

Matt. 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Context: Israel was in a desperate condition.

- Politically, Israel had lost its freedom and was under the bondage of the Roman Empire.
- Economically, they were struggling. The Romans placed exorbitant taxes on the people. They had to give up much of what they worked hard to earn in unfair taxation.
- Spiritually, they were burdened by the oppressive authority of the Pharisees who added to the Law of Moses myriad other laws, rules and ordinances which they imposed on the people.

Charles Hodge: "Whenever true Christianity declines,

the disposition to lay undo stress on external rites is stressed.

- The people were unable to live up to these religious requirements.
- This left them feeling oppressed, frustrated and guilty.

Matt. 3:5 People from Jerusalem and from all of Judea and all over the Jordan Valley went out to see and hear John the Baptist. He was preaching about sin and repentance.

- People who were feeling guilty due to their inability to keep the law system were afraid and fearful they would be shut out of the kingdom of God.
- The hope was treasured up in their hearts that the redeemer whom God had promised would come.

Key: John the Baptist, the forerunner to the Messiah, started preaching that the Messiah was coming. It is time to acknowledge your sin, repent of your sin, receive forgiveness and ready your heart for the Redeemer and His Kingdom.

Jesus' Sermon on the Mount speaks of kingdom life, and what the kingdom is like.

It shows how a person who is actually in a right relationship with God should conduct his life.

- *Not to GET eternal life, but to DISPLAY eternal life.*

While each Beatitude can stand on its own, they aren't merely a collection of unrelated statements. They are linked in an unbroken chain, each one building on the previous truth.

Sequence: Blessed are the poor in spirit: My condition: I am spiritually bankrupt.

- It doesn't look to externals...rather it looks to internals.
- Behold the Holiness of God.

Blessed are they that mourn: Contrition: I see what I am, weep over it & repent.

- Examine myself against God's Word.
- I am broken because of my sin, yet I possess joy because of who God is.

Blessed are the meek: Submit and yield to the will of God. Have a new master.

- You trust in the Lord rather than trust your own abilities and powers.
- Humble, gentle, not aggressive: trusting and waiting on the Lord to act.

The meek person is just humbled that God has had mercy on them.

Out of these roots come the shoot of the fourth beatitude—
a hunger and thirst for righteousness.

The Roots Produce The Shoot.	The Shoot Produces Fruit.
Mercy Or Forgiveness	Peacemakers
Purity; Pure In Heart	

Matt. 5:8 Blessed are the Pure in Heart: for they shall see God.

Adrian Rogers: Pure in heart refers primarily to the thought life. When God destroyed the first civilization with the flood, He said it was because of the thought life.

Gen. 6:5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth,
and that Every Imagination Of The Thoughts Of His Heart Was Only Evil Continually.

Powerful Truth: The human mind is a valued prize over which a battle is being waged.

Heart = kardia: the center and seat of spiritual life; the soul or mind.

➤ The heart is where my passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavors, will and character reside.

John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. *Intellect*

Dan. 1:8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself. *Will*

Pure = katharos: without admixture; *unmixed* [without *undesirable elements*]

- Milk that is pure is not adulterated with water.
- Gold with the dross removed is pure gold.
- Wheat with the chaff removed is pure wheat.

Pure refers to being separated and spiritually clean.

- Pure can refer specifically to that which is Purified By Fire or by Pruning.

Malachi speaks of the Messiah as being like a "refiner's fire."

Malachi 3:2

Jesus refers to Himself being the vine and believers as the branches.

John 15:1-17

- For a branch to produce fruit, it must be pruned.

Question: Am I being sanctified by His refining fire and His pruning?

Purity In Heart: Compare the matters of the heart to the matters of the eyes.

Matt. 6:21-23 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.

If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

"Heart" and "eye" speak of the inner disposition of a man.

Purity of heart is:

- A singular devotion to God and His glory. *Matt. 5:16; 6:9*
- Singular devotion to His Kingdom *Matt. 6:10, 33*
- Desire to receive the Father's reward
- Willing to be overlooked by the world *Matt. 6:1-18*

Pure in Heart: Having a sincere, undivided, and single-minded devotion to God, free from hypocrisy, deceit, and selfish motives, focusing solely on pleasing Him as the ultimate priority. It's about internal integrity—where your thoughts, desires, and actions align with God's will, rather than having hidden agendas or competing loyalties [like serving two masters]. Ultimately, it's a state of being fully committed to God, allowing Him to transform the very core of your being so that your life reflects His nature and His purpose.

Kardia gathers the whole interior life—thinking, feeling, choosing—into a single term that Scripture repeatedly declares must be transformed by grace. God searches it, the Gospel renews it, the Spirit indwells it.

➤ The believer is called to guard it until Christ is fully formed within.

