

Pursuing God's Blessing Through the Beatitudes: "Go After One Thing"

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

It may be easier for us to understand what Jesus was saying when He said:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit – for theirs is the Kingdom of God."

"Blessed are those who mourn – for they will be comforted."

- But we may struggle a bit when He says "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God"
- Who is Jesus talking to – it's to us!

In this statement, Jesus ties purity of heart to something equally impossible – "For they shall see God."

Exodus 33:20 No one could see God and live; yet here Jesus is saying "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Both being able to be Pure in Heart and to see God shows how great a Savior Jesus is.

We can be so completely forgiven – washed & cleansed that when the Lord looks at us, instead of seeing our sinfulness, failures, and weaknesses; He sees us as His Beloved and Redeemed Bride.

Purity - Purity of heart does not mean sinlessness of life.

- If it did, no one would measure up and see God.
- We are all sinners in the process of recovery-redemption to being saints.
- We can grow and make progress until we see Him as He is and become like Him – 1 John 3:2-3 "Now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that,

when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, even as He is pure.”

1 John 1:8 also tells us: “If we say we are without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.”

- So purity in heart does not mean you never have a bad thought. What a relief that is.

The Bible speaks of purity of heart in several ways:

1. Purity or holiness that belongs to God alone.

- In the presence of the Holy God dwell angels who have never sinned who cover their faces cry out “HOLY – HOLY – HOLY is the Lord of Hosts” – Isaiah 6:3.
- Thrice HOLY meaning He is incomparable in His purity and Holiness.

2. There is the purity and holiness that belongs to the righteous in Heaven.

1 John 3:2 “Now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.”

- Once you’re in His presence in eternity, there will be **NO** trace of sin, sickness, sadness, pain, worry, frustration on or around you.
- You will perfectly reflect the purity/glory of your Savior.
- Holiness is God’s alone, and the purity we will enjoy forever comes entirely from HIM.

3. The purity/holiness God calls us to pursue now.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

- Purity in a Christian in this life is not perfection.
- It’s like gold that has to be refined from iron ore – dross.
- The gold is there and is valuable, but it has to be refined to bring out its purity.
- When a child of God hates the impure of this life, but longs for the righteous life; that brings forth an expression of purity of heart.

What is Purity of Heart?

1. An UNDIVIDED HEART

1 Kings 18:21 Elijah gathered God’s people - Israel at Mt. Carmel when they had backslidden from the Lord.

- His challenge to them was to turn to the Lord with a purity of heart, a single devotion leaving the idols of other false religions and people they had intermingled with.
- They wanted both the blessing of the Lord and to be able to have the false gods also.
- Elijah challenged them with “How long will you hesitate/dance around between two opinions?” - division of mind.
- In other words, make up your minds; either choose Yahweh or the idols; you can’t have it both ways.
- How long will they or you try to embrace and follow Christ and cling to the ways of the world at the same time?

Pure in Heart is singleness of purpose and devotion:

Jesus made it clear in the parable of Matthew 6:22

“The light of the body is the eye: if therefore your eye be single/clear, your whole body will be full of light...”

Other translations say if the eye be “Healthy” for single. Meaning = “**going after one thing.**”

To do well and achieve in any endeavor of life; it takes a single mindedness and purpose to accomplish it well. We also call it **FOCUS.**

James 4:8 to believers: “Cleanse your hands, you sinners, & purify your hearts, you double minded.”

- The opposite of a pure heart is to be double – minded.

Purity of heart is not perfection or a sinless life:

Philippians 3:12-14 “Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but **one thing** I do; forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

This statement captures the heart of singleness of purpose that characterizes the pure in heart.

2. **HEART FORGIVEN** When a person receives Christ, two gifts become yours:

1. **Forgiveness** – This is where God drops all charges against you and reconciles you to Himself so that you are no longer an enemy or outlaw to the Kingdom of God.

- You will be enabled to enter heaven because the charges of your sin have been paid for by the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Praise the Lord – IN Christ your debts are paid in full, so they will not be charged against you on the Last Day.

2. Justification -

Romans 5:1 “Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- No one, including the Lord, demands payment for a bill/debt that has already been paid/atoned for.

This is why 1 John 1:9 can say: “He is **faithful** and **just** to forgive your sins and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness.”

- Your Heavenly Father looks to the atonement which Jesus paid for on the cross for you.

3. A HEART WASHED CLEAN

Another benefit of Purity of Heart is that the Blood of Jesus has the ability to wash your mind, heart and life of the defilement of sin.

- Forgiveness and Cleansing work together.

1 John 1:9 “If we confess [agree with God] our sins, He is faithful and just to **FORGIVE** us our sins and to **CLEANSE** us from ALL unrighteousness.”

- Those He FORGIVES, HE also CLEANSSES, and those He CLEANSSES, He also FORGIVES!

There is an importance difference between them:

1. **Forgiveness and reconciliation happen once** – In Christ you are no longer an enemy of God and opposed to His ways. You don’t become His enemy every time you sin.
2. **Cleansing is needed on a continual basis** – because we become defiled or polluted while in the world; we need cleansing by the washing of the Word – Jesus, in reference to His church as a Bride: Eph. 5:26-27 “The He might sanctify and cleanse it[church-Bride] with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present it [church-Bride] to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it[church-Bride] should be holy, and without blemish.”
Titus 3:5 “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, **by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.**”

Jesus’ love – blood – power; is able to wash the heart that has been messed up by greed, lust, perversion, pride, any sin, habit or compulsion known to mankind.

None of us feel worthy of God forgiving or cleansing us.
That’s because, in ourselves, we are not worthy!

Matthew 1:21 “You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

- Jesus came and gave His life as a ransom to forgive us of our sins, but also to break us free from the power of sins themselves.
- He gives you new affections, likes, interests, power to rule your life/mind/will/emotions.

The invitation from the Lord Jesus today is to come to Him:

- **Empty handed** – realizing you cannot live the Christian life in your own strengths.
- Come to Him in your **frustration and disappointment with yourself.**
- Come with our **BROKENNESS** that your life and situations are not working out for you.

He is and has the answer for you.

He not only offers you **FORGIVENESS** – He is offering you **CLEANSING** and a **PURE HEART** to start over again.

Job 17:9 “The righteous shall move onward and forward; those with Pure Hearts shall become stronger and stronger.”

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