

Jeremiah 17:5-8

Hearts turn away from the Lord.

Heat - **Thorns** - Cross - Fruit

God changes us in the middle
of the toughest challenges

Heat - **Thorns** - Cross - Fruit

“The Bible describes **four elements in the change process** that God institutes in the lives of His children. (1) If you are interested in **personal growth**, (2) if you feel **stuck** in patterns that seem impossible to break, (3) if you have wished to **experience a fuller and deeper relationship to Christ**, or (4) if you want to **help someone else make progress** down this road, it will help you to understand how God uses the situations and relationships of daily life to change our hearts.” p. 81

HOW PEOPLE CHANGE by Paul David Tripp

Jer. 17:1 The **sin** of Judah is written down with an iron stylus;
With a diamond point it is engraved upon the
tablet of their heart

And on the horns of their altars...

Jeremiah 17:5 Thus says the Lord,
“Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind
And makes flesh his strength,
And whose heart turns away from the Lord...

Jer. 17:9 “The heart is more deceitful than all else
And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?

- A major theme is the corruption of the heart. (v. 1, 5, 9)

Heat

Thorns

Cross

Fruit

Jeremiah 17:5 Thus says the Lord,
“Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind
And makes flesh his strength,
And whose heart turns away from the Lord.
6 “For he will be like **a bush in the desert**
And will not see when prosperity comes,
But will live in stony wastes in the wilderness,
A land of salt without inhabitant.

Heat
Thorns
Cross
Fruit

- Trusting in mankind is turning away from the Lord.
- **Thorns:** We respond in sinful ways to what we face in life.
We have inner reasons for our sin.

Jeremiah 17:7 “Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord
And whose trust is the Lord.

8 “For he will be like a tree planted by the water,
That extends its roots by a stream
And will not fear when the **heat** comes;
But its leaves will be green,
And it will not be anxious in a year of drought
Nor cease to yield **fruit**.

Heat

Thorns

Cross

Fruit

- Cross: God meets us in our sin with His heart-transforming grace (made available to those who trust in the Lord).
- **Heat**: Trials, pressures, temptations, and difficulty come.
- **Fruit**: We respond in new ways to our old difficulties as our hearts are transformed.

Heat - **Thorns** - Cross - Fruit

“God calls you to humbly take a close look at yourself. He calls you to believe and act upon the gospel promises of forgiveness, restoration, wisdom, strength, deliverance, and power by acknowledging your responsibility for the Thorns in your life.” p. 124 How People Change

“When we examine ourselves in the light of Scripture and look for Thorns that may be growing, growth in Christ results. There is an abundant supply of grace for every Thorn you identify in your life...” p. 125 How People Change

Heat - **Thorns** - Cross - Fruit

“My real problem is spiritual (my straying heart and my need for Christ). I have replaced Christ with something else, and as a consequence, my heart is hopeless and powerless. Its responses reflect its bondage to whatever it is serving instead of Christ...My real problem is a worship disorder.” p. 134

“The fact that we can turn good things into idols must be faced. Most of the time, it requires help to see it and repent. It is frightening to let go of something we are convinced is our life —even when the alternative is Jesus!” p. 145

How People Change

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Practical Application: X-ray Questions

- What do you love? Is there something you love more than God or your neighbor? p. 105
- What are your plans, agendas, strategies, and intentions designed to accomplish? What are you really going after in the situations and relationships of life? What are you really working to get?
- What do you trust? Do you functionally rest in the Lord? Do you find your sense of well-being in His presences and promises? Or do you rest in something or someone else?