

The Teachings of Jesus
Blessed Are the Pure In Heart
Matthew 5:8

Introduction

It is relatively easy to change the way we appear on the outside without any real change of heart. Authentic Christianity is about transforming a person's heart and purifying their life. Outward appearances are simply a show of the human will. No amount of human effort can change, reform, or improve our hearts to become like God's.

1. Some people are pretty successful at demonstrating an outward spiritual and pious _____.
2. Bookstores are full of _____ books that claim to help people change.
3. No amount of self-help can change the human _____.
4. The only way the human heart can change is for God to give us a _____ one!

I. The Pure In Heart

5. It is not enough to clean up your act on the _____.
6. The heart describes the _____ you are in the secrecy of your thoughts and feelings when no one knows but God.
7. Who we are in the deep, private recesses of our lives is what God _____ about most.
8. Jesus came into the world because we have such sinful and evil hearts that, without His help, we would be eternally _____.

9. Biblical scholars refer to the heart as the source of our _____ and affections.
10. The commandment was to love God with your whole _____ – spiritually, mentally, and physically.
11. Jesus taught that every person has a _____ that can decide between doing what honors God or what exalts man.
12. According to Jesus, a person's decisions and choices will ultimately determine their eternal _____.
13. Sadly, many people are _____ in making up their minds and following through on decisions.
14. The pure in heart come to God through genuine _____.
15. For the believer, that inner _____ comes from the life in Christ through the breath of the Holy Spirit.
16. When we choose to let the breath of God breathe upon us, His Spirit begins to impart the _____ of Christ within us.
17. Only Christ can purify your heart and cause you to do the _____ things for the _____ reasons.

II. Seeing God

18. To see God means to be allowed into His _____.
19. God also means being awestruck by his glory by a direct _____ of his holiness.

20. Most of our spiritual _____ in this life comes to us through the Word of God or the work of God in providence.
21. A day is coming when God himself will _____ among us.
22. Seeing God also means being _____ by his grace.
23. The pure in heart are able to see God at _____ in their own lives.
24. There is a definite shift in the direction of our _____.
25. It is the pure in heart who see the work of Christ in _____.
26. The pure in heart also see God in His spoken and written _____.

III. The Blessing

27. The Blessing is being connected to the supreme _____ of God.
28. God's blessings quench the _____ of the soul.
29. God is "the _____ in all _____ things."

Conclusion

30. Who are the pure in heart? Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "Only those who have _____ their hearts completely to Jesus that he may reign in them alone."
31. Clarence Jordan wrote, "having conflicting _____ make people wretched, confused, and tense."

A pure heart loves God with the whole heart - your soul, mind, and strength. Our love is not divided and has no rival. The kind of person you are affects the kind of world that you see. And conversely, what you see affects what you are.

Answers

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| 1. attitude | 12. future | 23. work |
| 2. self-help | 13. inconsistent | 24. priorities |
| 3. heart | 14. repentance | 25. others |
| 4. new | 15. motivation | 26. word |
| 5. outside | 16. life | 27. goodness |
| 6. person | 17. right | 28. thirst |
| 7. cares | 18. presence | 29. good |
| 8. lost | 19. experience | 30. surrendered |
| 9. emotions | 20. sight | 31. loyalties |
| 10. being | 21. dwell | |
| 11. will | 22. comforted | |

QUESTIONS FOR MEDITATION

1. Some people are pretty successful at demonstrating an outward spiritual and pious attitude. But the reality is that no amount of self-help can change the human heart. Have you known someone (or been someone) who has tried a "self-help" process to clean up their outside without cleaning up their inside? How has that worked out? What was your impression of the "changes"?
2. How many times have you made a decision completely convinced that it was the best one based on the best information, only to cancel it a little later in favor of something more convenient? What situation made you change your decision? Was changing it a good move or a bad move?
3. Seeing God means being admitted into His presence, experiencing His glory, comforted by grace, seeing God at work in their own lives and others, seeing God in the Earth, seeing God in His spoken and written word, and seeing God as the bread of life. Which way do you find it most easy to see God? Which ways are more difficult to see? How has seeing God been a blessing to you?