

# Open Heart Surgery

## Part Two

**Proverbs 4:23** [NLT] – *Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.*

- **Your heart will move you toward what you believe.**

**Romans 1:16** – *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*

**Romans 1:17** – *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”*

- **The Gospel** reveals righteousness “*from faith to faith*,” not faith to works.
- **Thus**, in order to guard our hearts, we must, first and foremost, guard them in the area of our righteousness.

**Galatians 2:21** [AMP] – *[Therefore, I do not treat God’s gracious gift as something of minor importance and defeat its very purpose]; I do not set aside and invalidate and frustrate and nullify the grace (unmerited favor) of God. For if justification (righteousness, acquittal from guilt) comes through [observing the ritual of] the Law, then Christ (the Messiah) died groundlessly and to no purpose and in vain. [His death was then wholly superfluous.]*

- Trusting in my ability for righteousness neutralizes the grace of God in my life.
- If your emotions change based on your performance, it is not grace.

**Ephesians 6:14-17** – *Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and*

*having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;*

**Question: how do we change our heart?**

- **Psalm 19:14** – *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.*
- Bible meditation is the doorway to the heart. Through meditation we experience God's Word, God's presence and God's promise, and they become real in our hearts. By meditating on the reality of Christ we become aware of who we really are. Life becomes about being rather than becoming.