

KINGDOM ATTRIBUTES

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART

THEY WILL SEE GOD

EUSTACE MCKINNON

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

What Are The Beatitudes?

The beatitudes are statements of characteristics (attributes) and blessing for us as believers to maintain Kingdom Principles. They are virtues and values in life that will result in blessings and rewards. The beatitudes are not for specific types of people, they are blessings to all Christians.

What Is The Meaning Of The Word Blessed?

- Made holy, consecrated.
- Endowed, with divine favour and protection.
- To grant happiness, health or prosperity to 'they were blessed with perfect peace'.

The Greek definition of the word "blessed" comes from **makários**. This describes a believer as being in an enviable position for receiving God's provision (favour) as being an extension of His Grace.

What Is The Meaning Of The Word Pure?

- Not mixed with anything else.
- Free from tainting or polluting matter; clean; wholesome pure water.
- Free from moral taint or defilement, pure love.

The Greek word for "pure" is **katharos**. It signifies that which is clean or free from contaminating substance.

What Is The Heart?

- The organ inside the chest that sends the blood around the body.
- The centre of a person's emotions or the general character of someone. "He has a good/kind heart"; "Is a kind and generous person."
- The central or innermost part of something. "Right in the heart of the city"

The Greek word for "heart" in Matthew 5:8 is **kardēeah**. This can be applied to the physical heart but it also refers to the spiritual centre of life. It is where thoughts, desires, sense of purpose, will, understanding and character reside. The heart also includes the thinking process.

"Eat and drink!" he says to you, but his heart is not with you. (Psalms 23:7, NKJV)

The heart is what you are, in the secrecy of your thoughts and feelings, when nobody knows what's going on in your mind except for God. **"What you are at the invisible root matters as much to God as what you are at the visible branch."** In other words, it is more than an "external purity of behaviour". It is an internal purity of soul.

But the Lord said to Samuel, "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16:7, NLT)

But the words you speak come from the heart, that's what defiles you. For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander. (Matthew 15:18-19, NLT)

A tree is identified by its fruit. If a tree is good, its fruit will be good. If a tree is bad, its fruit will be bad. You brood of snakes! How could evil men like you speak what is good and right? For whatever is in your heart determines what you say. (Matthew 12:33-34, NLT)

What we learn from this Beatitude is that Jesus is concerned with our heart. It is not enough for us to clean up ourselves on the outside, yet our insides are still unclean.

What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy full of greed and self-indulgence! You blind Pharisee! First wash the inside of the cup and the dish and then the outside will become clean, too. (Matthew 23:25-26, NLT)

What Does It Mean To Be Pure In Heart?

To be pure of heart means to be free of all selfish purposes and self-seeking motives. Jesus is the ultimate example of this as He sacrificed his own life for redemption and salvation of us all.

To be pure in heart means to be blameless in whom we actually are but being pure does not mean being perfect. A good translation of the word **pure** would be “single” or “focused”. So to be pure in heart means to have a single-minded devotion to Jesus.

The heart is utterly crucial to Jesus. What we are in the deepest, private recesses of our lives is what He cares about most. Jesus did not come into the world simply because we have some bad habits that need to be broken. He came into the world because we have such dirty hearts that need to be purified.

Create in me a pure heart, O God and renew a steadfast spirit within me. (Psalm 51:10, NIV)

Who Are To Be Pure Of Heart?

All of us. But who could ever really be pure in heart?

He made no distinction between us and them, for he cleansed their hearts through faith. (Acts 15:9, NLT)

Jesus is not saying we can never have impurity in our hearts and never be inconsistent; otherwise we'll all be disqualified.

The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? (Jeremiah 17:9, NLT)

God is the one who purifies the heart and the instrument with which He cleans it is faith.

Who may climb the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? Only those whose hands and hearts are pure, who do not worship idols and never tell lies. (Psalms. 24:3-4, NLT)

How Do We Become Pure In Heart?

1. **Through Jesus**

It is through Jesus Christ who humbled Himself and came to this world as a man. While He was here He completed the work that the Father sent Him to do. He died for our sins and paid the penalty for us on the cross.

If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9, NLT)

2. **Repentance** is the key.

But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. (1 John 1:9, NLT)

If we really want pure hearts we cannot do it by ourselves, we need God. The first thing to do:

- Acknowledge your sin.
- Confess to God.
- Ask for forgiveness.
- Make amends.
- Forsake sin.
- Receive forgiveness, scripture tells us that if we repent of our sins, God will forgive us.

