A circumcised heart and the goodness of God

**Experiencing circumcision of your heart**

**Monday**

Read Romans 2:28-29, Joshua 5:1-12

For God to roll away the bad part of your life making way for more of His goodness, you need what the Bible calls “circumcision of the heart.” **Journalize** your thoughts.

**Tuesday**

Read Colossians 2:9-15, Genesis 17:9-14

“Circumcision of the heart” is an act of God, but it requires your cooperation. **Ask** God to show you what He is doing in your life.

**Wednesday**

Read Joshua 5:9, Isaiah 54:4, Isaiah 45:17, Isaiah 50:7, Zephaniah 3:10-11

When God “circumcises our hearts”, all our shame and regrets are erased. **Meditate** on these scriptures today.

**Thursday**

Read Philippians 3:3, Romans 8:1-13

With God’s help, you don’t have to live in your “fleshly” self anymore. Spend time **listening** to the Holy Spirit today.

**Friday**

Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, 2 Corinthians 4:17

God uses our thorns in the flesh and our life’s storms and struggles to “circumcise our heart.” **Worship** the Lord in your weakness today.

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**Joshua 5:2-12 New International Version (NIV)**

**Circumcision and Passover at Gilgal**

**2**At that time the Lord said to Joshua, “Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again.” **3**So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth.

**4**Now this is why he did so: All those who came out of Egypt—all the men of military age—died in the wilderness on the way after leaving Egypt. **5**All the people that came out had been circumcised, but all the people born in the wilderness during the journey from Egypt had not. **6**The Israelites had moved about in the wilderness forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the Lord. For the Lord had sworn to them that they would not see the land he had solemnly promised their ancestors to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. **7**So he raised up their sons in their place, and these were the ones Joshua circumcised. They were still uncircumcised because they had not been circumcised on the way. **8**And after the whole nation had been circumcised, they remained where they were in camp until they were healed.

**9Then** the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” So the place has been called Gilgal (in Hebrew, Gilgal sounds like the word "roll") to this day.

**10**On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. **11**The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. **12**The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan.

**Genesis 17:9-14 New International Version (NIV)**

**9**Then God said to Abraham, “As for you, you must keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you for the generations to come. **10**This is my covenant with you and your descendants after you, the covenant you are to keep: Every male among you shall be circumcised. **11**You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. **12**For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised, including those born in your household or bought with money from a foreigner—those who are not your offspring. **13**Whether born in your household or bought with your money, they must be circumcised. My covenant in your flesh is to be an everlasting covenant. **14**Any uncircumcised male, who has not been circumcised in the flesh, will be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant.”

Circumcision:

* A matter of covenant with God - an unbreakable agreement
* Abraham's part of the covenant
* Undergo - outside party responsible to perform but requires cooperation
* It was a sign of the covenant (just as a ring is a sign of marriage)
* God's covenant in our "flesh" - setting them apart from those who were not a part of the covenant

Is circumcision still important to the Christian life today?

Yes...but with a spiritual application.

**Romans 2:28-29 New International Version (NIV)**

**28**A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. **29**No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code.Such a person’s praise is not from other people, but from God.

**Philippians 3:3 New International Version (NIV)**

**3**For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God *by his Spirit*, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—

**Colossians 2:11 New International Version (NIV)**

**11**In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision *not performed by human hands*. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ,

The reproach of the slavery of our past life is rolled away when Jesus circumcises our hearts.

Reproach

Websters 1828 -

To charge with a fault in severe language.

To treat with scorn or contempt.

Inferred antonym  - repelled as victors

abusive reflections; as foul-mouthed *reproach*

Shame and disgrace

**Joshua 5:9 New International Version (NIV)**

**9**Then the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.”

**Genesis 30:23 New International Version (NIV)**

23 She became pregnant and gave birth to a son and said, “God has taken away my disgrace.” - disgrace, shame

Ps 1 - seat of the scornful...sit with those who are under God's reproach and shame, through abusive reflections, scorn those who God honors.

**When Israel entered back into covenant with God by being circumcised, the reproach of their slavery was rolled away and they entered into the abundant goodness of God's goodness.**

**Isaiah 54:4 New International Version (NIV)**

**4**“Do not be afraid; you will not be put to shame.

    Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated.

You will forget the shame of your youth

    and remember no more the reproach of your widowhood.

**Isaiah 45:17 New International Version (NIV)**

17 But Israel will be saved by the Lord

    with an everlasting salvation;

you will never be put to shame or disgraced,

    to ages everlasting.

**Isaiah 50:7 New International Version (NIV)**

Because the Lord GOD helps Me, I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set My face like flint, and I know that I will not be put to shame.

**Zephaniah 3:10-11 New International Version (NIV)**

10 From beyond the rivers of Cush

my worshipers, my scattered people,

will bring me offerings.

11 **On that day you**, Jerusalem, will not be put to shame

for all the wrongs you have done to me,

because I will remove from you

your arrogant boasters.

Never again will you be haughty

on my holy hill.

You stop trying to save yourself, help yourself, worship and treasure things other than God…ON THAT DAY, your shame and reproach will be removed and you will enter into God’s promised land of goodness and abundance.

God! Circumcise our hearts!!!

One of the number one tactics the enemy uses against us is to get us to think about ourselves instead of God,

To be self-focused rather than God focused.

This is what an uncircumcised heart looks like...*self-centered*.  Can a Christian who is going to heaven, have an uncircumcised heart? YES

Negativity

Depression

Greed

Fear and worry

Obsessive-compulsive

Overwhelmed

Perfectionist

Hurt feelings

Controlling

We need to UNDERGO spiritual removal of these things so we can be free! But here’s the deal…we must cooperate with God for this process to work….primary means of cooperation…REPENTANCE

**Romans 8 New International Version (NIV)**

**5**Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

**6**The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. **7**The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law, *nor can it do so*. **8**Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

**9**You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.

**13**For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

What process is used for Christ to circumcise our hearts?

(We need to recognize His process so that we cooperate through repentance, rather than hardening our hearts)

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10 New International Version (NIV)**

7 or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to relieve me of this.

9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

**2 Corinthians 4:17 New International Version (NIV)**

17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

Stop trying to use your own strength to beat your own weakness.

Instead, let Christ remove your fleshly weakness altogether!

The storms of life, the thorns in the flesh, the intense struggles reveal in us the incredible weakness, inadequacy and necessary death of fleshly self, SO THAT, we enter into the realm of the Spirit, which is the realm of grace.

So…we need to identify what fleshly attribute is *feeding* our storms, thorns and struggles so that we can die to that fleshly attribute (through enlightenment, awareness, acknowledgement and repentance). THIS is getting out of the boat.

* Manipulation instead of trusting God
* Planning instead of listening to the Holy Spirit
* Self condemnation/self justification instead of receiving God’s gift of righteousness
* Controlling your environment instead letting Jesus be Lord of your life
* Staring at your problems/reminding yourself of your failures instead of paying attention to Jesus’ greatness
* Thinking someone is out to get you instead of believing that Jesus is your protector
* Being critical of people instead of accepting the love of God in your life
* Comparing yourself to others instead of being happy with how God created you

Repent and get out of your boat and undergo spiritual circumcision of your heart.

**Colossians 2:11-13 New International Version (NIV)**

**11**In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised byChrist, **12**having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

**13**When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,