

Seeing Clearly  
Matthew 5:8

ETS: The pure in heart will see God  
ESS: Only the pure in heart see God  
OSS: Be pure in Heart  
PQ: Are you pure in heart

**ME**

Have you ever had the eerie feeling of being all alone in a dark house?  
Do you remember as child a time when you thought everyone had abandoned you?

- Story of the “rapture” after coming home from school

You may be feeling that feeling now as you think about it!

It is not a pleasant feeling when you feel alone!

- During my early **college years**, I went through a period of wondering
  - Wondering about what I had been raised to believe
    - Wondering if God really existed

I had attended a class in which the teacher taught us how we had evolved

- That my great, great, great, great grandpa was pond scum
  - The pond scum evolved into a cell, that evolved into a tadpole, which became a frog that climbed out of the water and eventually evolved into a monkey that became a man.
- After class I am walking back to my place when the thought hits me:
  - If this is true there is no God.
    - If there is **no God** there is **no meaning**
    - If there is no God we are all on this spinning ball **alone**
      - It was the **emptiest** feeling I had ever experienced.

**WE**

Although we have been taught that we simply evolved, the **majority** of Americans **reject evolution**.

- According to a Gallup poll from 2019, 40% of Americans believe God created us within the last 10,000 years, 33% believe we evolved under God’s guidance and 22% believe God was not involved at all.

Why, after **nearly 70 years** of being taught in our schools that we are nothing more than animals who have evolved to a higher level, do most **Americans reject** that claim?

- Because there is something **inside** of us that knows there has to be **Creator**
  - **Life is too complex**, and **too fragile** to just happen over billions of years

Because we are **hard-wired** to believe that there is something greater than us, we are also **hard-wired** to want to know that someone!

- Look at any culture and you will find people **worshipping idols**, setting aside **special days, building buildings** or **huts**, etc.
  - Why? Because we know that has to be something else rather than us!

Our internal hard-wiring tells us that what is out there is **not** just a **force**-it must be somehow **like us**.

- People have made **images** of their ideas of what is out there and those images have **human hands, eyes, arms**, etc.
  - Granted they may be in **excess** (E.g., multiples arms, etc), but they have **some sense of human quality** about them.

In other words, we are **hard-wired to believe that we are somehow linked or like what is out there**.

Everyone has an **internal desire** to know what is out there!

- We send up **space ships**
- Some go into **trances**
- Others turn to **psychics, rituals, etc.**

We all have a **desire** to **connect** to whoever is out there!

- According to Barna Research Group 84% of Americans claim to have prayed within the last week.<sup>1</sup>

We go to a **church service** on Sunday morning because we have a **desire** to **connect** to whatever is out there

- On Sunday, we meet with people who, **like us**, want to **connect** to whatever is out there!

We **call** whatever is out there **God!**

- We call that **Being** "**God**," b/c we know that He must be greater than us!
  - **We can't** create **something** out of **nothing**
  - **We can't** create **life**
  - **We are limited** in our knowledge
  - **We are finite**

God is the Supreme Being

- God operates on a **different level** than we do
- God is **not bound** by time
- God is **unlimited** in His knowledge, presence, power, etc.

The fact that we refer to a "**God**" means that we **acknowledge** that there is **something greater**

- The fact that most Americans **pray** indicates that **we understand** we need **help, direction, wisdom, strength from this Almighty Being!**

---

<sup>1</sup> "The Barna Update," [www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org) (4-3-06)

Can you know this God?

- Some people think it is **impossible!**

How can you have a relationship with God?

- God is in heaven; we are on earth!

Can you know this God?

- Is it possible to have a relationship with God?

**Jesus**, who was God-in-the-flesh, said “**Yes.**”

- **It is possible** to have a relationship with God!

## GOD

Turn to **Mt 5:8** “**Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.**” (CSB)

- **Promise:** It is possible to “**see God!**”
  - It is possible to experience God!
- **Paraphrase:** “**O the blessedness of those who are pure in heart, for they will see God.**”

Would you say that a person “**who sees God**” is blessed? YES!

