

Kardia in the New Testament

A Study Compiled by Daniel Yordy

Introduction

This document contains every New Testament Scripture containing the Greek word *kardia*, usually translated "heart," along with verses containing the Greek word *pneuma*, usually translated "spirit" as spirit and heart correspond.

Our purpose is to arrive at a true definition of God's purpose for our own heart, by seeing how the Spirit of God uses those terms in context. Most Biblical words have picked up innumerable "interpretations" and "definitions" along the way, many of them religious and limited by our own experience and the traditions of men. No matter how hard we try, we always impose those definitions on the Biblical words. In this context, the word "kardia" carries no such baggage. Therefore, you are free to draw a meaning ONLY from the context.

Understand that all words of all languages derive their meaning from the context. There are no "original" dictionaries. All dictionary writers study a particular word as it is used by many authors in many settings to seek a definition of that word in context. Too often, Biblical words have picked up definitions that are in complete opposition to the actual meaning of the word as God uses it.

Notice, in particular, the central role that our heart plays in the salvation of God. It is His dwelling place. It is the location inside of us into which the Holy Spirit has entered and out of which He flows.

The primary purpose of this study for us is to determine just exactly what God says about our own hearts. This understanding is crucial as we move into all the salvation of God that He is birthing even now inside of us.

All parts of our makeup, except our original fallen spirit (the old man) are part of God's total redemption. God gave us a new spirit when we were born again. But He transforms the rest of us, out from His dwelling place in our **kardias**, and through the renewing of our minds.

Allow God to speak to you through His **Pneuma** to enlarge your understanding of the glory that fills you full right now.

Note: You might notice that not one time in the New Testament was the word *kardia*, heart, ever used to speak of the physical organ we call the heart, with the possible important exception of 2 Corinthians 3:3.

Matthew

5:8 Blessed are the pure in **kardia**, For they shall see God.

5:28 But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his **kardia**.

6:21 For where your treasure is, there your **kardia** will be also.

9:4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your **kardias**?

11:29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in **kardia**, and you will find rest for your souls.

12:34 Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the **kardia** the mouth speaks. 35 A good man out of the good treasure of his **kardia** brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.

12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the **kardia** of the earth.

13:15 For the **kardias** of this people have grown dull.

Their ears are hard of hearing,

And their eyes they have closed,

Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears,

Lest they should understand with their **kardias** and turn,

So that I should heal them.’

13:19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his **kardia**. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

15:8 ‘ These people draw near to Me with their mouth,

And honor Me with their lips, but their **kardia** is far from Me.

15:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the **kardia**, and they defile a man. 19 For out of the **kardia** proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.

18:35 “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his **kardia**, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.”

22:37 Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your **kardia**, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

24:48 But if that evil servant says in his **kardia**, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ 49 and begins to beat his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunkards,

Mark

2:6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their **kardias**, 7 “Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” 8 But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His **pneuma** that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, “Why do you reason about these things in your **kardias**?”

3:4 Then He said to them, “Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?” But they kept silent. 5 And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their **kardias**, He said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.

4:15 And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their **kardias**.

6:52 For they had not understood about the loaves, because their **kardia** was hardened.

7:6 He answered and said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘This people honors Me with their lips, but their **kardia** is far from Me.

7:19 because it does not enter his heart but his stomach, and is eliminated, thus purifying all foods?’ 20 And He said, “What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. 21 For from within, out of the **kardia** of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. 23 All these evil things come from within and defile a man.”

8:17 But Jesus, being aware of it, said to them, “Why do you reason because you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive nor understand? Is your **kardia** still hardened? 18 Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember?

11:23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his **kardia**, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.

12:30 And you shall love the LORD your God with all your **kardia**, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment.

12:33 And to love Him with all the **kardia**, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

Luke

1:17 He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, ‘to turn the **kardias** of the fathers to the children,’ and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

1:51 He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the understanding of their **kardias**.

2:19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her **kardia**.

2:35 (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many **kardias** may be revealed.

2:51 Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her **kardia**.

