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Blessed are the pure in heart

The sixth of Jesus' beatitudes is,

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

Blessed, truly happy are the pure in heart. They enjoy the state of being as God created us to live, they have a steadfast joyful certainty from God that does not go up and down with the breezes and storms of life.



Pure in heart. Let's start with the heart.

- The Bible speaks of “the widow’s heart sing[ing] for joy” (Job 29:13).
- The Bible refers to the heart as the center of our thinking, our mind. For example, God’s word is able to discern “the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).
- In short, in the Bible the heart refers to the center of our being, to who and what we really are.

We need to remember the natural character of our hearts. God declares,

“The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?” (Jeremiah 17:9).

Jesus tells us being pure in heart is essential to true happiness. The words for pure in the Old and New Testaments have two parts to their meaning. First, to make clean, to cleanse, to be clean. Scripture tells us the blood of Jesus “cleanses [purifies] us from all sin” (1 John 1:7). Second, pure means to not be mixed with or contaminated by other things. James wrote about the danger of being double-minded rather than single-minded, trying to go two ways at once, trying to follow God and also follow ourselves or the way of the world at the same time (4:8).

Being pure in heart starts with being cleansed, clean from all sin. God makes us pure before Him in the purity of Christ when we were saved. He purifies us as we confess and repent of our sins from day to day. It means we are experiencing growth in pure living at the core of our being. It means that we have one true devotion: Jesus and His kingdom.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” God graces those who are pure in heart with being able to see God now and always. But what does it mean to see God, to *see* God *now*? God is Spirit, and the apostle John tells us, “No one has seen God at any time” (1:18). We cannot see God’s essential nature here on earth. The Revelation chapter 22 tells us in heaven we will see God’s face. This expression tells us we will see, know God better, much more clearly and closely that we can now. Having been transformed to be altogether and forever pure or holy, we will be able to see God as He is, in His full greatness, His full majesty, His full glory, His full beauty!

But there is a present here-and-now tense of this as well. King David sang in Psalm 11 that the upright will see His face” (Psalm 11:7). Part of this is for us now. A gospel song sings,

“It gets sweeter as the days go by, it gets sweeter as the moments fly. His love is richer, deeper, fuller, sweeter. It gets sweeter, sweeter, sweeter as the days go by.”

As we “walk in the light” we will see, we will know God better, we will know and experience more of His heart, His grace, His work. Yes, it *will* get “sweeter as the days go by.” This is part of the blessing, the true happiness of kingdom living.

Pastor Lyle