### **How to have a Blest life? Be Pure in Heart**

Apparently, these three words “**pure in heart**” provide the **path** to “**seeing God**”

### **What We Need A Pure Heart**

What is purity? Unmixed with any other matter

You put an egg in a bowl and mix in vanilla, flour, sugar, brown sugar, salt, baking soda, and chocolate chips and you get **cookies**-not an egg!

- The **original** has been **changed**

If you water and mix something into it-it is changed!

In the case of **precious stones, metals, oils**, etc. those things that are **mixed** in are called “**impurities**”

- The **lesser the impurities** the higher the value of the gold, diamond, oil, etc.

We have developed a **refining process** to remove impurities.

- The more **impurities** we can remove the more **valuable** the product.
- The more **impurities** we can remove the **more expensive** the product.

The refining process is **not** an **easy** one.

- It is **time consuming**
- It is **intensive**
- It **requires close examination**

The refining process is **difficult**, but the end product is worth it!

- You can “**see**” the difference!

To “**see God**” we have to be “**pure**”-unmixed with any matter!

## Where is the Purity? The Heart

### Why “in [our] heart[s]”

- **The Heart is the Real You**

Your heart is the

- The reason you **think** the way you do
- The reason you **feel** the way you do
- The reason you **do** what you do
  - *Your heart is the real you!*

### God looks at our hearts!

- I talked last week about the issue between the king of Israel, **Saul**, and the newly-appointed king of Israel, **David**.
  - Saul is trying to **kill** David
  - David has a couple of **opportunities** to **kill** Saul, but instead shows mercy on him.

The **anointing** of David as the new king of Israel was an **unusual** event.

- **Samuel**, who was God’s prophet at the time, goes to David’s father-Jesse
  - **Jesse** brings out his sons, except David, to Samuel

**1 Sa 16:6-7** “When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and said, “Certainly the Lord’s anointed one is here before him.” 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look at his appearance or his stature because I have rejected him. Humans do not see what the Lord sees, for humans see what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart.” (CSB)

### God looks at our hearts!

- **3x’s** in the **Sermon on the Mount**, Jesus states that God “**sees in secret**”
  - **Mt. 6:4** God **sees** what you **give in secret**
  - **Mt. 6:6** God **hears** what you pray **in secret**
  - **Mt. 6:18** God **knows** when you are fasting in **secret**
    - **God knows our hearts!**

The **heart** is the **portal** through which you and I “**see God**”

**Context:** Jesus is teaching His **disciples**

- **Jesus is God-in-the flesh**
  - They can **physically** see Jesus
  - They can **reach out** and **touch** Jesus

WHY do they have to worry about being “**pure in heart**” when they can “**see God**” in front of them?

- **Or can they?**

**Protest:** “Wait a minute, they **can** see God”!

- **Argument:** Are you sure they were all seeing God even though He was physically there?

**Fast forward** to nearly **3 years later**

- Jesus is with His disciples in the upper room

These men have now heard Jesus **teach** many times, seen numerous **miracles**, **watching** Him day-by-day, etc. for nearly 3 years!

- Haven’t they all have “**seen** Jesus”?

No!

- There was **one disciple**, who although he knew Jesus, touched Jesus, talked to Jesus, **never truly** “**saw**” Jesus!

His name: **Judas** never “**saw God**”

Why?

- Because **Judas** was not “**pure in heart.**”
  - He apparently had **other motives** in following Jesus!
    - John notes that Judas helped himself to the **money bag**
      - Motive of Greed?
    - Some believe Judas’ **act of betrayal** was an attempt to **force Jesus’** hand-to force Jesus to become an earthly king
      - Motive of Coveting?
        - Coveted power as Jesus’ right-hand man?

Bottom line: **Judas** never “**saw God**”

Some people **complain:** “**If God would just walk into my house, I would believe**”

- **Truth:** No you wouldn’t!
  - You would have to **exercise faith** even if a man walked into your house and said “*I am Jesus*”
- Jesus did numerous **miracles**, taught **fantastic truths**, yet they **still crucified Him!**
  - Why? They *did not believe* in their hearts He was God!

