

the battle for your heart

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why the heart?

²³ Guard your heart above all else, for it is the source of life.

proverbs 4:23 (HCSB)

²³ Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.

proverbs 4:23 (NLT)

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why the heart?

⁹ "The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?"

¹⁰ But I, the LORD, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve."

jeremiah 17:9-10 (NLT)

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metaphor of a heart attack

A heart attack occurs when one or more of your coronary arteries become blocked. Over time, a coronary artery can narrow from the build-up of various substances, including cholesterol. This condition, known as coronary artery disease, causes most heart attacks.

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what is really in your heart?

¹⁸ But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.

¹⁹ For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

matthew 15:18-19

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what causes a heart to be blocked?

¹² Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.

proverbs 13:12

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what causes a heart to be blocked?

¹² Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, And before honor is humility.

proverbs 18:12

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what causes a heart to be blocked?

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Discouragement. | 6. Anger |
| 2. Failure. | 7. Burnout. |
| 3. Loneliness. | 8. Physical health. |
| 4. Moral failure. | 9. Family problems. |
| 5. Financial pressure. | 10. Too busy. |

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why is the battle for your heart so important?

¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

²⁰ But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately

matthew 13:19-23

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why is the battle for your heart so important?

receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. ²² Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of

matthew 13:19-23

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why is the battle for your heart so important?

riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

²³ But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

matthew 13:19-23

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heart conditions that produce no fruit

1. Lack of understanding or focus (little or no Holy Spirit revelation).
2. Hardness of heart (no depth of character due to poor relationships, no accountability).
3. Distractions (cares of the world, deceitfulness of riches, lack of eternal perspective).

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the battle has been won

⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

james 4:8-10The logo for Shofar Christian Church, featuring the word "shofar" in a stylized orange font above the words "christian church" in a smaller, dark font.