3:15 Now as the people were in expectation, and all reasoned in their **kardias** about John, whether he was the Christ or not,

4:18 “ The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the shattered of **kardia**,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;

5:22 But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, “Why are you reasoning in your **kardias**?

6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his **kardia** brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his **kardia** brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the **kardia** his mouth speaks.

8:12 Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their **kardias**, lest they should believe and be saved.

8:15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good **kardia**, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

9:46 Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest. 47 And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their **kardia**, took a little child and set him by Him,

10:27 So he answered and said, “ ‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your **kardia**, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your dianoia,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’”

12:33 Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your **kardia** will be also.

12:45 But if that servant says in his **kardia**, ‘My master is delaying his coming,’ and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk,

16:15 And He said to them, “You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your **kardias**. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

21:14 Therefore settle it in your **kardias** not to meditate beforehand on what you will answer; 15 for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist.

21:34 “But take heed to yourselves, lest your **kardias** be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. 35 For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. 36 Watch therefore, and pray

24:25 Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of **kardia** to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?”

24:32 And they said to one another, “Did not our **kardia** burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?”

24:38 And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your **kardias**?

John

10:39 Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again:

40 “ He has blinded their eyes and hardened their **kardias**,

Lest they should see with their eyes,

Lest they should understand with their **kardias** and turn, So that I should heal them.”

13:2 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the **kardia** of Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, to betray Him,

14:1 “Let not your **kardia** be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

16:6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your **kardia**.

Acts

1:24 And they prayed and said, “You, O Lord, who know the **kardias** of all, show which of these two You have chosen

2:26 Therefore my **kardia** rejoiced, and my tongue was glad; Moreover my flesh also will rest in hope. 27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

2:37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the **kardia**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?”

2:46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of **kardia**, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people.

5:3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your **kardia** to lie to the Holy **Pneuma** and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? 4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your **kardia**? You have not lied to men but to God.”

7:23 “Now when he was forty years old, it came into his **kardia** to visit his brethren, the children of Israel.

7:39 whom our fathers would not obey, but rejected. And in their **kardias** they turned back to Egypt,

7:51 “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in **kardia** and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.

7:54 When they heard these things they were cut to the **kardia**, and they gnashed at him with their teeth.

8:21 You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your **kardia** is not right in the sight of God. 22 Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your **kardia** may be forgiven you.

8:37 Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your **kardia**, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

11:23 When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of **kardia** they should continue with the Lord.

13:22 And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, ‘I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own **kardia**, who will do all My will.’

14:17 Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our **kardias** with food and gladness.

15:8 So God, who knows the **kardia**, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy **Pneuma**, just as He did to us, 9 and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their **kardias** by faith.

16:14 Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her **kardia** to heed the things spoken by Paul.

21:3 Then Paul answered, “What do you mean by weeping and breaking my **kardia**? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.”

28:27 For the **kardias** of this people have grown dull.
Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed,
Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears,
Lest they should understand with their **kardias** and turn,
So that I should heal them.”

Romans

1:21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish **kardias** were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

2:5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent **kardia** you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who “will render to each one according to his deeds”

2:15 who show the work of the law written in their **kardias**, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)

2:29 but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the **kardia**, in the **Pneuma**, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our **kardias** by the Holy **Pneuma** who was given to us.

6:17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the **kardia** that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

8:27 Now He who searches the **kardias** knows what the mind of the **Pneuma** is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

9:2 that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my **kardia**. 3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,

10:1 Brethren, my **kardia**’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.

10:6 But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, “Do not say in your **kardia**, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’” (that is, to bring Christ down from above)

10:8 But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your **kardia**” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your **kardia** that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the **kardia** one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

16:18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the **kardias** of the simple.

First Corinthians

2:9 But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the **kardia** of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the **kardias**. Then each one’s praise will come from God.

7:37 Nevertheless he who stands steadfast in his **kardia**, having no necessity, but has power over his own will, and has so determined in his **kardia** that he will keep his virgin, does well.

14:25 And thus the secrets of his **kardia** are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you.

Second Corinthians

1:22 who also has sealed us and given us the **Pneuma** in our **kardias** as a guarantee.

