

## *Hardness of Heart*

### **NT:4641 skl̄rokardía**

**Hardness of heart**, stubbornness, obstinacy, perverseness (Matthew 19:8; Mark 10:5; 16:14; Sept.: Deuteronomy 10:16; Jeremiah 4:4). It indicates man's attitude toward God and His grace when he ought to have a willing and receptive heart.

Ant.: apalós (527), tender, soft; malakós (3120), soft, mild (though it can also mean weak or effeminate); oiktírmœn (3629), merciful; splágchnon (4698), pity.

(from The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament © 1992 by AMG International, Inc. Revised Edition, 1993)

#### Matthew 19:7-9

They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?  
8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery. KJV

#### Mark 10:4-9

4 They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce, and to dismiss her."

5 And Jesus answered and said to them, "Because of the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept.6 But from the beginning of the creation, God 'made them male and female.'7For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,8 and the two shall become one flesh'; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh.9 Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate." NKJV

#### Mark 16:14-18

Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." NKJV

### **NT:4642 Skleros**

(4642), **Dry**, hard. Hardness, obstinacy, stubbornness (Romans 2:5; Sept.: Deuteronomy 9:27).

Syn.: pœ;rœsis (4457), a hardening, dullness of the heart.

Ant.:

Hupotássomai (the mid. of hupotássœ[5293]), to submit oneself to, be subject to; malakía (3119), softness.

### **NT:4643 Sklerotes**

(4642), dry, hard. Hardness, obstinacy, stubbornness (Romans 2:5; Sept.: Deuteronomy 9:27).

Romans 2:3-7 (context: hypocrite moral man)

And do you think this, O man, you who judge those practicing such things, and doing the same, that you will escape the judgment of God?4 Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart (unrepenting) 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": NKJV

### **NT:4644 Sklerotrachelos**

skl̄rotrách̄los; gen. the neck. Hard or stiff-necked, obstinate, proud (Acts 7:51; Sept.: Exodus 33:3,5; Deuteronomy 9:6,13).

Syn.: authád̄s (829), self-pleasing, arrogant, self-willed.

Ant.: eupeithē;js (2138), compliant.

Acts 7:51-53

"You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.<sup>52</sup> Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just one, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers,<sup>53</sup> who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it." NKJV

### NT:# 4456 Poroo

A small piece of stone broken off from a larger one. The verb means to harden, make hard like a stone, or callous and insensible to the touch. In the NT applied only in a spiritual sense to the hearts or minds of men (Mark 6:52; 8:17; John 12:40; Romans 11:7, of persons; 2 Corinthians 3:14; Sept.: Job 17:7, of the eyes). Syn.: sklērunōe (4645), to harden.

John 12:37-41

But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him,<sup>38</sup> that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke:

"Lord, who has believed our report?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?"

<sup>39</sup> Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again:

<sup>40</sup> "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts,

Lest they should see with their eyes,

Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn (be converted K<sub>iv</sub>),

So that I should heal them."

<sup>41</sup> These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him. NKJV

Mark 6:51-52

Then He went up into the boat to them, and the wind ceased. And they were greatly amazed in themselves beyond measure, and marveled.<sup>52</sup> For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened. NKJV

Mark 8:13-21

And He left them, and getting into the boat again, departed to the other side.<sup>14</sup> Now the disciples had forgotten to take bread, and they did not have more than one loaf with them in the boat.<sup>15</sup> Then He charged them, saying, "Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod."

<sup>16</sup> And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "It is because we have no bread."

<sup>17</sup> 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 heart still hardened?<sup>18</sup> Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear? And do you not remember?<sup>19</sup> When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments did you take up?"

They said to Him, "twelve."

<sup>20</sup> "Also, when I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of fragments did you take up?"

And they said, "seven."

<sup>21</sup> So He said to them, "How is it you do not understand?" NKJV

Romans 11:7-10

What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded.<sup>8</sup> Just as it is written:

"God has given them a spirit of stupor, (slumber, deep sleep)

Eyes that they should not see

And ears that they should not hear,

To this very day."

<sup>9</sup> And David says:

" Let their table become a snare and a trap,

A stumbling block and a recompense to them.

10 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see,  
And bow down their back always."NKJV

2 Corinthians 3:12-18

12 Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech --13 unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away.14 But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ.15 But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart.16 Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.NKJV

## NT:4457 Porosis

to harden, petrify, render insensitive. Used figuratively meaning hardness, callousness, blindness, insensitivity (Mark 3:5; Romans 11:25; Ephesians 4:18).

