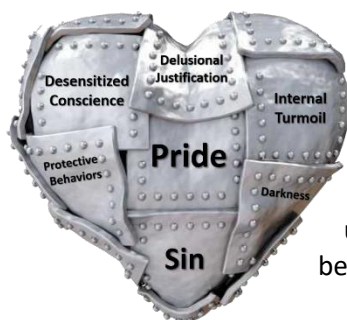


# Bible Study

## Thought-Provoking Questions



The purpose of the questions is to facilitate a deeper understanding of the Bible, Bible study topic and ourselves. The questions may be answered by each reader; or used by a Bible study group leader or church pastor. The following questions should be answered or discussed after reading “God’s Grace and the Hardened Heart.”

There are two types of questions: lesson and opinion. Lesson questions (preceded by a number) are provided an answer. Opinion questions (preceded by an ©) are designed to enhance learning via the determination of opinions and/or discovering how the lesson content illuminates our personal lives. As such, no answers are provided.

**Questions** (Do your best to respond to each lesson question before looking at the answer.)

1. What are the three different ways a heart will harden?
  2. What are some of the negative consequences of a hardened heart?
  3. What must occur to begin the process of softening and healing a hardened heart?
  4. How would you define a broken and contrite heart?
- © How can the forgiveness of our sins through Jesus Christ soften our heart?
- © Are areas within your heart hardened? If yes:
- How did this occur?
  - What can you do to soften your heart?

### Answers

1. Page 2: Sin, works-based religion and unforgiveness.
2. Page 3: Desensitization of conscience, internal turmoil, delusional justification, increased sin, increased darkness, and a disconnection from God.
3. Page 4: When a person is “fed up” with the consequences (had enough); when the associated pain is too much to deal with (or is greater than whatever pleasure the sin provides); and when they ask God for forgiveness.
4. Page 4: Sees, understands, despises and takes responsibility for sin. Stops trusting self and trusts God. Pride converts to humility as they yield to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, and allows the Holy Spirit to change them from within. Will grieve over sin, transitions from judgment to forgiveness of others, and grows in agape love.