try hard enough.

**And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.**

The reason we can't get a new heart from God on our own is because of our bad heart (stone)

- With a bad heart you are not able to know God, have a relationship with him
- A stone is unable to respond to God with love and obedience
- We are not neutral; our sinful heart is hostile and cannot please God (Romans 8:7)

**And cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.**

- It is the spirit of God in us brings transformation and obedience.
- It is God alone in us that that causes us to obey His own laws commands.
- OT history=unable to follow God's law Christ brings ability to follow God's law

## Conclusion

How do you know if you have a new heart?

Evidence of a new heart and spirit is repentance from sin through our faith in Christ

- Repenting means to turn and go into another direction, to Christ.
- Turn and live declares the Lord
- Turn and keep turning daily in faith to Christ

Our turning actually tells you God is the Lord to follow.

- v. 8-11 God working in us proves to us that God is real and the Lord
- The Spirit reveals to us who Jesus is

Tonight, what does your heart tell you?

Your response to God's commands tells you if your heart is a stone or a new heart of the spirit.

- Do you love for the things God loves and hate the things God hates?
- Do you long to worship personally and with the whole church?
- Do you trust and seek out his word for instruction and direction for life?
- Do you confess that you are unable to keep the law?
- Do you confess your sin to Christ, trusting in him for forgiveness or do you hide your sin and deny it?

Tonight, God may be doing a heart transplant as you hear the Word of God taught

- Tonight, do you hear the doctor telling you that you need to rush to the hospital for a new heart?
- If so, the Holy Spirit has shown you this - Pray to God, confessing your sin, & give your life to Jesus