

Surah 39, Az-Zumar (The Throngs), Mecca 59

The Quran's Text & Yusuf Ali's Translation:

أَفَمَنْ شَرَحَ اللَّهُ صَدْرَهُ لِلْإِسْلَامِ فَهُوَ عَلَى نُورٍ مِّن رَّبِّهِ... ﴿٢٢﴾

39:22 Is one whose heart God has opened to Islam, so that he has received enlightenment from God, (no better than one hard-hearted)?

... فَوَيْلٌ لِلْقَاسِيَةِ قُلُوبُهُمْ مِّن ذِكْرِ اللَّهِ...

Woe to those whose hearts are hardened against celebrating the praises of God!

... أُولَئِكَ فِي ضَلَالٍ مُّبِينٍ ﴿٢٢﴾

They are manifestly wandering (in error)!

Muhammad Asad's Translation:

39:22 Could, then, one whose bosom God has opened wide with willingness towards self-surrender unto Him, so that he is illumined by a light [that flows] from his Sustainer, [be likened to the blind and deaf of heart]? Woe, then, unto those whose hearts are hardened against all remembrance of God! They are most obviously lost in error!

Ali's comments:

4274. Those who listen to God's Message find at each stage God's Grace helping them more and more to expand their spiritual understanding and to receive God's light, so that they travel farther and farther to their Goal in the Path of Truth and Righteousness.

They are not to be compared to those who shut out God's Light from their hearts. See next note.

4275. Just as there is spiritual progress for those who seek God, **so there is more and more spiritual retrogression for those who close their hearts to God.** Their hearts get heartened, and they allow less and less God's Grace to penetrate within.

But it is obvious that they flounder on the Way, and cannot walk with the firm steps of those of assured Faith.