

# **Topics**

**Heart of Stone/Inner Vows**

**Performance Orientation**

**Bitter Root Judgement and Expectancies**

**Accomplishing Forgiveness**

**Honoring Father and Mother**

**Basic Trust**

**Identifications of Love**

**Parental Inversion**

## **Matthew 13:15 (NLT)**

**For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes— so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them.**

**Ezekiel 36:26–27 — this is a beautiful statement of the new covenant that Jesus fulfills when he sheds his blood for sinners:**

**I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you**

**a heart of flesh [that is, a tender heart that can feel, can be touched]. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.**

**Hebrew culture, heart of stone means that the core of ones being is lifeless.**

**Spiritual Symptoms of a hard heart:**

**Unable to perceive**

**Unable to understand**

**Unable to see**

**Unable to Hear**

**Unable to remember**

**Mark 8:17-18 And Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why are you discussing the fact that you have no bread. Do you not ye perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Having eyes do you not see, and having ears do you not hear? And do you not remember?”**

**Psalm 51:10**

**Create in me “clean heart”. O God,  
and “renew a right” spirit withing me.**

**A person with a harden heart does not recognize the spiritual realities around him/her. A hard- hearted person cannot see the way God is working in their situation, even through close families and friends.**

**Characteristics of a Hard Heart:**

**Rebellion**

**Disobedience**

- **Ezekiel 11:19** And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them, I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh.
- **Ezekiel 36:26** And I will give you a new heart and a new spirit I will put within you . And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh
- **What is the condition of your heart? Do you need a heart transplant? Psalm 139: 23-24 Search me O God and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me and lead me in the way of everlasting!**

In Greek, the word for "thought" is noema. This is not just any passing thought. Noema means "a purpose" or "device of the mind."

An inner vow is a type of noema, a permanent "device of the mind." It is a promise one makes to themselves, usually with the words never or always, to do something permanently to stop or prevent pain. Examples of this would be: "I will never hurt people before they can hurt me," "I will always be perfect," "I will never trust anyone."

These are some of the building blocks of the self-protective fortresses in our hearts. Unfortunately, such fortresses fail to keep away pain. But they do keep away the blessings they "guard" until we agree to let Him tear them down. For the Lord will have us rely on no defense but the spiritual armor He supplies.  
(Eph. 6:13-17).