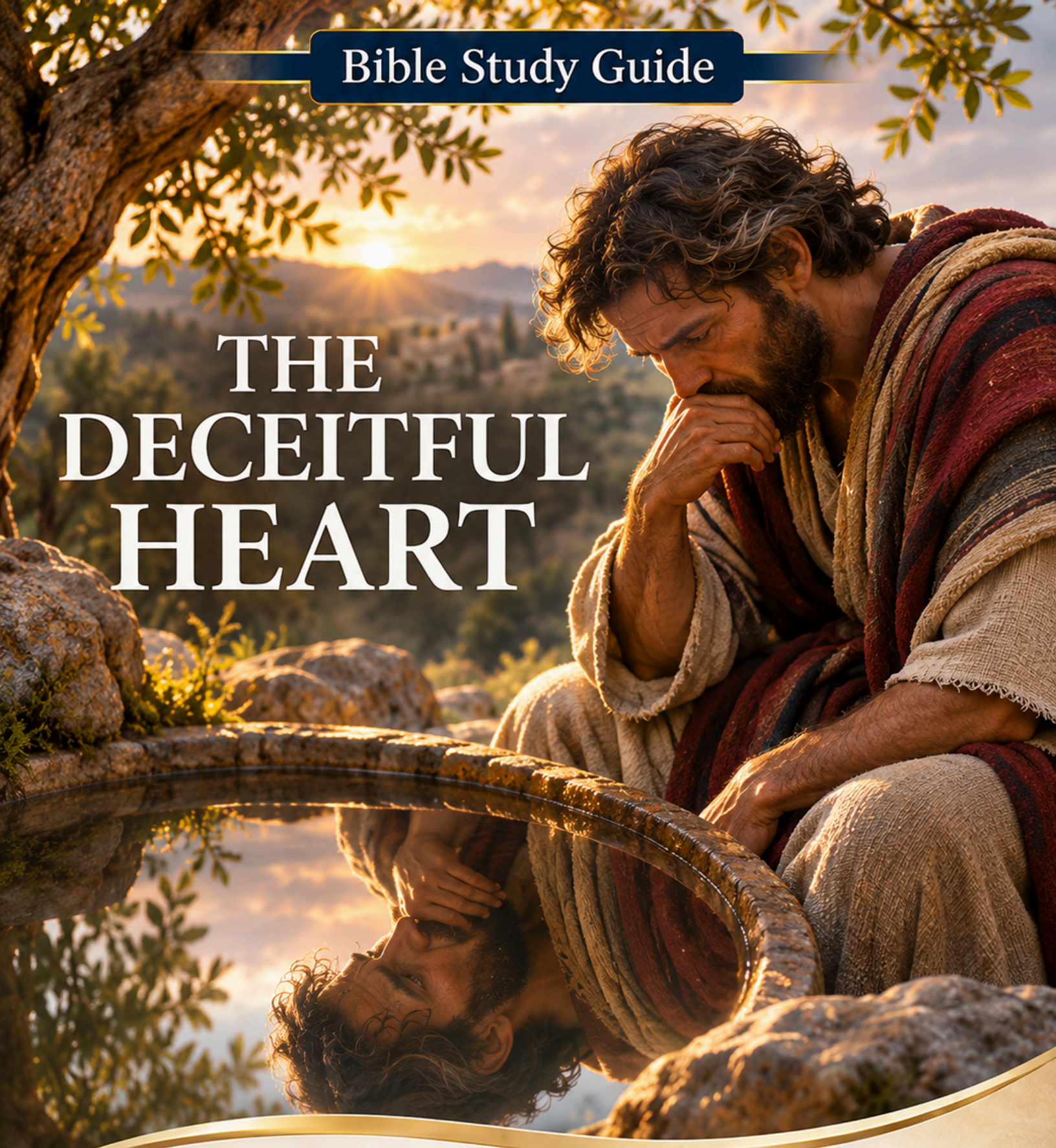
Bible Study Guide



THE DECEITFUL HEART

A Bible Study on the Human Heart, Sin, and the Need for a New Birth

Introduction

A mirror can show a stain on the face, but it cannot wash it away. Worse still, a person can glance at the mirror and immediately forget what it revealed. James uses that picture to describe the hearer of the Word who does not act on it. Spiritual deception often begins not with ignorance of truth but with refusing to apply it personally.

