

# Pure In Heart

March 26, 2017

## I. Seeing God

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

- There is a future promise of seeing God.

**Psalm 17:15** As for me, I will be vindicated and will see your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness.

**Revelation 22:4** They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

- There is a present relationship of seeing God.

**John 14:9** Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

### A. *What does it take to see God?*

**Psalm 24:3** Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place?

- As we know God’s presence and influence in our lives, we see Him more clearly.

**Psalm 24:4** The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.

### B. *What hinders us from seeing God?*

#### 1. **Hands that are not clean hinder us from seeing God.**

**Matthew 15:7-8** You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are merely human rules.”

**Matthew 15:17-20** “Don’t you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? But the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.”

- a) What is inside is what will come out.
- b) The appearance of holiness is not enough.

c) Clean hands are the expression of a pure heart.

## 2. A heart that is not pure hinders us from seeing God.

- We are made righteous through Jesus Christ.

**Psalm 51:10-11** Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

**Psalm 24:4 (NIV84)** He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.

## 3. Things that take the place of God hinder us from seeing God.

a) Anything that takes the place of God in your life is an idol.

**Matthew 6:19-20** Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.

- We often give valuable time and energy to distractions from temporary treasures.

**Matthew 6:21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**Matthew 22:37** Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment.

- Your heart follows your treasure.

**Matthew 6:22-23** The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

b) What you see determines what you will become.

**Matthew 6:24** No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

- You will become a servant to whatever has your attention.
- A pure heart is a single minded heart.

**James 1:8** Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

- As long as something is in front of God, you won't be able to clearly see Him.

## II. Five questions to recognize an idol in your life.

### 1. *Does it leave you with dirty hands?*

- Sometimes, we like the thrill of temptation more than the chance to resist.

### 2. *Does it leave you with a divided heart?*

- Anything I can't stop thinking about is an idol.

### 3. *Does it rob you of time, resource or energy?*

- You have been robbed if something is taken without giving anything of value in return.

### 4. *Does it control you?*

- Decisions made based on short-term value instead of long-term benefits may reveal an idol in your life.

### 5. *Does it take the place of God in your life?*

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

- Double vision makes it hard to focus.

**Psalms 119:36-37** Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word.