

An Evil Heart of Unbelief

by Wayne Goff

“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God” ~ Hebrews 3:12.

What causes a brother or sister to have an evil heart of unbelief? *Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon* says that it is “an evil heart such as is revealed in distrusting, Heb. 3:12...” Simply put, the “evil heart” no longer trusts God and His Word and thus becomes an **unbeliever**.

The word “evil” (*ponera*) is one who conjures up “evil thoughts” (**Matt. 15:19**) and so plots and plans against truth. This is not an honest heart seeking truth.

This person has “evil suspicions” (**1 Tim. 6:4**), always imagining the worst about others.

Evil persons practice “evil” works or deeds (**John 3:19; 7:7**), and because of this they hate what is good, right and true. They say “all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake” (**Matt. 5:11**). Cain was such a person (**1 Jn. 3:12**) who killed his brother because he was jealous and envious of his brother’s good.

These people are not only in the world, sometimes they are **in the church!** The apostle John warned of Diotrephes, who was found to be “... *prating against us with malicious words....*” (**3 John 1:10**). This man was so full of pride and arrogance that he dared boast against the beloved apostle John!

How **bad** are those with “an evil heart of unbelief”? Well, the same word is used of the Devil himself (**Matt. 5:37; 6:13; 13:19, 38; 1 Jn. 3:12; Eph. 6:16**). Those who act like the Devil and children of the Devil, as Jesus said of certain Jews (**Jn. 8:44**).

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, beware of an evil heart of unbelief that stems from pride, stubbornness, and an unwillingness to be disciplined and restricted from sinful things. You may be able to get away with your wickedness now and even fool some brethren for a little while, but in the end your sin will find you out! Repent while you still have a heart that can be touched by the pleadings of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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