

50 Days to a Blessed Life

How to Develop a Pure Heart

I. Introduction

- A. Matthew 5:8 (NAS) *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”*
1. Happiness is a “heart” condition!
 2. Pure in heart - - “having unmixed motives, having integrity”
 3. Matthew 6:1 (NAS) *“Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.”*

II. How to Develop a Pure Heart

- A. Keep in mind that God sees everything.
1. Proverbs 5:21 (NAS) *For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the LORD, and He watches all his paths.*
 2. Proverbs 15:3 (NAS) *The eyes of the LORD are in every place, watching the evil and the good.*
 3. Hebrews 4:13 (NAS) *And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.*
 4. I may fool others, but I can't fool God!
- B. Regularly evaluate your motives.
1. Proverbs 16:2 (NAS) *All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, but the LORD weighs the motives.*
 2. Giving to the poor
 - a. Matthew 6:2-4 (NAS) *²“So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. ³But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”*
 3. Praying
 - a. Matthew 6:5 (NAS) *“When you pray, you are not to be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners so that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full.”*
 4. Fasting
 - a. Matthew 6:16-18 (NAS) *¹⁶“Whenever you fast, do not put on a gloomy face as the hypocrites do, for they neglect their appearance so that they will be noticed by men when they are fasting. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. ¹⁷But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face ¹⁸so that your fasting will not be noticed by men, but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”*
 - b. Fasting, like all spiritual disciplines, really does produce great spiritual results inside of us!
 5. *“The point of being ‘pure in heart’ is you keep it a secret when you do good.”*
 6. The test of a pure heart: Can I keep it a secret when I do good?
- C. Have your priorities in order.
1. Exodus 20:3 (NAS) *“You shall have no other gods before Me.”*
 2. A “god” - - “anything that is first in my life”

III. How Do I Know What My Priorities Are?

- A. Look at where I spend my time and my money.
1. Matthew 6:19-21 (NAS) *¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*
 2. The purpose of tithing is to teach us to put God first in our lives!
- B. Look at my anxieties.
1. Matthew 6:25 (NAS) *“For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat, or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?”*
 2. Worry says, “God, I think I’m in charge here.”
- C. Look at my goals.
1. Matthew 6:31-33 (NAS) *³¹“Do not worry then, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear for clothing?’ ³²For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness; and all these things will be added to you.”*

IV. Characteristics of Those Who Are Pure in Heart

- A. They are continually conscious of God's Presence.
1. Happiness boils down to, “Who do I want to please in life?”
- B. They are content with God's rewards.
1. Matthew 6:4b (NAS) *“And your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.”*
 2. Don't sell out the future for the present!
- C. They are controlled by God's priorities.

V. The Results of Being Pure in Heart

A. Happiness

1. Matthew 5:8a (NAS) *“Blessed are the pure in heart.”*

B. You will see God!

1. Matthew 5:8 (NAS) *“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”*

2. Just as you don't see too well with dirty glasses, you don't see God too well with a dirty heart!

C. How do I get a pure heart?

1. See a “heart” specialist!

2. II Corinthians 5:17 (NAS) *Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

3. Psalm 51:10 (NAS) *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

VI. Conclusion