

QUESTION: If Solomon was so wise, why did he disobey God? Does this mean wisdom cannot keep us from sin? How does the wisest man in the world disobey God's very own words, spoken to him personally? It doesn't make sense.

- **I Kings 3:7-12** "'And now, O Lord my God, Thou hast made thy servant king in place of my father David; yet I am but a little child: I do not know how to go out or come in. And Thy servant is in the midst of Thy people which Thou hast chosen, a great people who cannot be numbered or counted for multitude. **So give thy servant an understanding HEART to judge Thy people to discern between good and evil.** For who is able to judge this great people of Thine?' And it was pleasing in the sight of the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing. And God said to him, 'Because you have asked this thing and have not asked for yourself long life, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have you asked for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself discernment (wisdom) to understand justice, behold, I have done according to your words. Behold, **I have given you a WISE and DISCERNING HEART**, so that there has been no one like you before you, nor shall one like you arise after you.'"

ANSWER: No, it doesn't make sense, but then, Adam disobeyed God, and God had spoken to him directly and in person also. In fact, Adam even walked with God in the Garden of Eden, and had a much closer relationship with the Lord than Solomon. Adam had great intelligence and wisdom, as we see he even named all of the animals in creation. So, I guess the answer is "No, wisdom is not enough to keep us from sin if we allow **our emotions and fleshly desires to override the wisdom of God.**" Remember that you are a three-part being: spirit, soul and body, and the soul is made up of mind, will and emotions. You can be saved and born-again in your spirit, and you can have the wisdom of God in your mind, but if you allow your flesh (bodily appetites) and emotions to control you, you will make wrong choices with your will.

So, let's look at an example of this from God's word, from the life of King Solomon. In the earlier part of his life, Solomon inclined his heart towards God and kept His commandments. Later in life, **he disobeyed God** by marrying many foreign wives who worshiped idols and false gods. His DESIRE for all these women, and his relationships with them, **began to turn his heart away** from the one true God, until Solomon himself was participating in the worship of their heathen idols. In the Bible, in I Kings 11:1-9, it says, "Solomon held fast to these in love..... and he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines." Now, the word "love" used here to describe his feelings for 1,000 women could more appropriately be called **LUST, and it was also a PRIDE issue with Solomon**, to have a harem of lovely women just as the kings of other nations around him had.

Solomon had free will, just like we do, and God will not override our free will and force us to obey Him. Much later in Solomon's life, after he had sampled every worldly and fleshly pleasure possible, and he'd "gone to the school of hard knocks", he turned back to God. The book of Ecclesiastes was written by Solomon to show how he had learned the hard way that God's way is the best way, and that everything else without God is all vanity and futility. In Ecclesiastes 1:12-18, Solomon, or "The Preacher" as he calls himself, tells how he tried to learn by worldly "wisdom" all that the world has to offer, but he found it to be worthless and empty. If he had been content with God's wisdom, instead of trying to find out for himself, he would have avoided a lot of pain in his life. Again, just as Adam and Eve ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil instead of taking God's word for it, and had to experience the evil of this life, Solomon chose by his own free will to exceed the limits of the great wisdom that God gave him, in order to experience the harsh, painful side of life first hand. Although Solomon did come back to the Lord late in life, he regretted his many years of disobedience, and tries to warn us not to do what he did. In Ecclesiastes 12:1 & 13 he says, "Remember also

your Creator **in the days of your YOUTH**, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, 'I have no delight in them.'" "The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: **fear God and keep His commandments**, because this applies to every person."

Early in Solomon's Life -

- **I Kings 8:54-61** "And it came about that when **Solomon had finished praying** this entire prayer and supplication to the Lord, he arose from before the altar of the Lord, from kneeling on his knees with his hands spread toward heaven. And he stood and blessed all the assembly of Israel with a loud voice saying, 'Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel, according to all that He promised; not one word has failed of all His good promise, which He promised through Moses His servant. May the Lord our God be with us, as He was with our fathers; may He not leave us or forsake us, **that He may INCLINE our HEARTS to Himself**, to walk in all His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His ordinances....." "**Let your HEART** therefore be wholly devoted to the Lord our God, to walk in His statutes and to keep His commandments, as at this day."

Later In Solomon's Life -

- **I Kings 11:1-9** "Now King Solomon loved many foreign women along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, from the nations concerning which the Lord had said to the sons of Israel, 'You shall not associate with them, neither shall they associate with you, for **they will surely TURN your HEART away after their gods.**' Solomon held fast to these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines, and **his wives TURNED his HEART AWAY**. For it came about when Solomon was old, his wives **turned his HEART away after other gods; and his HEART was not wholly (completely) devoted to the Lord his God**, as the heart of David his father had been.....and Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not follow the Lord fully.....Now the Lord was angry with Solomon because **his HEART was turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel**, who had appeared to him twice, and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but **he did not observe (obey) what the Lord had commanded.**"

There is a lesson here for us - WE MUST ESTABLISH OUR HEARTS IN GOD'S WORD -

In Matthew 13:3-23, Mark 4:2-20, and Luke 8:4-15, the Bible compares our hearts to either good or bad ground (soil), in which the seed of God's word will be planted (sowed). Allow the seed of God's word to be planted in your heart, and **meditate on God's word** to "water" the seed. Do not be double-minded (having a "divided heart") by paying attention to philosophies and ideas that are contrary to God's word. A successful farmer knows that he can only plant one kind of seed in his field at a time. If he wants a harvest of wheat, he can only plant wheat seeds. Proverbs 4:23 says, "**Keep your HEART with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.**" This means that the harvest that grows out of your heart, from what you have planted in it, is the most important thing in your life, and will shape and direct every "issue" in your life. **You must keep, GUARD, and WATCH OVER your HEART** to keep it firmly established in God's word, and to keep OUT any weeds.

