

CONSECRATED IN THE CHAOS

Chapter 6: A Pure Heart

*Scripture: “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”
Matthew 5:8*

PROSPECTING FOR GOLD

The Main Idea – The Big Questions

1. When you think of a “pure heart,” who comes to mind? Why?
2. What would you say describes a “pure heart”?
3. Is there a difference between *purity in heart* and *holiness*? (see Hebrews 12:14) Explain.
“*Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.*”
4. Is seeing God a future event, or can we *see God* today?

MINING FOR GOLD

Making it personal – real life challenges – what do we learn?

5. In one brief sentence, what is time spent with the Lord?
6. What do we gain by taking time to be with God? What does God *gain*?
7. What are some of the challenges Christians face in spending quality time with God?
8. What would be your loving advice to those who struggle with maintaining this special time with God?
9. What part do we play in keeping our efforts from becoming empty rituals that rely on our spiritual efforts rather than enlivening them?

EXTRACTING THE GOLD

Discovering the True & Pure Meaning of Jesus’ Words

10. Other than our quiet time with the Lord, what are some practical ways of drawing near to God?
11. What sustains the pure heart?

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Drawing from other examples in Scripture – what do we learn?

Read the following Scripture passages and answer the questions that follow.

The King of Glory – Psalm 24:3-6 CSB

“Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?

Who may stand in his holy place?

*The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who has not appealed to what is false,
and who has not sworn deceitfully.*

*He will receive blessing from the Lord,
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.*

*Such is the generation of those who inquire of him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.”*

- ❖ How do our hearts become pure?
- ❖ What benefit to us is a pure heart?
- ❖ What’s the relationship between a pure heart and clean hands?
- ❖ The answer to the psalmist’s questions – *“Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place?”* – becomes even more clear when these verses are read in reverse order –

“Such is the generation of those who inquire of Him, who seek the face of God:
*He will receive blessing from the Lord,
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
[He is] the one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who has not appealed to what is false, and who has not sworn deceitfully.
[He is] the one who may ascend the mountain of the Lord.
[He is] is the one who may stand in His holy place.”*

Ascends God’s mountain
& stands in His holy place



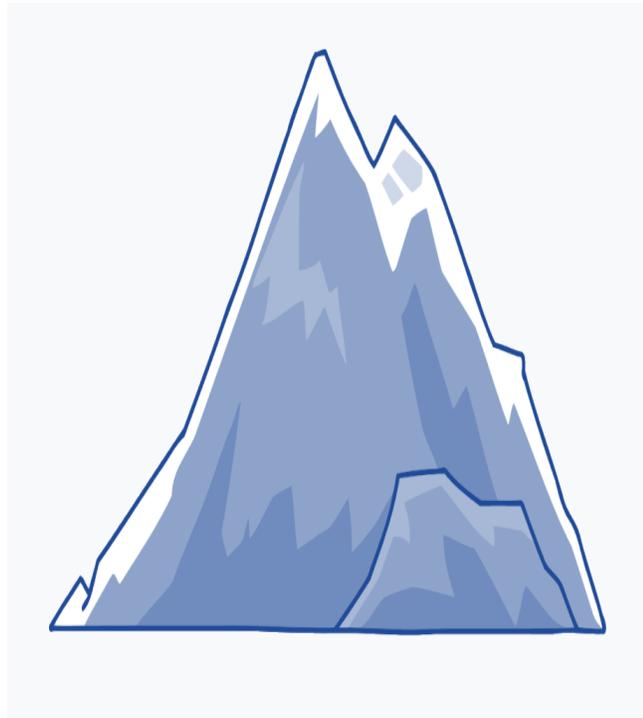
Have clean hands and a
pure heart



Receive blessing and
righteousness from God



Those who inquire of
and seek the face of God



- ❖ Does changing the order of these verses change the passage’s meaning?
- ❖ What does the progression of these verses in reverse order tell us about the process of *ascending the mountain and standing in the presence of God?*
- ❖ Why do you think people and even some Christians neglect “*seeking the face of God?*”

Longing for God’s House – Psalm 84:10 NIV & MSG

“*Better in one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.*” NIV

“*One day spent in your house, this beautiful place of worship,
beats thousands spent on Greek island beaches.
I’d rather scrub floors in the house of my God than be honored as a guest in the palace of sin.*”
MSG

We are in Christ, secured by His finished work on the cross (on our behalf), the resurrection, and His ascension. This is every Christian's position – we are in Christ.

“I may have access to the throne, I may even have a personal seat next to Christ, but unless I come, sit, and worship, then my proximity is not in the throne room at all.”

Cassidy Campbell, *Consecrated in the Chaos*, page 79

- ❖ Complete this sentence: *“What I spend my days living for, longing for, fighting for, reflects my _____ to Jesus.”*
- ❖ Does having a pure heart automatically bring us near to God? Explain.
- ❖ What happens when we draw near to God?

“A pure heart is birthed out of gazing on the Father's delightfulness and abiding in that delight. How can we have clean hands? How do we keep a pure heart before the Lord? Jesus' blood purchased us as a kingdom and priests, and the high price Jesus paid is enough. But as I examine Psalm 24 and pray through it, I realize that very few even want to ascend the hill of the Lord. Most people are not even thinking about a journey to live a life standing in the Holy Place.”

Cassidy Campbell, *Consecrated in the Chaos*, page 77

Raised Up & Seated with Christ – Ephesians 2:4-7

“. . . because of His great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus.”

- ❖ What is Christ's proximity to God the Father now?
- ❖ What is your proximity to the throne of God?

- ❖ How does it make you feel that God not only spared us from the penalty of our sin because of His great love and mercy, but *He also seated us with Christ in the heavenly realms?*
- ❖ Why would God do that? Why would God give us a place of such great honor?
- ❖ How much time do you spend in your heavenly seat?

REFINING THE GOLD

Personal Journey – the Challenges and the Connection to God

God lives outside the realm of time, but for us time is a “high commodity.” It has great value. We can use it wisely, or we can waste it. The choice is ours.

12. Is there an urgency to ascending the holy mountain and abiding in Christ’s love? Why?

Read and contemplate from **Consecrated in the Chaos**, the last paragraph of page 83 through the first paragraph of page 84, summarized as follows:

- Our society has conformed to the idea that there is no such thing as a pure heart clean of the culture.
- We have substituted morality for purity.
- We have diversified the sacred with human reasoning.
- We have confused being entertained with the power and wonder of God.
- We have forgotten that purity is found in the person of Jesus, not the goodness of humanity.
- We have rejected the miracle of oneness with the Lord and are working out our own form of “salvation” that is lacking the power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised.
- Our lack of the fear of the Lord, a low view of God’s holiness, mixed with a distorted view of who we are is the evidence of the absence of purity in our society.

13. As children and lovers of God, in just a few sentences, what is our challenge?

This Week: Mediate on Psalm 24:3-6 (read various translations, including the NIV, CSB, and AMP), and then make it personal by writing these verses in a way that speaks specifically of you and your intimate relationship with God –

- **Be descriptive of the blessings you receive from God.**
- **What is the result of the purifying God does in your heart?**
- **Describe the experience of getting closer and closer to Him and standing in His presence.**

These are words God will give you opportunity to share with a lost soul searching for peace and fulfillment that has been out of reach. What would you tell them about this mountaintop experience? (“When I go in search of God . . .)