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

- The verb is **future tense** “will see God”

Remember, to be “pure in heart” you have to go through a **refining process** to remove impurities.

The refining process of the heart is **not** an **easy** one.

- It is **intensive**
- It **requires close examination**

*The refining process of the heart requires....Repentance*

### **HOW Do We Get a Pure Heart? Repentance**

Have you ever experience a moment when you released emotions?

- Bob Jones
- Seminary
  - No job, money tight, School tough
- Feeling when a big test is over!
  - Feeling when I finished my senior recital

Have you ever experienced those moments when the **weight is off** your shoulders?

Have you ever experienced those moments when the emotions you’ve had pent up come pouring out of you?

- Emotions of **tears**
- Emotions of an **outburst of anger**

If so, you have experienced a “**Catharsis**”

- **Catharsis is a release, a purging, or a cleansing!**

Catharsis can be experienced in many different ways:

- **Emotional outburst**
- Other outlets
  - *Writing acted as a catharsis for all his painful feelings*
  - *Sports acts as a catharsis*
  - *Exercise*
  - *Music, etc.*

**After** you have experienced a **Catharsis**, you

- **Feel better**
  - Whatever was bothering you is out of your system
    - The **stress** level is **lower**
    - You **feel** better
    - You feel **refreshed, clean**

**Reality: We all need to experience catharsis!**

- We need those **moments** or **events of purging!**
- We need to be **restored, refreshed, and reinvigorated!**
- We need to be **purged** of bad **food**, bad **thoughts**, bad **emotions**, etc.

**If you don't experience Catharsis, things get bad!**

- That “**stinking thinking**” leads to **stress** which leads to physical and emotional **repercussions**
- If we don't experience Catharsis that **toxic food drains us** of our energy, and leads to more health problems
- If we don't experience **Catharsis** we get **run down**-emotionally and physically.

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

Going **HD** we see that the word “**Pure**” is the word “**Katharos**” (**καθαρός** )

- From which we get our **English** word: **Catharsis**
  - **Paraphrase:** “**Blessed are those who are cleansed, purged, clean**”

The word “**pure**” is a **description** of this person's heart

- It is **not telling** us **what** this person **did**; it is a description of *WHAT this person is!*

Who is calling this person “**pure**”?

- God calls a person “**Blessed**”, “**Fortune**”, or “**Happy**” who is “**purged, clean or cleansed**”

Jesus said “**Blessed is the person who is Pure in God's eyes!**”

- To be “**pure**” in God's eyes is different than being pure in the eyes of fellow humans!

The only people who can “**See God**” are those who have...

- **Humbled** themselves before God
- **Acknowledged** their **rebellion** against God
- **Cried out** to God **to save them** from the penalty of their sins
- **Placed** their **faith and trust** in Christ alone to deliver them.

WHEN a person responds to God's conviction, he/she is now “**in Christ**”

- **In Christ** you have a **new identity!**
  - Your **new identity** is that in God's sight you are “**Blameless, Holy and Faultless**”
- **In Christ**, you have access to “**see God**”
  - Access to the “**Throne of Grace**”
  - Access to God because you are now an “**adopted child of God**”

To be “**Pure in Heart**” one must repent of sin and trust Christ as Savior!

## TRUE BELIEVERS....

- “Will See” God
  - Why? From **God’s perspective** because they are “in Christ”
  - Why? Because they have **access** to God through Christ
  - Why? Because they were **willing** to **humble** themselves before God
- “WILL SEE” God in the **future**
  - Will enter into **God’s presence**
  - Will enjoy God for **eternity**

Unbelievers WILL NOT “See God”

Unbelievers CANNOT NOT “See God”

WHY? Because UNBELIEVERS are NOT willing to humble themselves before God!

- In the 1999 movie *The Matrix*, Morpheus gives Neo a simple choice: take the blue pill, and Neo can go on believing whatever he wants to believe. Take the red pill, and Neo stays in Wonderland and gets to see just how deep the rabbit-hole goes.

WHEN you humble yourself before God and put your faith and trust in Christ, you will see life differently!