Syn.: skl̄rótēs (4643), hardness;  
skl̄rokardía (4641), hardness of heart.

Mark 3:1-6 (Context: legalism of Pharisees valuing religion over healing)

And He entered the synagogue again, and a man was there who had a withered hand.2 So they watched Him closely, whether He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him.3 And He said to the man who had the withered hand, "Step forward."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 hearts, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other. 6 Then the Pharisees went out and immediately plotted with the Herodians against Him, how they might destroy Him.NKJV

Romans 11:25-26

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.NKJV

Ephesians 4:17-19

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 mind,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 heart;19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.NKJV

## Uncircumcised heart

### Water of Word/Spirit & hardening:

#### 1. Potter and the clay

#### 2. Sower in field

## NT:3975 pachúnœ;

(n.f.), thick, gross. To make fat. In the NT, metaphorically and only in the pass. meaning to become gross, dull, callous as if from fat (Matthew 13:15; Acts 28:27 quoted from Isaiah 6:10 [cf. Deuteronomy 32:15]).

Matthew 13:23

On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea.2 And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

3 Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow.4 And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.5 Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth.6 But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.8 But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

10 The Purpose of Parables

(Mark 4:10-12; Luke 8:9,10)

And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"

11 He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.12 For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.13 Therefore I speak to them in parables, because **seeing they do not see**, and **hearing they do not hear**, **nor do they understand**.14 And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:

'Hearing you will hear and **shall not understand**.And seeing you will **see and not perceive**;15 For the **hearts 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 hearts and turn**,**So that I should heal them.**'

16 But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;17 for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

18 The Parable of the Sower Explained

"Therefore hear the parable of the sower :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 heart**. This is he who received seed by the wayside.20 But he who received the seed on **stony places**, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;21 yet he **has no root** in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the world, immediately he **stumbles**.22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the **cares of this world** and the **deceitfulness of riches choke the word**, and he becomes **unfruitful**.23 But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty." NKJV

Acts 28:23-27

23 So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.24 And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some **disbelieved**.25 So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: "The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers,26 saying,

'Go to this people and say:

'Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand;

And seeing you will see, and not perceive;

27 For the **hearts 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 hearts and turn,

So that I should heal them.'"

Matthew 13:15

15 For the hearts of this people have **grown dull**.NKJV

Acts 28:27

27 For the hearts of this people have **grown dull**.

Their ears are hard of hearing, NKJV

## New Testament Summary

Meaning/Context	Verse
<b>#4641 Sklerocardia:</b> Hardness of Heart: Stubbornness, obstinacy, perverseness It indicates man's attitude toward God and His grace when he ought to have a willing and receptive heart.	
Selfishness; Insistence on own way (divorce) Separating (death) what God has joined Rebellion	Mat 19:7-9 Mark 10:4-9
<b>Unbelief</b> in risen Lord	Mark 16:14-18
<b>#4642/4643 Skleros:</b> Dry, hard. Hardness, obstinacy, stubbornness	
Hypocritical unrepentant moral man accusing others who despises tolerance, patience, and goodness of God.	Romans 2:3-7
<b>#4644 Sklerotrachelos</b> stiff-necked, obstinate, proud, self-pleasing, arrogant, self-willed	
Legalistic religious prideful Pharisees Uncircumcised in heart and ears Resist the Holy Spirit; Deny Gospel	Acts 7:51-53
<b># 4456 Poroo</b> A small piece of stone broken off from a larger one. The verb means to harden, make hard like a stone, or callous and insensible to the touch	
Unbelief in Lord to point <b>could not</b> believe Blinded eyes Hearts <b>cannot</b> understand & be saved (repent/turn)	John 12:37-41 <i>(Isa 6:9-10)</i>
No understanding of spiritual things	Mark 6:51-52
No understanding/ No perception of spiritual by eyes & ears	Mark 8:13-21
Blinded (Israel) with Spirit of Deep sleep, slumber, stupor: No perception of spiritual by eyes & ears (blind /deaf) Religion a snare & trap	Romans 11:7-10
Minds blinded Veil on heart Unable to discern the word of God; absence of Holy Spirit	2 Corinthians 3:12-18
<b>#4457 Porosis:</b> To harden, petrify, render insensitive. Used figuratively meaning hardness, callousness, blindness, insensitivity	
<b>Legalism</b> of Pharisees valuing religion over healing Try to destroy the Lord	Mark 3:1-6
Blindness of Israel	Romans 11:25-26
No understanding of spiritual things Futility of mind; Ignorance Alienated from God <b>Past feeling</b> (hard/callous etc). Cease to feel pain. Given over to lewdness, uncleanness, greed ( <b>Lawlessness</b> )	Ephesians 4:17-19
<b>#3975 Pachúnoë;</b> (n.f.), thick, gross. To make fat. In the NT, metaphorically and only in the pass. meaning to become gross, dull, callous as if from fat	
Spiritual blindness, deafness, No perception/understanding of heart Failure to repent and be saved, Unbelief (no faith) Unfertile heart where seed of word cannot produce fruit or grow (stones or idols in it).	Matthew 13:15; Acts 28:27

