# [Faith and a Circumcised Heart](https://public-api.wordpress.com/bar/?stat=groovemails-events&bin=wpcom_email_click&redirect_to=http%3A%2F%2Ffaithencounters.impart.org%2F2024%2F03%2F14%2Ffaith-and-a-circumcised-heart%2F&sr=0&signature=a4b86023678b758c6489855d291df55c&blog_id=127938330&user=d4772d34747c29138d6356de987fff13&_e=eyJlcnJvciI6bnVsbCwiYmxvZ19pZCI6MTI3OTM4MzMwLCJibG9nX2xhbmciOiJlbiIsInNpdGVfaWRfbGFiZWwiOiJ3cGNvbSIsImhhc19mZWF0dXJlZF9pbWFnZSI6IjAiLCJzdWJzY3JpYmVyX2lkIjoiNTY2NTEwODc0IiwiX3VpIjoiZDQ3NzJkMzQ3NDdjMjkxMzhkNjM1NmRlOTg3ZmZmMTMiLCJfdXQiOiJhbm9uIiwiZW1haWxfZG9tYWluIjoieWFob28uY29tIiwicG9zdF9pZCI6MzIwNiwidXNlcl9lbWFpbCI6InJpY2tfYmxhaXNkZWxsQHlhaG9vLmNvbSIsImRhdGVfc2VudCI6IjIwMjQtMDMtMTQiLCJlbWFpbF9pZCI6IjdmNzRkZjg4ODQ2YWI3YTI1NmQ4ZGIwNzc1MTljZjIzIiwiZW1haWxfbmFtZSI6Im5ldy1wb3N0IiwidGVtcGxhdGUiOiJuZXctcG9zdCIsImxpbmtfZGVzYyI6InBvc3QtdXJsIiwiYW5jaG9yX3RleHQiOiJGYWl0aCBhbmQgYSBDaXJjdW1jaXNlZFx1MDBhMEhlYXJ0IiwiX2RyIjpudWxsLCJfZGwiOiJcL3dwXC92Mlwvc2l0ZXNcLzEyNzkzODMzMFwvcG9zdHNcLzMyMDY/X2VudmVsb3BlPTEmZW52aXJvbm1lbnQtaWQ9cHJvZHVjdGlvbiZfZ3V0ZW5iZXJnX25vbmNlPWNhNDdiYmYyYmEmX2xvY2FsZT11c2VyIiwiX2VuIjoid3Bjb21fZW1haWxfY2xpY2siLCJfdHMiOjE3MTA0NTE0MTc0MjMsImJyb3dzZXJfdHlwZSI6InBocC1hZ2VudCIsIl9hdWEiOiJ3cGNvbS10cmFja3MtY2xpZW50LXYwLjMiLCJfdWwiOm51bGwsImJsb2dfdHoiOiIwIiwidXNlcl9sYW5nIjpudWxsfQ=&_z=z)

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https://impartweb.files.wordpress.com/2024/03/image.jpeg?w=560Photo by Brendan Rühli on [Pexels.com](https://impartweb.wordpress.com?action=user_content_redirect&uuid=a7db83750ae1b9766d6b09b090743564e499fe741debbba754a4c4c32d682aea&blog_id=127938330&post_id=3206&user_id=0&subs_id=566510874&signature=deed88f38acde4e9ffeeac033592b523&email_name=new-post&user_email=rick_blaisdell@yahoo.com&encoded_url=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cucGV4ZWxzLmNvbS9waG90by9oZWFydC1zaGFwZWQtc3RvbmUtNjQ3NzA3MC8) Circumcise, therefore, the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. Deuteronomy 10:16 ESVThese past few weeks have been very busy. I have been spending time with the Lord and His Word, but I felt a separation from Him. As I prayed this morning, I asked Him for grace to receive from Him whatever I needed to connect. My daily reading schedule brought me to this verse, but I read it in the New Living Translation. Therefore, change your hearts and stop being stubborn. I thought, wow, that's pretty clear. As read through the footnotes, it talked about uncircumcised hearts. In nature, foreskins, which have been removed, do not grow back. Unfortunately, our spiritual hearts can grow calloused, hard and unfeeling, which can lead us to unreceptiveness to the Holy Spirit. This effectively, separates us from our God.Walking with the Lord in this life exposes us to not only our own thoughts and experiences but also those of our friends, family, co-workers and even our governmental leaders. Our heart is then subject to the abuse and challenges of life. The question is, what are we going to do with the disappointments, discouragements, and unmet expectations that we encounter? Whether or not we acknowledge it, it affects our heart (soul). In this section of Deuteronomy, Moses was trying to prepare the Israelites to enter the Promised Land. He wasn't just interested in their bodies entering, but their entering in with an understanding of whose they were and the whys. He spent some good amount of time reminding them of their shortcomings, and God's grace. He rehearsed the mess up with the Golden Calf and how he had to go back up to the mountain with God a second time. He shared with them how he interceded for Aaron and the lives of the Israelites. I believe his heart was to help them understand the importance of making a decision to serve the Lord and Him alone, no matter what lay ahead. I think he was speaking corporately, but in order for a nation to serve the Lord, every individual needs to make that decision. It is the same with the Body of Christ, we each need to decide to make Him Lord. And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you? He requires only that you fear the Lord your God, and live in a way that pleases him, and love him and serve him with all your heart and soul. Deuteronomy 10:12. So how can we love Him, with all our heart and soul, if our hearts are hardened? If we have grown calloused? We find part of the solution in verse 16. Therefore, change your hearts and stop being stubborn. Circumcision of the heart implies submission and humility. It is acknowledging, God is God and we are not. It is choosing to walk in His ways not our ways. When things don't go our way, our fleshly tendencies rise up, and we want to take control. Maybe we look around for other "gods" to follow? My friends, the best thing we can do when we find ourselves in these scenarios, is yield to Him and His ways. Take the time to pour your heart out to Him and listen. Heartache is inevitable, but He binds up the broken-hearted. When we allow Him to comfort us in our sorrow, our hearts stay softened.If you find yourself with a hardening heart, go to Him, not away from Him. Lean in to Him and His ways. Stay in His Word and take time to worship Him. These are all softening agents. Maybe confess your story to a trustworthy friend and ask them to pray with you. Expect God to respond. Release your faith. He is ready, willing, and able to help us through any difficult struggles. What joyous fellowship when we return--even if we have only strayed a little way. Take the time to allow Him to search your heart for all the "no's" you might have said to Him. That is the beginning of a hardened heart.Father, I thank you for helping us to walk with humble, soften hearts toward you. I ask you search our hearts for areas where we may have allowed anger, disappointment or discouragement to seep in, hardening our hearts. Remind us of your loving care. In Jesus' Name, amen. |