- WHY? Because You have “Seen God”

## How to have a Blest life? Be Pure in Heart

### Remove the Impurities

Sin is the impurity that destroys our purity!

- When **Adam** and **Eve** sinned, they lost their purity!
  - They suddenly know they were “Naked”
  - They suddenly knew that their relationship with God had changed which is why they “hid” themselves
  - Their relationship changed into one of blame

Sin destroys our purity!

**Sin** is **toxic** to the **heart**!

- Sin produces a **barrier** between us and God!
  - **Is 59:2** But your iniquities are separating you from your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not listen. (CSB)
    - Sin=barriers
    - Sin=God hiding His face from you
    - Sin=God not listening!
- Sin produces a **barrier** between us and God!
  - **Barriers of anger, lust, greed, pride, lying, immorality, impurity, etc.**
    - Sin keeps us from accepting spiritual truth



## Sin Creates a Barrier

When we get in that position, we need a Catharsis!

- The only person who never needed a Catharsis was Jesus Christ
  - The rest of us need a Catharsis-often we need many Catharsis!

## Confess your Sin and Turn from it!

**Ps 51:1-2** “Be gracious to me, God, according to Your faithful love; according to Your abundant compassion, blot out my rebellion. Wash away my guilt, and cleanse me from my sin.”

To have a “**pure heart**” one must practice confession of sin!

- Why? Because **sin creates a barriers** that hinders one from “**seeing God**”
- Why? Because this is necessary to **know God intimately**

**Ps. 51** was prayed by King David after his adultery with Bathsheba.

- David knew what it was like to “**see God**” and **his sin** had **created a barrier** between him and God!
  - David desired to “**see God**” again.
  - David knew that he had to have his heart made “**pure**”
    - David knew that **confession** of his sin was the only way to **experience a “pure” heart.**

You can have a **room** full of people who **hear the same sermon**

- **Group 1:** “**see God**” -God speak to them
- **Group 2:** **Hindered** from “**seeing God**”
- **Group 3:** Don’t “**See God**” at all-unbeliever

The first two groups are **Christ-followers**

- **Group 1** is what the Bible calls the “**Spiritual people**”
- **Group 2** is what the Bible calls the “**Carnal people**”

Consequences for **Group 2:** A **wasted** life devoid of a meaningful relationship with God

- Consequences for **Group 3:** A wasted life and **eternal separation** from God

ALL these groups may *appear* to be “**pure in heart**”-after all, they are in church, they are good citizens, they are moral, but only one group is actually “**seeing**” God!

- **Only one group** is experiencing an intimate walk with God
- **Only one group** is enjoying God!

## How to have a Blest life? Be Pure in Heart

We are back **full-circle** to Jesus’ message in **Mt 4:17** “**Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near!**”

- **To repent is to have a Catharsis!**
  - To release the sin we have been harboring in our hearts

- To let go of the emotions we have been harboring against God

**Mt 5:8** “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

Notice what it does *not* say:

- **Not** “Blessed are those who **dress** right”
- **Not:** “Blessed are those who **give** money”
- **Not:** “Blessed are those who **read** their **Bibles** everyday”
- **Not:** “Blessed are those who **pray**”
- **Not:** “Blessed are those who attend **church**”

**Mt 5:8** “Blessed are the pure in heart!”

The “**pure in heart**” are those who are “**poor in spirit**”

- They **depend** upon God

The “**pure in heart**” are those who are “**mourn**”

- They are **sensitive** to sin in their hearts

The “**pure in heart**” are those who are “**Gentle**”

- They allow God to **control** them

The “**pure in heart**” are those who are “**hungering and thirsting after righteousness**”

- They crave God’s **righteousness**

The “**pure in heart**” are those who respond in mercy b/c they have received mercy

- They give what they have received

The “**pure in heart**” are “**Blessed**” because they “**Will see God**”

ALL believers “**will see God**” in eternity!

Believers who continue to **BE** what Jesus is calling “**Blessed**” will “**See God**” now in the present. ,

- **Will see** God’s working in their lives
- **Will see** God’s working in the events in the world
- **Will see** God’s working in the lives of others

**PQ: Are you “pure in heart?”**