

## Blessed are the Pure in Heart

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**Matthew 5:8** - "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

Purity — it's a word that means "freedom from adulteration or contamination" (Oxford Dictionary Online). From a moral perspective, it is in regards to "freedom from immorality, especially of a sexual nature" (Ibid). Thus, when Jesus talks about the pure in HEART, He is referring to those who have unadulterated, uncontaminated, morally pure hearts. It is only the pure in heart who will be allowed to see God in heaven.

What are some of the characteristics of a pure heart? Let me list several for your consideration here:

**AN OBEDIENT, LOVING HEART** — "Seeing ye have purified your souls in OBEYING THE TRUTH through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently" (1 Pet. 1:22, emphasis mine TCG). Those who have obeyed the truth (through obedience to the Gospel) have obtained a pure heart, and must continue to keep it that way through, among other things, showing proper love for their brethren.

**A SINGLE-MINDED HEART** — "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded" (Jms. 4:8). Those who have obeyed the truth had to draw nigh unto God in repentance and obedience to the Gospel. They had to cease being doubleminded, and instead accept a "singleness of heart" (Acts 2:46) in renewed sense of purpose in living their lives in service to Christ (See Rom. 6:12ff).

**A CLEAN HEART** — "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me" (Psa. 51:10). David uttered those words after his sin with Bathsheba. He understood his need to repent. Even though Christians' hearts have been purified when they obey the Gospel, Christians must repent and have their hearts cleansed again when sin creeps back in (e.g. Acts 8:12-24).

**A DILIGENTLY-KEPT HEART** — "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Prov. 4:23). "With the heart man believeth unto righteousness" (Rom. 10:10). If one is not diligent to keep his heart pure, then various sins will proceed forth out of his heart (Mat. 15:19). Christians must ensure that they hide the Word of God in their hearts, that they might not sin against God (Psalm 119:11). Thus, it takes much effort to maintain a right relationship with God.

**A HEART IN PURSUIT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, FAITH, LOVE, PEACE, ETC.** — "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (2 Tim. 2:22, NKJV). Those who call on the name of the Lord shall be saved (Joel 2:32; Acts 2:21; Rom. 10:13). Acts 22:16 tells us that we call upon the name of the Lord in baptism, washing away our sins. Those who have done so must flee youthful, sinful passions and must replace those passions with being passionate about SPIRITUAL things. These new-found spiritual pursuits can be found in places like 2 Tim. 2:22, Gal. 5:22-23, 2 Pet. 1:5-8, and Php. 4:8. If the new Christian can successfully replace his sinful desires with the spiritual desires mentioned herein, then he can stand pure and holy before Almighty God.