- **Psalms 112:1 & 7-8** "....Blessed is the man that fears the Lord, that **delights greatly in His commandments (WORD)**. He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: **his HEART is FIXED**, trusting in the Lord. **His HEART is ESTABLISHED**, he shall not be afraid..."
- **Hebrews 13:9** "Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the HEART to be ESTABLISHED with [God's] grace."
- **Proverbs 23:26** "My son, **give me your HEART**, and let your eyes observe My ways."
- **Proverbs 4:4, 20-21 & 23** "...**let your HEART retain My WORDS**; keep my commandments and live." "My son, give attention to My words;....do not let them

- depart from your eyes; keep them **in the MIDST of your HEART.**" **"Keep (guard, watch over) your HEART** with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."
- **Psalm 119:11** "**Your WORD I have hidden in my HEART** that I might not sin against You."
 - **Matthew 12:34-35** "....for out of **the abundance of the HEART** the mouth speaks. A good man out of the GOOD TREASURE of his HEART brings forth good things...."
 - **John 15:7** "If you abide in Me, and **My WORDS abide in you**, you shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you."
 - **Isaiah 51:7** "Hearken unto Me, you that know righteousness, the people **in whose HEART is My law** (God's word)."
 - **Deuteronomy 11:18** "Therefore shall you **lay up these My WORDS in your HEART** and in your SOUL..."
 - **Psalm 19:8 & 14** "The statutes of the Lord are right, **rejoicing the HEART**, the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes." "Let the words of my mouth, and **the meditation of my HEART** be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord."
 - **Psalm 86:11** "Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; **UNITE my HEART** to fear Your name."

There is another lesson here for us: YOU CAN AFFECT YOUR HEART NEGATIVELY -

1.) Through Negligence and Carelessness - Spiritual laziness, failure to "take heed" (pay attention) to the word of God, failure to "be sober, and be vigilant." It is also **neglecting to pull the weeds in the garden of your heart** until they choke out the word. It is allowing your heart to be overburdened or weighed down with the cares of this world.

- **Luke 21:34-36** "But take heed to yourselves, lest **your HEART** be weighed down with carousing (partying), drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. **Watch therefore, and pray always** that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."
- **Hebrews 2:1, 3 & 12** "For this reason **we must pay much closer attention** to what we have heard (God's word), lest we **drift away** from it." "How shall we escape **if we NEGLECT** so great a salvation?" "Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you **an evil, unbelieving HEART**, in falling away from the living God."
- **I Peter 5:8-9** "Be sober, **be VIGILANT**; because your adversary (enemy) the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom (looking for someone) he may devour. **RESIST** him, steadfast in the faith..."
- **Luke 8:12-15** "Now the parable is this: **The SEED is the WORD of GOD.** Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their HEARTS, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation (testing) **FALL AWAY. And the ones that fell among THORNS are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.** But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a **NOBLE and GOOD HEART**, keep it and bear fruit with patience."

2.) Through Hardening Your Heart - This is more deliberate than just negligence. This is when you hear God's word, but deliberately disregard or disobey what it says, and by so doing you **resist and grieve the Holy Spirit.** If a person continues to be rebellious and disobey God, their HEART gradually becomes more and more hardened.

- **Exodus 8:15** "But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, **he hardened his HEART** and did not listen to them, as the Lord had said."

- **Hebrews 2:13-19** "But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called 'Today,' lest any one of you be **HARDENED by the deceitfulness of sin**.....Today, if you hear His voice, **do not harden your hearts**.....And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they should not enter His rest, but to **those who were disobedient**? And so we see that they were not able to enter (the Promised Land) **because of unbelief**."
- **Psalm 95:7b-10** "...Today, if you will hear His voice: '**Do not HARDEN your HEARTS**, as in the **REBELLION**, and as in the day of trial in the wilderness, when your fathers tested Me; they proved Me, though they saw My work. For forty years **I was grieved** with that generation, and said, 'It is a people who **go astray in their HEART**, and they do not know My ways.'"

3.) Through Inclining Your Heart to Evil - This means **to desire and set your affection** on wrong things. Satan's original temptation to Eve was that she was missing something by not experiencing evil, and she began to LOOK at the tree and DESIRE it (she inclined her heart toward it). David prays to God in Psalm 144:4, "Do not incline my heart to any evil thing," but **it is really not God who does the inclining, but we ourselves**. This was David's way of saying, "God, please help me to not desire evil things!" We also must ask God for the strength to turn away from evil.

- **Genesis 3:6** "When the woman **SAW** that the tree was good for food, and that it was **a delight to the eyes**, and that the tree was **DESIRABLE** to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate."
- **Acts 8:21-23** "You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for **your HEART is not RIGHT** in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this your **wickedness**, and pray God if perhaps **the thought of your HEART** may be forgiven you. For I see that **you are poisoned by bitter envy** and in bondage to iniquity (sin)."
- **Psalm 141:4** "Do not **incline my HEART to any evil thing**, to practice deeds of **wickedness** with men who do iniquity; and do not let me eat of their delicacies."