

Despite good intentions, no good thing dwelleth in the unregenerate man (Romans 7:18).

In fact, it is impossible for the unregenerate man to please God (Romans 8:8).

The Lord Himself acknowledges unregenerate Israel did not have a heart to fear Him and keep His commandments always, despite their vow promising "all that the Lord hath spoken we will do" (Exodus 19:8; Deut. 5:29).

Moses explains the reason the Israelites did not keep their vow, though they witnessed the signs and great miracles by which the Lord delivered and preserved them:

But to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear (Deut. 29:4).

Despite the passing of thousands of years, man continues to have a stony heart, blind eyes and deaf ears when it comes to the spiritual realm, the Kingdom of God.

Without the new spiritual birth, no man can come to Christ (John 6:44).

This spiritual birth was promised by the LORD in Deut. 30:6 & 8:

*And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.....
.....And thou shalt return and obey the voice of the Lord, and do all his commandments which I command thee this day.*

This promise of regeneration was reiterated by several OT prophets:

Psalms 51:10; Psalm 65:4; Isaiah 54:13; Jeremiah 24:7, 31:31-34, for example.

*A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.
²⁷ And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them* (Ezekiel 36:26-27).

Our Lord is not ignorant of man's flaws.

He understands their depth:

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? (Jeremiah 17:9).

The *Lord* knows it.

This is why only He has the power and wisdom to recreate man into one who will love Him with all His heart, soul, strength and mind.

This miracle God performs upon those He freely chooses to be merciful (Exodus 33:19; Romans 9:15).

CONCLUSION: Do you love the Lord? If so, you do so because you are the recipient of God's love and mercy.

While you were His enemy, He changed you into someone who would be pleasing to Him....a new creation in Christ.

Please do not dishonor the miraculous, gracious, omnipotent work of God by claiming He first saw your faith and therefore elected you.

Merit has nothing whatsoever to do with salvation (Romans 3:24).

The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made even both of them (Proverbs 20:12).

NEXT: Testing is over.