

Having A Heart For God- Kimo Hoopai

A Right Heart, A Broken And Contrite Heart, A Heart That Believes On Christ Alone , A Purified Heart , A Praying Heart , A Heart That Reads The Word , A Heart That Stays Close To God , A Forgiving Heart .
Why the Heart ? *Matthew 6:21 NIV* For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Notes: Jesus made it clear that storing our treasures in the wrong place leads to our hearts being in the wrong place. What we treasure the most controls us, whether we admit it or not. What we think about, talk about, or spend our money on can dominate us. If possessions or money become too important to us, we must reestablish control of our hearts. We need to get rid of the things that have become idols to us. Jesus calls for a decision to live contentedly with whatever we have because we have chosen eternal values over temporary, earthly treasures.

- *Matthew 22:37-39 NIV*³⁷ Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸his is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Notes: Jesus said that if we truly love God and our neighbors, we will naturally keep the commandments. This is looking at God's law positively. Rather than worrying about all we should not do, let us concentrate on all we can do to show our love for God and others

8 Steps On Having A Heart For God

1.) A Right Heart

- *Ezekiel 36:26 NIV* I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

Notes: God promised to restore Israel not only physically but also spiritually. To accomplish this, he would give them a new heart for following him and put his Spirit within them

- *2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV* Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Notes : When we pledge our faith to Jesus Christ, we become brand-new people on the inside. The Holy Spirit gives us new life, and we are not the same people anymore. We are not reformed, rehabilitated, or reeducated—we are re-created, new creations living in vital union with Christ

2.) A Broken and Contrite Heart

- *Psalms 51:17 EVS* The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Notes : God wants a broken spirit and repentant heart. You can never please God by outward actions—no matter how good—if your inward heart attitude resists him. Are you sorry for your sin? Do you genuinely intend to stop? Brokenness here is about being open and responsive to God's correction, as opposed to being hardened or resentful. God is pleased by this kind of humble repentance.

- *2 Kings 22:19a NIV* Because your heart was responsive and you humbled yourself before the Lord when you heard what I have spoken against this place and its people—that they would become a curse

Notes: When Josiah realized how corrupt his nation had become, he tore his clothes and wept before God. Then God had mercy on him and the nation. Josiah used the customs of his day to show his repentance. Today, we are unlikely to tear our clothing in sorrow for our sin, but weeping, fasting, and making restitution and apologies (if our sin has involved others) demonstrate our sincerity when we repent. The hardest part of repentance is changing the attitudes and habits that originally produced the sinful behavior.

3.) A Heart That Believes On Christ Alone

- *Romans 10:10 NIV* For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Notes : Salvation is as close as your own lips and heart. People think it must be a complicated process, but it is not. If we sincerely believe in our hearts and profess that Jesus Christ is the risen Lord, we will be saved

- *Hebrews 10:22 NLT* let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.

Notes : We have significant privileges associated with our new life in Christ:

(1) We have personal access to God through Christ and can draw near to him without an elaborate system

(2) we can grow in faith, overcome doubts and questions, and have deepening relationships with God

4.) A Purified Heart

- *Acts 15:8-9 NIV* God knows people's hearts, and he confirmed that he accepts Gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us. He made no distinction between us and them, for he cleansed their hearts through faith.

- *Matthew 5:8 NIV* Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God

Notes : If you want to live for God, you must be ready to say and do what seems strange to the world, what other people may not understand or accept. You must be willing to give when others take, to love when others hate, to help when others abuse. By setting aside your own rights in order to serve others, you will one day receive everything God has in store for you.

5.) A Praying Heart

- *Romans 8:15 NIV* The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."

Notes : We are no longer like fearful slaves; instead, we are the Master's children. What a privilege! Because we are God's children, we share in great treasures as co-heirs.

- *Psalms 27:8 NKJV* When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, Lord, I will seek."

Notes : Believers can call to God for help at any time, but how shortsighted it is to call on God only when troubles come. Many of our problems could be avoided or handled far more easily by seeking God's help and direction beforehand.

6.) A Heart That Reads The WORD

- *Psalms 119:11 NIV* I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sinned against you .

Notes : Hiding means keeping God's Word in our hearts to deter sin. This alone should inspire us to understand, meditate on, review, and memorize Scripture. But these practices on their own will not keep us from sinning; we must also put God's Word to work in our lives, making it a vital guide for everything we do. Each time you read the Bible, ask, "Lord, what can I do to put this Scripture into practice today?"

7.) A Heart that stays close to God

- *Jeremiah 29:13-14a NIV* ¹³You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. ¹⁴I will be found by you," declares the Lord, "and will bring you back from captivity.

- *James 4:8 NKJV* Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

In Closing:

8.) A Forgiving Heart

Ephesians 4:32 NIV Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

Notes : God forgives us, not because we forgive others, but solely because of his great mercy. Those who are unwilling to forgive have not become one with Christ, who was willing to forgive even those who crucified him