The wonderful thing is He promises He will not remember our sins. So don't hold onto your sin and sorrow, bitterness, failures of people in your life, move on and let God deal with it. As we spend time in the Lord's presence, He is faithful to enlighten us concerning any sins we need to confess to Him. **JUST ASK HIM.**

How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults. Keep your servant from deliberate sins! Don't let them control me. Then I will be free of guilt and innocent of great sin. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. (Psalm 19:12-14, NLT)

Maintaining A Pure Heart

1. **Prayer** - This guards our hearts. The Lord Jesus told the disciples at Gethsemane that prayer is our best protection against temptation.

Keep watch and pray, so that you will not give in to temptation. For the spirit is willing, but the body is weak! (Matthew 26:41, NLT)

2. **Word** – Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ (Matthew 4:4). We also need to accept God’s Word in our hearts with humility.

So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. (James 1:21, NLT)

We cannot selfishly pick and choose what we think we want from His Word, rather we have to accept its authority and let it judge us. After all, it is God’s Word that has saved us. What He says is the same as what He does.

3. **Love** - Love can only flow out of a pure heart. We should love one another. We need to see people and love them as God sees them and loves them.

The purpose of my instruction is that all believers would be filled with love that comes from a pure heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith. (1 Timothy 1:5, NLT)

So now I am giving you a new commandment. Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples. (John 13:34-35, NLT)

You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth, so now you must show sincere love to each other as brothers and sisters. Love each other deeply with all your heart. (1 Peter 1:22, NLT)

4. **Seek Godly relationships** – Strive after good relationships. Many things can spoil our relationships with one another, like over familiarity, indifference to others and their opinions, slowness to listen, eagerness to put across our own point of view and worst of all, anger which can ruin a relationship in seconds. We cannot be in a right relationship with God if we are not interested in building good Godly relationships with others.

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. (2 Timothy 2:22, NLT)

Harvest City Church this is why it’s so important to attend Church, Leaders meeting, Harvest Group’s, Men’s Excel, Ladies Shine, Ignite, The Pulse, JC etc. It’s all about building **God’s Kingdom through Godly relationships**.

Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:26, NIV)

With God’s help we can develop and maintain a pure heart.

What Does It Mean To See God?

1. **Closer walk with God** - As we’ve seen earlier. To be pure means to be clean or cleansed. When a person lives with guilt of sin it is difficult to walk closely with God. Instead, the Bible says, “*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you*” (James 4:8).

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6, NKJV)

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

It is clear when we read the Bible that it does not mean we will physically see God face to face. The Lord told Moses, (Exodus 33:20) “*man shall not see me and live*”. John 1:18 says, “*No one has ever seen God.*” Instead, we will be able to “see” in the sense of understanding God better. Each of the principles of the beatitudes in Matthew 5 have to do with being closer to God or being satisfied in God.

When we are pure in heart, we will be closer to God than if we live impure lives. Jesus also says that those who are pure in heart are “Blessed.” This Greek word can also be translated “happy” and simply refers to a positive or joyful state of being. Psalm 73:1 says, “*Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.*”

2. **Joy** - We will certainly experience a greater joy in our lives when we have confessed our sins, draw near to God, and seek to live His way rather than ours. We will “see God” in the sense that we can more clearly understand His plans and purposes for our lives and walk in a way that pleases Him and helps others. Unfortunately the reality is that all sin and the negative stuff in our lives and around us comes from **impure** hearts, selfishness, jealousy, envy, pride, hate, anger, gossip, greed, gluttony, family breakdown, racism; the list is endless.
3. **Access to the Father through the son** -

Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. (John 14:6, NLT)

Jesus gives us the way to see God. Jesus was and is the only one with a truly pure heart and we can try everything by ourselves to be pure in heart but without Jesus it's useless. We need Jesus to be truly blessed.

To be pure in heart is to seek to live a holy life because that is the secret to happiness. If you want to be happy then seek to be holy. Don't chase after happiness, **chase after holiness**.

The pure in heart are those who are free from evil desires and purposes. They can see and experience God's presence because they are free from self-righteousness and arrogance. God wants us to have pure hearts because that will bring us the best in our discipleship and result in us seeing Him.

Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God!