

119

MINISTRIES

“The following is a direct script of a teaching that is intended to be presented via video, incorporating relevant text, slides, media, and graphics to assist in illustration, thus facilitating the presentation of the material. In some places, this may cause the written material to not flow or sound rather awkward in some places. In addition, there may be grammatical errors that are often not acceptable in literary work. We encourage the viewing of the video teachings to complement the written teaching you see below.”

Parashah Points: Ekev - A Changed Heart

Welcome to another episode of Parashah Points—short thoughts from the weekly Torah Portion.

This week’s Parashah Point comes from Ekev, which is Hebrew for “if [you follow],” and it goes from Deuteronomy 7:12 to Deuteronomy 11:25.

This Torah portion lists blessings for obeying God and warnings against forgetting God in times of prosperity. Israel is then told not to think that God is giving them the Promised Land because of their righteousness. They are reminded of the times they provoked God through their rebellion and of the events surrounding the golden calf incident. Then they are exhorted to “circumcise” their hearts and follow God’s commandments. The Parashah concludes with more promised blessings for obedience.

There’s a lot we can talk about in this Torah Portion. Today we’re going to talk about having a changed heart:

Deuteronomy 10:12-16

And now, Israel, what does the Lord [YHWH] your God require of you, but to fear the Lord [YHWH] your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord [YHWH] your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord [YHWH], which I am commanding you today for your good? Behold, to the Lord [YHWH] your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. Yet the Lord [YHWH] set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day. Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.

In this passage, Moses commands Israel to “circumcise” their hearts, which metaphorically speaks of removing the stubbornness from their hearts. This instruction is connected to the previous statements about YHWH’s requirements of Israel—that they fear him, walk in his ways, and love and serve him with their whole heart. So, truly walking in faithfulness and obedience to God requires circumcision of the heart.

To the ancient Hebrews, the heart represented the seat of your thoughts, emotions, and will. Moses is telling God's people that *the inward core of who they are* needs to change in order to be completely submissive to God. Their hearts must change.

This commandment raises an important question: how do we change our hearts so we can truly walk in obedience?

Paul wrestles over this same question in Romans. He speaks about how he delights in the law of God, but there is "another law" waging war within him, making him captive to sin (Romans 7:21-24).

What is Paul's answer to this dilemma? He goes on to explain that, because the Messiah came and "condemned sin in the flesh," the "righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit" (Romans 8:3-4).

In this passage, Paul is recalling prophecies from the Old Testament. These prophecies speak about how God will write his law on our hearts and put his Spirit within us to empower us to follow his commandments (Ezekiel 36:26-27; Jeremiah 31:33). Paul taught that these prophecies were being fulfilled in light of Yeshua's work on the cross.

So it's by receiving the Messiah that our hearts change—we get a "new heart," as Ezekiel said. By walking in the Spirit we are able to overcome our own stubborn will and follow God with our whole heart.

For a more detailed look at this topic, please see our teaching, "How to Circumcise Your Heart."

Thank you for joining us for another Parashah Point!

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

EMAIL: Info@119ministries.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/119Ministries

WEBSITE: www.TestEverything.net & www.ExaminaloTodo.net

TWITTER: [www.twitter.com/119Ministries#](https://twitter.com/119Ministries#)