

1. Heart

- a. The English understanding of the heart is very expansive.
 - i. We can love our husbands or wives with all our hearts.
 - ii. We are told to follow our heart (don't do this).
 - iii. We can know in our hearts that a certain thing is true or false.
 - iv. And, of course, the heart is the muscle that pumps oxygenated blood to our body.
- b. The Hebrew concept of the heart is just as broad.
 - i. It is an organ inside the body.
 - ii. 1 Samuel 25:37: "In the morning, when the wine had gone out of Nabal, his wife told him these things, and his heart died within him, and he became as a stone."
 - iii. The understanding is that his heart became as stone, like a heart attack.
- c. Your heart is the center.
 - i. Deuteronomy 4:11: "And you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, while the mountain burned with fire to the heart of heaven, wrapped in darkness, cloud, and gloom."
 - ii. Jonah 2:3: "For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me."
 - iii. Matthew 12:40: "For just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth."
 - iv. Your heart is the center of intellect, emotion, and volition (will).

2. Intellect.

- a. The Israelites had no concept of the brain but thought all the intellectual activity took place in the heart.
 - i. Saul is searching for his lost donkeys the first time he meets Samuel.
 - ii. 1 Samuel 9:18–20: "Then Saul approached Samuel in the gate and said, "Tell me where is the house of the seer?" Samuel answered Saul, "I am the seer. Go up before me to the high place, for today you shall eat with me, and in the morning I will let you go and will tell you all that is on your mind. As for your donkeys that were lost three days ago, do not set your mind on them, for they have been found. And for whom is all that is desirable in Israel? Is it not for you and for all your father's house?"
 - iii. The words translated 'mind' are the Hebrew word for 'heart.'
 - iv. In only one instance did I find something different.
 - v. God rejects Eli's sons and high priests and tells Eli about Samuel.
 - vi. 1 Samuel 2:35: "And I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who shall do according to what is in my heart and in my mind. And I will build him a sure house, and he shall go in and out before my anointed forever."
 - vii. The Hebrew word translated as 'mind' is the inner self. It does not refer to the brain encased in our skulls.
- b. Your heart is where you understand and discern truth from error.
 - i. Solomon asks God to give him an understanding heart to lead Israel.
 - ii. 1 Kings 3:7–9: "And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or

- come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?"
- iii. The word translated as 'mind' is the Hebrew word 'heart.'
 - c. Wisdom comes from the heart.
 - i. Proverbs references the heart 97 times.
 - 1. Proverbs 2:2: "making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding;"
 - 2. Proverbs 3:5: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding."
 - 3. Proverbs 6:32: "He who commits adultery lacks sense; he who does it destroys himself."
 - 4. Proverbs 8:5: "O simple ones, learn prudence; O fools, learn sense."
 - ii. The word translated 'sense' is the Hebrew word 'heart.'
 - d. For humanity, intellect comes from the heart.
3. Emotion
- a. Hannah and Elkanah.
 - i. 1 Samuel 1:1–2: "There was a certain man of Ramathaim-zophim of the hill country of Ephraim whose name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, son of Elihu, son of Tohu, son of Zuph, an Ephrathite. He had two wives. The name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other, Peninnah. And Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children."
 - ii. Having male children who were heirs was the mark of favor in the eyes of Israel.
 - iii. Hannah had no children, and so she was mocked and mistreated by others because they thought she was out of favor with God and that God had stricken her to be childless.
 - iv. 1 Samuel 1:8: "And Elkanah, her husband, said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? And why do you not eat? And why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"
 - b. Abraham.
 - i. Abraham had waited his whole life for a child with Sarah but did not have one.
 - ii. God promises Abraham an heir when he is 75, and Abraham waits another 25 years.
 - iii. Genesis 17:17: "Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"
 - c. The LORD.
 - i. Mankind gave the LORD a broken heart.
 - ii. Genesis 6:6: "And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart."
 - d. For humanity, emotion comes from the heart.
4. Volition (or will).
- a. David.
 - b. 1 Kings 8:17–18: "Now it was in the heart of David my father to build a house for the name of the Lord, the God of Israel. But the Lord said to David my father, 'Whereas it was in your heart to build a house for my name, you did well that it was in your heart.'"

- c. God did not allow David to build the temple but left it to Solomon.
5. A Sick Heart.
- a. Humanity has a sick heart (still).
 - i. Genesis 6:5: “The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”
 - ii. Our sick heart is still the same problem today as it was in the beginning.
 - iii. Matthew 15:18–20: “But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone.”
 - iv. Jeremiah tells us the heart is permanently sick.
 - 1. Jeremiah 17:5: “Thus says the Lord: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord.”
 - 2. Jeremiah 17:9: “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?”
 - 3. “Desperately sick” in the Hebrew means incurable. Some translations use the word “irreversibly sick.”
 - 4. Israel was sacrificing their children to Molech and thinking it was a good thing!
 - v. The only cure for a sick heart is a total renewal, rebirth of the heart.
 - b. Circumcision.
 - i. In his final address to Israel, Moses talked about the covenant of blessing and curses in chapters 28 and 29.
 - ii. He told Israel that they would be carried off into captivity and oppression because of their unfaithfulness.
 - iii. Deuteronomy 30:6: “And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your offspring, so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.”
 - 1. Circumcision is the cutting away of dead flesh.
 - 2. This is a metaphor for removing evil and stubbornness from the human heart.
 - 3. Psalm 51:10: “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.”
 - 4. Ezekiel 36:26: “And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”
 - 5. This is why God said He would write the commands of the new covenant on our hearts.
 - 6. Jeremiah 31:33: “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”
6. The Center
- a. The Heart is the center of our lives.
 - i. The heart is our intellect.
 - ii. The Heart is our emotion.
 - iii. The Heart is our volition.
 - b. To love the LORD with all your heart is to devote your whole body and mind, feelings and desires, future and failures to God.

c. Proverbs 4:23: “Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.”