Fill in the blanks from the KJV text, then read the brief explanation.

Bible Study Questions

1 **How does Jeremiah describe the human heart?** (Jeremiah 17:9)

"The heart is _____ above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

Our own feelings and judgments cannot be our final spiritual standard. The heart needs the revelation of God.

2 **What does Paul urge believers to examine?** (2 Corinthians 13:5)

"Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the _____; prove your own selves."

A profession of faith calls for honest examination in the light of Christ.

3 **What distinguishes those who enter the kingdom from those who merely say Lord, Lord?** (Matthew 7:21)

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the _____ of my Father which is in heaven."

Christ calls for a living relationship expressed in doing the Father's will.

4 **Who is compared to a wise builder?** (Matthew 7:24)

"whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and _____ them, I will liken him unto a wise man,"

Obedience reveals that we have taken Christ's words seriously.

5 **Why did the wise man's house survive the storm?** (Matthew 7:25)

"and it fell not: for it was founded upon a _____."

Doing the words of Jesus establishes a foundation that withstands trial.

6 **What must we become instead of hearers only?** (James 1:22)

"But be ye _____ of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

Knowledge without obedience can create the false impression of spiritual maturity.

7 **How does John say we know that we know Christ?** (1 John 2:3)

"if we keep his _____."

A living knowledge of Christ expresses itself in obedience.

8 **What does Laodicea claim about its spiritual condition?** (Revelation 3:17)

"Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have _____; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked."

Self-sufficiency can conceal great spiritual poverty. Christ's assessment is more reliable than our own.

9 **How does Jesus respond to the people He loves?** (Revelation 3:19)

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and _____."

Christ's diagnosis is an invitation to restoration rather than rejection.

10 **What does Christ promise to the one who opens the door?** (Revelation 3:20)

"if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will _____ to him,"

Christ seeks personal fellowship and invites a willing response.

11 **What do those with a form of godliness deny?** (2 Timothy 3:5)

"Having a form of godliness, but denying the _____ thereof: from such turn away."

Outward religious practice is not a substitute for the transforming presence of Christ.

12 **What kind of fruit does the Holy Spirit produce?** (Galatians 5:22-23)

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, _____:"

The Spirit produces a consistent character rather than a mere outward form of religion.

13 **What will the truth do for those who receive it?** (John 8:32)

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you _____."

God's truth exposes bondage so that the Son can deliver us from it.

14 **What is the standard of truth?** (John 17:17)

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy _____ is truth."

God's Word exposes deception and sanctifies those who receive it.

15 **Who can truly free a person from sin?** (John 8:36)

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free _____."

True freedom is deliverance from slavery to sin through Christ.

16 **What does David invite God to search?** (Psalm 139:23-24)

"Search me, O God, and know my _____: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

The faithful response to self-deception is honest surrender to the God who sees us fully.

17 **What does God promise when we confess our sins?** (1 John 1:9)

"he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to _____ us from all unrighteousness."

God promises forgiveness and cleansing, not permission to remain in sin.

18 **How should we respond to conviction?** (Acts 3:19)

"Repent ye therefore, and be _____, that your sins may be blotted out,"

Christ calls us to turn from sin and receive His forgiveness.

Appeal

Will you ask God to search your heart, reveal any cherished deception, and give you grace to respond to the truth He shows you?

Commitment

I choose to welcome God's searching Word, confess my sin, and become a doer of the truth through Christ.

_____

Signature

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