## Old Testament Words/Verses

<p><b>#8080 Saman</b> (OT form of quoted word from NT#3975)          A verb meaning to be fat; to become fat. It means figuratively in several of these references to become surfeited, self-satisfied, lazy (Nehemiah 9:25); insensitive to God's will and plans (Deuteronomy 32:15). Israel's heart became "fat," unreceptive, insensitive (Isaiah 6:10)</p>	<p>quoted from <i>Isaiah 6:10</i>          Same word:</p>
<p>Forsook Lord for idols          Callous, deceitful, uncaring for needy, selfish          Disobedient, Rebellion, Resisted prophets</p>	<p>Deut 32:15          Jeremiah 5:26-29          Nehemiah 9:25-2</p>
<p><b>Qashah #7185</b>          Verb: to be hard, to be hardened severe, fierce, difficult or resentful, stiffen</p>	
<p>Obstinate/Defiant heart          Uncircumcised heart (flesh intact)/ Stiff-necked/stubborn          Rebellion, Unbelief, no faith, not know ways of Lord          Blind          Not hear word of God (spiritual deafness)</p>	<p>Deut 2:30          Deut 10:16          Psalm 95:11          Prov 28:14          Jer 19:15</p>

### **OT:#8080 Saman** (OT form of NT #3975)

A verb meaning to be fat; to become fat. It describes the process of becoming fat or being fat (Deuteronomy 32:15; Nehemiah 9:25; Jeremiah 5:28). It means figuratively in several of these references to become surfeited, self-satisfied, lazy (Nehemiah 9:25); insensitive to God's will and plans (Deuteronomy 32:15). Israel's heart became "fat," unreceptive, insensitive (Isaiah 6:10).

Deuteronomy 32:13-18 (insensitive to Gods will and plan)

13 "He made him ride in the heights of the earth,  
 That he might eat the produce of the fields;  
 He made him draw honey from the rock,  
 And oil from the flinty rock;  
 14 Curds from the cattle, and milk of the flock,  
 With fat of lambs;  
 And rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats,  
 With the choicest wheat;  
 And you drank wine, the blood of the grapes.

15 "But Jeshurun grew **fat** and kicked;  
 You grew fat, you grew thick,  
 You are obese!  
 Then he **forsook God** who made him,  
 And **scornfully esteemed** the Rock of his salvation.  
 16 They provoked Him to jealousy with **foreign gods**;  
 With abominations they provoked Him to anger.  
 17 They sacrificed to demons, not to God,  
 To gods they did not know,  
 To new gods, new arrivals  
 That your fathers **did not fear**.  
 18 Of the Rock who begot you, you are unmindful,  
 And have **forgotten the God** who fathered you. NKJV

Jeremiah 5:26-29 (unreceptive insensitive)

26'For among My people are found **wicked men**;  
 They lie in wait as one who sets snares;  
 They **set a trap**;  
 They catch men.  
 27 As a cage is full of birds,  
 So their houses are full of **deceit**.  
 Therefore they have become great and grown rich.  
 28 They have **grown fat**, they are sleek;  
 Yes, they surpass the deeds of the wicked;  
 They **do not plead the cause**,

The cause of the fatherless;  
Yet they prosper,  
And the right of the needy they do not defend.  
29 Shall I not punish them for these things?' says the LORD.  
'Shall I not avenge Myself on such a nation as this?' KJV

Nehemiah 9:25-26 (self satisfied/lazy)  
And they took strong cities and a rich land,  
And possessed houses full of all goods,  
Cisterns already dug, vineyards, olive groves,  
And fruit trees in abundance.  
So they ate and were filled and grew fat,  
And delighted themselves in Your great goodness.

