

Divine encounters: Becoming a Global Center

Series 3: Removing Obstacles to Encounter

Psalms 24:3-4, Hebrews 12:1-2

Psalms 24:3-4 Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place?
4 He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol,
Nor sworn deceitfully.

12 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the ^[a]author and ^[b]finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

In Psalm 24:3-4, the verses emphasize the criteria for approaching God's presence:

- 1, Clean hands
2. Pure heart
3. Remove idols and fix your eyes on Jesus.

Obstacles on the Path : Doubt, distractions, and sin symbolize obstacles hindering our progress

1. Clean Hands: This refers to maintaining moral integrity and purity in actions and dealings with others. It signifies living a righteous and upright life before God and others.

Hebrews 12:14 ¹⁴ Pursue peace with all *people*, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

2. Pure Heart: This indicates inner purity and sincerity of motives. It involves having genuine devotion and loyalty to God, with no hidden agendas or impure desires.

Matthew 5:8 God blesses those whose hearts are pure, for they will see God.,

Psalms 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me..

Proverbs 4:23. Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life.

Isaiah 59:1-3 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened,
That it cannot save;
Nor His ear heavy,

That it cannot hear.

² But your iniquities have separated you from your God;
And your sins have hidden *His* face from you,
So that He will not hear.

³ For your hands are defiled with [a]blood,
And your fingers with iniquity;
Your lips have spoken lies,
Your tongue has muttered perversity.

PSALMS 15:1-2 LORD, who may [a]abide in Your tabernacle?
Who may dwell in Your holy hill?

² He who walks uprightly,
And works righteousness,
And speaks the truth in his heart;

Matthew 23:25-28 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and [a]self-indulgence. 26 Blind Pharisee, first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also.

27 “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. 28 Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness

The Benefits of Overcoming the Obstacles

The benefits of overcoming the obstacles to encountering God include:

- 1. Deeper Intimacy:** Removing barriers allows for a closer relationship with God, fostering deeper intimacy and communion with Him.
- 2. Spiritual Growth:** Overcoming obstacles leads to personal growth and maturity in faith, as believers learn to trust and depend on God more fully.
- 3. Peace and Fulfillment:** Clearing hindrances brings inner peace and fulfillment, as believers experience the joy of walking in alignment with God’s will.

4. Increased Discernment: By overcoming doubts and distractions, believers develop greater discernment to recognize God's voice and leading in their lives.

5. Empowerment for Service: As barriers are removed, believers are empowered to serve God and others more effectively, equipped with a deeper understanding of His love and grace.

6. Witness to Others: Overcoming obstacles becomes a testimony to others, demonstrating the transformative power of God and inspiring others to pursue encounters with Jesus Christ

Together, these verses highlight the importance of both outward righteousness and inner purity in approaching God's presence with reverence and sincerity.