Phil. 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having taken hold of *it* yet;

but one thing *I* do: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

➤ Pure has to do with attitudes, integrity and singleness of heart.

Golden Goblet or Compost Bucket? *Link pure in heart with being a vessel of honor*

II Tim. 2:20 In a wealthy home some vessels are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. Some are for honor while others are for dishonor.

Nelson's Study Bible interprets Paul's metaphor of a large house "to describe two categories of believers. Gold and silver represent believers who are faithful and useful in serving Christ. Wood and clay represent believers who fail to honor the Lord.

Thomas Watson: "Morality can drown a man as fast as vice. A vessel may sink with gold or with dung. Though we may be extremely religious and constantly engaged in doing good things, we cannot please God unless our hearts are right with Him."

Jesus, the Master Craftsman, is serious about quality control in His house. Those He chooses to fill with His glory and power are those who have first proven themselves trustworthy of the glory. They have allowed God to take them through His proper process of separation, sanctification, and preparation.

II Tim. 2:21 Therefore, if anyone cleanses [keep pure] himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the Master of the house, ready [prepared] for every good work.

Key: Cleansing Is Prerequisite To Usefulness.

"IF a man purifies himself." Man has a choice. Our choice determines the way God uses us.

Key: Since some vessels are for honor, one should "therefore" seek to be one of them.

➤ To be a vessel for honor, you must walk in the light, confessing all known sin to God.

- Honorable use; holy; consecrated; useful; prepared for every good work

➤ Vessels of dishonor walk in the darkness and do not cleanse themselves from sin.

Key: The vessels vary in material and dignity. Purity, not pedigree, determines function.

Purity does not determine the level of your value to God, but it can determine the level of your usefulness to Him. Purity is the difference between being a golden goblet or a compost bucket.

I John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse [purify] us from all unrighteousness.

- Deliberate provision so that a person is fit for his appointed purpose.
- We are responsible to use the cleansing that God has provided.

Vessel is described as a hollow container used for holding liquids, or a person regarded as a holder or receiver of something.

II Cor. 4:7 "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."

➤ God fills those who are empty, submitted and willing. God uses those whom He fills.

In Scripture the vessel is never an end in itself. The vessel's worth lies in the One who fills and wields it. Of all the vessels God can choose to serve His most sacred purposes, He is searching, examining, and selecting those who have willfully undergone the testing process of purity, separation, and sanctification.

II Chron. 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He May Strongly Support Those Whose Heart Is Completely His.

Bible Hub: Lasting strength flows from the LORD alone and calls His people to receive, steward, and display that power for His glory.

Gold, in its purest form, is pliable, soft and free from corrosion. Gold is rarely found in a pure state. It goes through a refining process. It comes under the extreme temperature of 1948°F, Melting It & Removing The Dross, before it can be pure.

A pure heart is like pure gold; soft, tender and pliable. Just as the heat must be turned on to purify gold, so also must God turn up the heat in our lives, purifying our hearts, and making us more useful to Him.

Job known for integrity, enduring extreme loss, and yet worshiping God, shows that:

➤ True dedication isn't based on blessings but on God's character.

One day Satan claimed Job only trusted God because everything went so well for him.

God told Satan that Job was "blameless and upright," a person of moral and spiritual integrity.

Yet, God tested Job's faith by allowing Satan to strike with a series of attacks and intense suffering.

Job. 1:22 In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

- True Purity Withstands Even Severe Suffering.

Job 27:4-5 *My lips will not speak wickedness, Nor my tongue utter deceit.*

⁵ Far be it from me that I should say you are right;
Till I die I will not put away my integrity from me.

- True Purity Speaks Truthfully Under Pressure.

Job's words convey enduring faithfulness and purification through adversity.

Job 13:15 Though He slay me, yet will I trust [Hope] in Him.

➤ *Shall I not trust in Him? Should I despair?*

Trust and Hope are not denials of suffering but defiance of despair.

I know He is a just, a faithful, and merciful God. He knows my heart is upright before Him.

Job 23:10 But He knows the way that I take:

when He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.

Just as fire refines gold to prove its purity,

trials purify faith, revealing its genuine, valuable nature, leading to praise and glory.

Job 19:25 For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand at last on the earth;

Job's unwavering trust exemplifies endurance rooted in a pure relationship with God.

➤ Enduring Faithfulness Showcases True Purity In Times Of Trial.

When gold is mixed with other metals (such as copper, iron or nickel), it becomes less pliable and more corrosive. The higher the percentage of foreign substance in gold, the more susceptible it is to corrosion and corruption.

I Cor. 15:33 says bad company can corrupt or corrode good character.

We must be aware of corrosive connections, that is bad company, that can hinder the heart purity God wants to bring in our lives.

II Tim. 2:22 Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts.

Instead, pursue Righteous Living, Faithfulness, Love, and Peace.

Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.

These four things are presented in the Scriptures as a gift from God. However, you will not have them unless you pursue them. You have to claim them; you have to go after them.

Key: I must admit I can't purify my own heart.

Prov. 20:9 "Who can say, 'I have cleansed my heart, I am pure from my sin'?" No One!

Cultivate A Pure Heart

Warren Wiersbe: The Psalms show that David cultivated his heart, the inner person.

Ps. 9:1 I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart.

Ps. 19:14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight,
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Ps. 26:2 Test me, O Lord, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.

Ps. 27:8 When You said, "Seek My face," My heart said to You, "Your face, LORD, I will seek."

Purity as a Prerequisite for Encountering God's Presence

Ps. 24:3-4 "Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place?"

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, Nor sworn deceitfully.

James 4:8b Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts,
for your loyalty is divided between God and the world.

- Approaching God's presence requires moral integrity and spiritual cleanliness.

King David was known for his Heartfelt Repentance and Pursuit of Purity.

Ps. 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

- A prayer of Repentance, Renewal, and Restoration.
- Confession of sins & a desire for purification.
- Divine cleansing alone will restore purity.
- A right spirit means a steady, humble, and teachable attitude toward God.
- Renewal isn't about perfection; it's about surrender.

Psalm 57 records David's experiences in the cave when he was hiding from Saul.

Twice he stated the desire of his heart:

Ps. 57:5, 11 Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth.

Ps. 57:7 My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and give praise.

Psalm 119 teaches what it means to be utterly possessed by the Scriptures.

Psalm 119:9-14 focuses on how a person, particularly a young one, can live a pure life:

by following God's Word, hiding it in his heart, seeking Him diligently, and finding joy in His statutes and testimonies, even more than in great riches. The verses emphasize devotion, protection from sin, and delight in God's law as a guide for life. They focus on the practical application of God's Word to maintain a life of purity and devotion.

A. Purification of the Mind

Ps. 119:9 How can a young man keep his way pure?

By guarding it according to the Word of God.

Way: It has the idea of a groove, a rut or track. Satan gets a groove in your mind.

Need to cleanse that rut or groove: God's Word is the cleansing agent.

John Bevere: In the refining process, gold is ground into a powder and mixed with something called flux. The two are then placed into the furnace and melted by intense fire.

- The impurities are drawn by the flux and rise to the surface.
- The gold, which is heavier, remains at the bottom.

John 15:3 You are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you.

God's Word is the flux that brings toxic thought and 'stinking thinking' to the surface, allowing you to think His thoughts and purify your heart.

Prov. 4:23 Guard your heart with all diligence, for from it flow springs of life.

- Guard: to hedge about as with thorns
- Guarding, preserving, watching over, and maintaining.
- Carries a note of intentional, covenant-conscious vigilance.
- Interior faithfulness; links moral discipline, mental attentiveness, and spiritual vigilance.

Guarding your heart isn't passive; it's an active, diligent effort to align your inner life with God's truth and wisdom.

A.B. Simpson: The Safe Place lies in obedience to God's Word, singleness of heart and holy vigilance.

Key: Surrender to the One who "is able to keep you from stumbling." [Jude 1:24]

B. Determination

Ps. 119:10: With my whole heart have I sought thee:

O let me not wander from thy commandments.

Half-hearted Christians want to serve God and dabble in the world.

There is a battle for your mind. If you're half-hearted, you will lose it.

James 1:8 A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

James 4:8 Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you.

Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Deut. 4:29 But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find Him, if thou seek Him with all thy heart and with all thy soul." [mind, will, emotions]

Determine to stay clean. Job 31:1 I made a covenant with mine eyes not to look upon a maid.

Dan. 1:8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.

Dan. 6:10 When threatened with death, Daniel kept praying three times a day.

His devotion showed his pure heart dedicated to God alone.

You can get clean and say, "By the grace of God and everything in me that is, I will keep my heart clean and pure." You'll still fall if you fail on the next vital thing.

C. Fortification

Ps. 119:11 Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.

It is the Word of God hidden in your heart that is the antidote, the bulwark, that keep the impure thoughts out. You must saturate your being with the Word of God.

Phil. 4:8-9 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things.

D. Personalize the Word of God

Ps. 119:12 Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.

John 3:16 For God so loved _____ that He gave His only begotten Son so that _____ would not perish but have everlasting life.

E. Verbalize the Word of God

Ps. 119:13 "With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth."

➤ The more of it you give away, the more of it sticks to you.

Speak the Word of God. Share the Word of God. Sing the Word of God.

F. Vitalize the Word of God

Ps. 119:14 "I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches."

An impure mind is a mind that has not found its contentment in the Lord Jesus Christ.

