

G R E A T E X C H A N G E

Pastor Todd McIntyre – May 26, 2019

1. Every one of us **STRUGGLES** with sin. (*Romans 3:11-12 NLT*)

¹¹ *there is no one who understands;
there is no one who seeks God.*

¹² *All have turned away, they have together become worthless;
there is no one who does good, not even one.*

2. It's not **MY JOB** to purify my heart, it's **GOD'S**. (*Ezekiel 36:25-27*)

Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. And **I will** give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. **I will** take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And **I will** put My Spirit in you so that you will follow My decrees and be careful to obey My regulations.

3. How does God do this? The same way **SILVER** is purified.

You have tested us, O God; you have purified us like silver. (*Psalms 66:10*)

Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the Lord tests the heart.

(*Proverbs 17:3*)

WHAT DOES THE PROCESS LOOK LIKE?

1. God starts the work of purification the moment you get **SAVED**.

Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand.² Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.³ For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.⁴ And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all His glory.

⁵ So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.⁶ Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming.⁷ You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world.⁸ But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language.

⁹ Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds.¹⁰ Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like Him.¹² Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.¹³ Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.

¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body, you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. (Col.3:1-10,12-15)

2. The purification is taking place in your heart through your THOUGHTS.

Don't you understand yet?" Jesus asked. "Anything you eat passes through the stomach and then goes into the sewer 'For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander.' But the words you speak come from the heart—that's what defiles you. These are what defile you. Eating with unwashed hands will never defile you. (Matthew 15:16-20)

God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him. And remember, when you are being tempted, do not say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and He never tempts anyone else. Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death. (James 1:12-15)

(Also reference Isaiah 55:6-7 & 2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

How do we do this?

- Ask God to help you constantly examine your heart and show you any unclean thoughts you are dwelling on.
- When He does, admit the thought is yours and ask Him to exchange it for His righteous thoughts.
- Lust for purity, fear for courage, judgement for forgiveness

WARNING: The same fire the devil will use to try and kill you is the same fire that God is using to purify you. The same cross the devil used to kill Jesus is the same cross God used to forgive us of our sins.

When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, he goes through dry places, seeking rest, and finds none. Then he says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when he comes, he finds it empty, swept, and put in order. Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation. (Matthew 12:43-45)

3. Once you are clean, God will start DISPLAYING you for His splendor.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor. (Isaiah 61:3)

Take away the dross from silver, and it will go to the silversmith for jewelry. (Proverbs 25:4)