



Open My Heart [Transformation]

Acts 16:11-40

Ezekiel 11:19-20 *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, ²⁰ that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.*

The heart is the rudder of the soul, and till the Lord takes it in hand we steer in a false and foul way.
[SPURGEON]

What happens when God opens our hearts?

Transformation [Acts 16:13-15]

Lydia's transformation shows us that it is ultimately the work of the Holy Spirit, not the persuasiveness of the

Acts 16:11-15 So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. ¹³ And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. ¹⁴ One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

Characteristics of a Stony Heart

- 1] What once bothered us doesn't bother us anymore.
- 2] What once activated our conscience doesn't seem to anymore.
- 3] What we knew was outside of God's boundaries, and therefore functionally outside of ours, lives inside our boundaries, and it doesn't matter to us anymore.

**It is a scary place to be.
The hard heart is a stony heart.**

- 1] It is not malleable [soft] anymore.
- 2] It's hard and resistant to change, no longer tender and responsive to the squeeze of the hands of the Spirit.
- 3] There is evil in our hearts and in the acts of our hands, and we're okay with it.