When you vitalize God's Word and rejoice in His testimonies, you have the deepest need of your life met. When you fill up with Jesus, the world loses its appeal and the things of earth grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.

Rogers: When you've been feasting on Jesus, you don't have to be in the back alley

eating tin cans with the devil's billy goats. You can say, "No, thank you. I'm satisfied."

G. Internalize the Word of God

Ps. 119:15 I will meditate in Thy precepts and have respect unto Thy ways.

Meditation is a crucial spiritual discipline for growth, obedience, and drawing closer to God

Biblical meditation actively engages the mind for the purpose of understanding God's Word and putting it into practice.

Remembering requires active, cognitive recall of what we know about God from His Word:

Ps. 63:6 When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the *night* watches.

Ps. 1:2 But his delight is in the Law of the LORD, and on His Law he meditates day and night.

Joshua 1:8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will achieve success.

Key: The purpose of meditation is obedience to God's Word,
which produces prosperity and success before God.

Isa. 26:3 You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you,
all whose thoughts are fixed on you!

Matt. 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

Weirsbe: Being pure in heart means being cleansed from sin and drawing near to God, allowing us to know Him more deeply and experience the joy of His presence. This purity begins at salvation and requires ongoing repentance and a desire to seek God's ways. While the result of being pure in heart does not mean we will physically see God. A pure heart leads to a clearer understanding of Him and His work in our lives. You will discern His grace and purposes amid trials and will learn to praise Him in all things. [I Thess. 5:18] Living with a pure heart brings peace, purpose, and a closer walk with God, reflecting His goodness to the world.

Adrian Rogers: When the Word of God permeates you, when you begin to verbalize it, vitalize it, and meditate on it, you become a second-nature Christian, which is your true nature, the nature of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Guzik: The heart-pure person can see God at work in his or her circumstances. The one who is becoming purer in heart is better able to "see Him" [by faith] working in the providential circumstances He allows and/or brings to pass.

Heb. 11:27 By faith he [Moses] left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger;

he persevered because he saw Him who is invisible. Moses saw "Him who is invisible." When he saw God's glory, the glory eventually faded from his face, but in Christ the veil has been taken away.

II Cor. 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. The purer our hearts become, the more we'll see Him. The more we see Him, the more our hearts will become pure. He'll change us, as we gaze at Him. So let's gaze on Him,

"Blessed are the pure in heart" reminds us that God is not impressed by external religion, polished behavior, or public performance. He is searching the inner life—the motives, desires, affections, and secret thoughts. In a world skilled at appearances and obsessed with image, Jesus declares that true blessedness belongs to those whose hearts have been cleansed by grace and made single in devotion to God. Only the pure in heart will enjoy the deepest treasure of all: unhindered fellowship with God Himself.

In the forests of Northern Europe lives the ermine, a small animal best known for his snow-white fur. Instinctively, he protects his glossy coat with great care lest it become soiled. Hunters often capitalize on this trait. Instead of setting a mechanical trap to catch the ermine, they find his home in a cleft of a rock or a hollow tree and daub the entrance and the interior with tar and filth. Then their dogs start the chase, and the frightened ermine flees toward his home. But finding it covered with dirt, he spurns the place of safety. Rather than defile his white fur, he courageously faces the yelping dogs, who hold him at bay until the hunters capture him. To the ermine, purity is dearer than life! God gives us hearts like these little creatures of Yours!

As people who follow Christ, there are things in our lives that are very important that we must protect, even if it costs us our lives. The early Christians were persecuted and captured by the Roman government who told them that if they would not worship the idols of Rome, they would be killed. Deny that Jesus is the Son of God. Instead of "getting dirty" by lying and saying Jesus is not God's Son, they boldly declared their faith in Him and were killed. Like the ermine, they would rather die than soil their soul with sin.

Rev. 2:10 "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."

➤ Jesus promises to reward all those who protect their purity.

Wiersbe: The more we grow in our Christian life, the less we pray about things,
the more we pray about our character.

I Thess. 5:23 I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body

be preserved blameless to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ

Purity is an inner reality that grants fellowship with God, not mere ritual conformity.

The New Testament presents purity as God-wrought, Christ-centered, Spirit-empowered,
ethically manifested, communally sustained, and ultimately perfected in glory.

Wiersbe: I'm afraid sometimes we as Christians are so well taught in the Bible that we have a
set of doctrines filed away up in our heads, but somehow our hearts just don't burn the way
David Brainerd's heart used to burn.

He was racking, coughing with tuberculosis as he drove his horse through the woods of New
England, spitting blood on the white snow, and he'd be praying for the glory of God to be seen.
Dr. Tozer used to go down to the shores of Lake Michigan and fall on his face in the sand early
in the morning and just pray, Oh, God, show me your glory.

Ps. 42:1 As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God.
How Great is Your Desire for a Pure Heart?