

1) If your heart is hard, let God break it. (3-4, 19)

What is your attitude toward hearing God's Word?

Is hearing God's Word an active or passive activity for you?

What do you do to put yourself in a position to hear God's Word?

Has your heart been hardened by the circumstances of life or people who have hurt you? How? How has this affected your heart's ability to hear God's Word?

How has Satan stolen something you have heard God say?

How are you sowing God's Word in others?

2) If your heart is shallow, let God deepen it. (5-6, 20-21)

Tell about a time when you became emotional in response to hearing God's Word?

Why are emotions a poor indicator of our spiritual condition?

How can you go to a deeper level of response to God's Word?

3) If your heart is strangled, let God untangle it. (7, 22)

What do you care about? Do you care to the point of becoming strangled?

What is it that is strangling you from bearing more fruit?

4) If your heart is soft, let God multiply it. (8, 23)

What fruit have you seen from your life recently?

Review the definition of the Perseverance of the Saints given in Eastman's Bible Dictionary: *Certain continuance in a state of grace. Once justified and regenerated, the believer can neither totally nor finally fall away from grace, but will certainly persevere therein and attain everlasting life.*

Why is the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints important for clarifying who really has been converted?

How can you be sure that you are genuinely saved?

Additional Scripture

- John 10:27-29
- Romans 11:29
- Philippians 1:6
- Matthew 10:22
- John 8:31-32
- Hebrews 3:14
- 1 John 2:19
- Matthew 7:16