2:4 For out of much affliction and anguish of **kardia** I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

3:2 You are our epistle written in our **kardias**, known and read by all men; 3 clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the **Pneuma** of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the **kardia**.

3:15 But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their **kardia**. 16 Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

4:6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our **kardias** to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

5:12 For we do not commend ourselves again to you, but give you opportunity to boast on our behalf, that you may have an answer for those who boast in appearance and not in **kardia**.

6:11 O Corinthians! We have spoken openly to you, our **kardia** is wide open.

7:3 I do not say this to condemn; for I have said before that you are in our **kardias**, to die together and to live together.

8:16 But thanks be to God who puts the same earnest care for you into the **kardia** of Titus.

9:7 So let each one give as he purposes in his **kardia**, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

Galatians

4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the **Pneuma** of His Son into your **kardias**, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

Ephesians

3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His **Pneuma** in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your **kardias** through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— 19 to know the love of Christ

4:17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their minds, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their **kardias**;

5:19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your **kardia** to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God

6:22 whom I have sent to you for this very purpose, that you may know our affairs, and that he may comfort your **kardias**.

Philippians

1:7 just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my **kardia**, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.

4:7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all nous, will guard your **kardias** and minds through Christ Jesus.

Colossians

2:2 that their **kardias** may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ,

3:15 And let the peace of God rule in your **kardias**, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your **kardias** to the Lord.

3:22 Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as menpleasers, but in sincerity of **kardia**, fearing God. 23 And whatever you do, do it with all your soul, as to the Lord and not to men,

4:8 I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your **kardias**,

First Thessalonians

2:4 But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our **kardias**.

2:17 But we, brethren, having been taken away from you for a short time in presence, not in **kardia**, endeavored more eagerly to see your face with great desire.

3:13 so that He may establish your **kardias** blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.

Second Thessalonians

2:16 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, 17 comfort your **kardias** and establish you in every good word and work.

3:5 Now may the Lord direct your **kardias** into the love of God and into the patience of Christ.

First Timothy

1:5 Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure **kardia**, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith,

Second Timothy

2:22 Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure **kardia**.

Hebrews

3:7 Therefore, as the Holy **Pneuma** says: “ Today, if you will hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your **kardias** as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness, 9 Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years. 10 Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, ‘They always go astray in their **kardia**, And they have not known My ways.’ 11 So I swore in My wrath, ‘ They shall not enter My rest.’”

3:12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil **kardia** of unbelief in departing from the living God; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold

the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, 15 while it is said: “Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your **kardias** as in the rebellion.”

4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and **pneuma**, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the **kardia**.

8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their minds and write them on their **kardias**; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

10:16 “This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws into their **kardias**, and in their minds I will write them,”

10:22 let us draw near with a true **kardia** in full assurance of faith, having our **kardias** sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

13:9 Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is good that the **kardia** be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.

James

1:26 If anyone among you thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own **kardia**, this one’s religion is useless.

3:14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your **kardias**, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, soulish, demonic.

4:8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your **kardias**, you double-minded.

5:5 You have lived on the earth in pleasure and luxury; you have fattened your **kardias** as in a day of slaughter.

5:8 You also be patient. Establish your **kardias**, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.

First Peter

1:22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Pneuma in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure **kardia**, 23 having been born again,

3:4 rather let it be the hidden person of the **kardia**, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. 5 But sanctify the Lord God in your **kardias**, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;

Second Peter

1:19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your **kardias**;

2:14 having eyes full of adultery and that cannot cease from sin, enticing unstable souls. They have a **kardia** trained in covetous practices, and are accursed children.

First John

3:19 And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our kardias before Him.
20 For if our **kardia** condemns us, God is greater than our kardias, and knows all things. 21 Beloved, if our **kardia** does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.

Revelation

2:23 I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and **kardias**. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.

17:17 For God has put it into their **kardias** to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.

18:7 In the measure that she glorified herself and lived luxuriously, in the same measure give her torment and sorrow; for she says in her **kardia**, 'I sit as queen, and am no widow, and will not see sorrow.'