



## **Episode # 1 - A Matter of the Heart**

### **SUMMARY:**

The ability to live a holy life is God's desire for every believer. It is a gift from God through the power of the Holy Spirit. In the New Testament, holiness is not achieved or attained. Rather, it describes a person in right relationship with God.

### **KEY STATEMENTS:**

“Like salvation and righteousness, holiness is a matter of the heart.”

“The greatest misunderstanding we have about holiness is that it is something we do. The truth is that it is something we receive as a gift.”

“In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit has become the moving, controlling and upholding power for a Christian's everyday life and actions.”

### **FOR FURTHER STUDY:**

I. This podcast offered a working definition of holiness for a believer as:

**“a living, open connection with God the Holy Spirit in me.”**

A) DISCUSS the above definition in light of Galatians 2:20 - “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”

B) REFLECT upon holiness as a relationship with God, not a standard of behavior.

1) It is human nature to want to achieve, attain and succeed. How can these desires undermine a Christian's living in the power of the Holy Spirit?

2) READ I Corinthians 1:26 -30.

3) DISCUSS;

a) The qualifications of those whom God calls and chooses to follow Him

b) The teaching in 1:30 that “.....Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.”

II. The podcast discussed the danger of telling only “part of the story” of salvation. This happens when the changes that take place in God's eyes (ie. justification, redemption, forgiveness and adoption) are emphasized while neglecting the new power that comes into our lives (regeneration and initial sanctification).

A) DISCUSS the song that said, “The only difference 'tween a sinner and a saint is one is forgiven and the other ain't.”

1) According to the teacher, why is that not true?

2) How can neglecting the new power and new presence in our lives (the Holy Spirit) make us vulnerable to temptation and sin?

B) DISCUSS the testimony of the minister who had the recurring dream of a heart transplant surgery. How does his story illustrate the importance of a transformed heart?

III. DISCUSS Ezekiel 11:19 “I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them. I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.”

A) What does Satan use today to “divide” a Christian's heart?

B) Consider the idolatry that causes God to describe the Israelites as having a “heart of stone.” Contrast that with the promise of the 'heart of flesh' that came with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

IV. PRAY for the power of the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts.  
PRAY for believers to have undivided hearts that seek the Lord in all things.