26 "Nevertheless they were disobedient  
And rebelled against You,  
Cast Your law behind their backs  
And killed Your prophets, who testified against them  
To turn them to Yourself;  
And they worked great provocations. NKJV

### #7185

Deuteronomy 2:30  
30 "But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass through, for the LORD your God hardened his spirit  
and made his heart obstinate, that He might deliver him into your hand, as it is this day. NKJV

Deuteronomy 10:16  
16 Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and be stiff-necked no longer NKJV

Psalms 95:11  
Today, if you will hear His voice:  
8 "Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As in the day of trial in the wilderness,  
9 When your fathers tested Me;  
They tried Me, though they saw My work.  
10 For forty years I was grieved with that generation,  
And said, 'It is a people who go astray in their hearts,  
And they do not know My ways.'  
11 So I swore in My wrath,  
'They shall not enter My rest.'" NKJV

Proverbs 28:14  
14 Happy is the man who is always reverent,  
But he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity. NKJV

Jeremiah 19:15  
15 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring upon this city and upon all her  
towns all the evil that I have pronounced against it, because they have hardened their necks, that they might  
not hear my words. KJV

## Hardening Pharaohs Heart (Sovereignty vs Freewill)

Verse	<b>Chazaq #2388</b> Causatively Strengthen Fortify; Confirm, Overpower	<b>Qashah #7185</b> Verb: to be hard, to be hardened severe, fierce, difficult or resentful, stiffen	<b>Kabed #3515</b> <b>Kabad #3513</b> Adjective: Hard, difficult, stupid, burdensome, grievous, oppressive, heavy, massive	Comments
Ex 4:21	Lord: "I will harden"			God prophesies
Ex 7:3		Lord: "I will harden"		God prophesies again. You get two warnings.
Ex 7:13	"Pharaoh's heart grew hard" (after rods battle)			Pharaoh initiates
Ex 7:14			Lord: "Pharaoh's heart is hard"	
Ex 7:22	"Pharaoh's heart grew hard" (after 1 <sup>st</sup> plague)			
Ex 8:15			"Pharaoh ..hardened his heart" (after 2 <sup>nd</sup> plague)	
Ex 8:19	"Pharaoh's heart grew hard" (after 3 <sup>rd</sup> plague)			
Ex 8:32			"Pharaoh hardened his heart" (after 4 <sup>th</sup> plague)	
Ex 9:7			"The heart of Pharaoh became hard" (after 5 <sup>th</sup> plague)	Pharaoh's 7 <sup>th</sup> time. <b>STRIKE ONE</b>
Ex 9:12	<b>"The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh"</b> (after 6 <sup>th</sup> plague)			God now begins the process where He strengthens
Ex 9:34			"Pharaoh ..hardened his heart" (after 7 <sup>th</sup> plague)	<b>STRIKE TWO</b>
Ex 9:35	"The heart of Pharaoh was hardened" (after 7 <sup>th</sup> plague)			<b>STRIKE THREE</b>
Ex 10:1			<b>Lord "I have hardened his heart"</b> (before 8 <sup>th</sup> plague)	<b>God hardens. Pharaoh has crossed the point of no return.</b>
Ex 10:20	<b>"The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart"</b> (after 8 <sup>th</sup> plague)			
Ex 10:27	<b>"The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart"</b> (after 9 <sup>th</sup> plague)			
Ex 11:10	<b>"The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart"</b> (Death of firstborn announced )			
Ex 14:4	Lord: "I will harden" (after Passover before chase to Red Sea)			
Ex 14:8	<b>"The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh"</b> (after Passover before chase to Red Sea )			
Ex 14:17	<b>All the Egyptians were hardened.</b>			Now those under Pharaoh are led astray.

1. Pharaoh hardened his heart six times before the Lord confirmed or strengthened his choice
2. Pharaoh hardened his heart 1 more time
3. Then Lord hardened his heart 4 more times

\*\*The Lord did not force Pharaoh's heart to be hard. He confirmed his choice only after the 6<sup>th</sup> plague which is a lot of patience on Lords parts and a lot of stubbornness on Pharaoh's given the plagues he was seeing\*\*