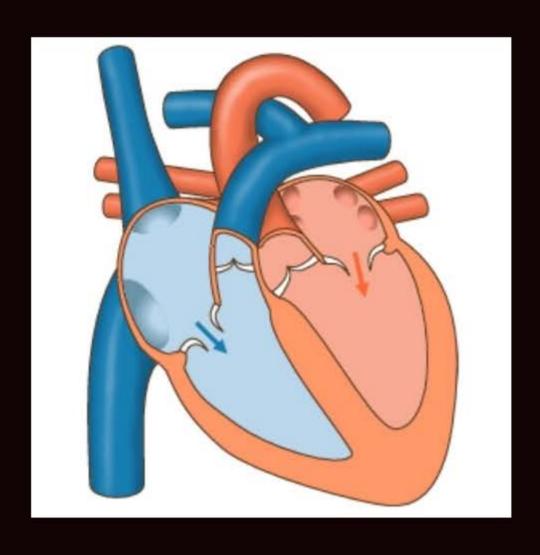
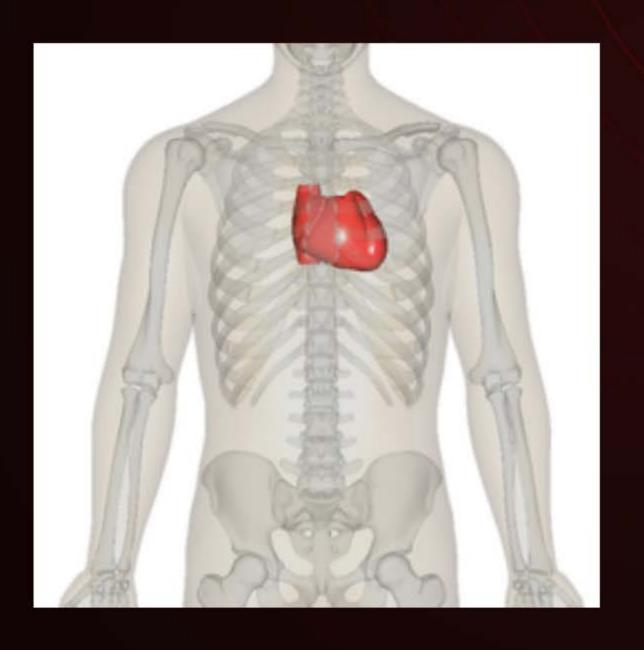
Change of Heart





- 1. Closed Heart
- 2. Possessed Heart
- 3. Hardened Heart

So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily.

- Revival Strengthened in Faith
- Evangelism Increased in Number Daily

Centurian Matt 8:11,12

- I myself am a man under authority
- with soldiers under me.
 - 1. 'Go' he goes;
 - 2. 'Come' he comes.
 - 3. 'Do this' he does it.

- 1 Samuel 3
- 1 the word of the Lord was precious in those days; there was no open vision.
- 19 And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.
- 20 And all Israel from Dan even to Beersheba knew that Samuel was established to be a prophet of the Lord.
- 21 And the Lord appeared again in Shiloh: for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the Lord.
- 1 And the word of Samuel came to all Israel.

Established

They were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.

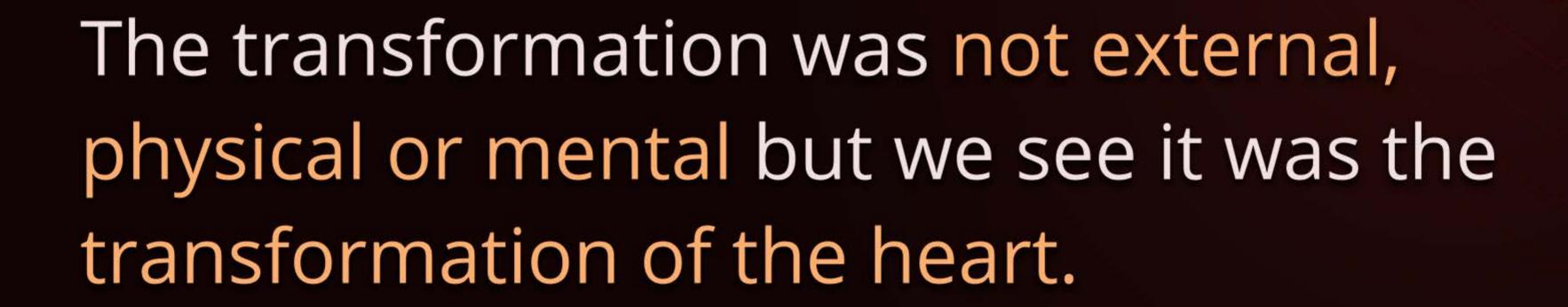
They tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.

And a vision appeared to Paul in the night. A man of Macedonia stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."



Philippi is the first city in the province of Europe where the word of God was ministered.

- Book of Acts was written by Dr. Luke and he was referring to as 'them'.
- But when he writes about the ministry in Philippi he mentions as 'we', 'we stayed', 'we spoke' (Acts.16:11,12)
- Paul, Silas, Luke and Timothy ministered in the city of Philippi.





Acts 16:14

Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.

- First preaches in synagogues and then to others
- Jews were very few and no synagogue.
- Riverside outside the city as a place of prayer.
- Women were the first one to hear the gospel.

Riverside Ministry

- Lydia worshiper of God
- The Lord opened her heart
- to heed the things spoken by Paul.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

- Home opened for the ministry.
- 'Come and stay at my house" and she persuaded us.' (Acts .16:15)
- How could she accept 4 strangers at home?
- Is my heart open?



Acts 16:18

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortunetelling.

This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation."

And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.



Acts 16:24

Acts 16:24

NKJV

Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

- Some trained to be tough and rough No mercy
- Paul and Silas were severely flogged and with bleeding wounds they were brought to prison.
- The jailer without any mercy on them fastened their feet in the stocks. After that he slept off.
- Other prisoners heard Paul and Silas praying and singing hymns but not the jailer.
- The violent earthquake made him to wake up.

Hard Heart

When they could not receive any mercy or help from men, help came from heaven. This earthquake did not cause any other damage but prison doors flew open, and everyone's chain came loose. Have you heard about this kind of earthquake? Yes, it is a strange one. But definitely it was the help from God.

- If the prisoner's escape, jailor will be punished
- He attempted to suicide.
- Delayed a little, the jailer would have dead.
- The words of Paul made him to tremble.
- Made him to fall before Paul and Silas.
- Made his hardened heart to melt.

Melted Heart

In Acts.16:33 we see that the jailer washed their wounds.

These were not new wounds, few hours back he had seen the same wounds!

But now his vision has changed, the reason was the change in his heart. His hardened heart has melted.

Washed wounds

The words that the jailer washed the prisoner's wounds touched me a lot. In your family, in work do you see emotions like iron gates, merciless hearts? Meditate on this section. Look unto God. I desire and pray this miracle to happen in your life.

31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized.

34 Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

35 And when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying, "Let those men go."