# **The Beatitudes- Part 8 - Pure in Heart**

Pastor Carl Van Vliet

Sermon on the Mount / The Beatitudes / Matthew 5:3–12

[Matthew 5:3-16](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.3-16)

[Mt 5:8](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.8) “8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.”

What does it mean to be “pure in heart?”

First off Jesus is speaking of the inner man, The heart of a man is much of what Jesus addresses during the Sermon on the mount.

The Inner man is the deepest aspects of human nature, known completely by God, to be contrasted with the outward appearance or public image of a person. Paul prayed in [Ephesians 3:16](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Eph3.16) “16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, **to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man**,” This is one of those **Apostolic Prayers** we have talked about that we can pray over our lives. Praying that God would strengthen us by His Spirit in our Inner Man, in our hearts that we may be pure in heart.

In the Old Testament in [1 Samuel 16:7](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.1Sa16.7) “7b... “For the Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.””

Jesus teaches so much of that contrast between the inner man, our heart condition, and the outward:

In [Matthew 15:8-9](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt15.8-9) “8 ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, **But their heart is far from Me.** 9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’ ””

Just a few verses later he expounds: [Mt 15:11](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt15.11) “11 Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.”” [Mt 15:18-19](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt15.18-19) “18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth **come from the heart, and they defile a man**. 19 **For out of the heart proceed** evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies.”

In [Matthew 12:34-35](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt12.34-35) “34 Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? **For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.** 35 A good man out of **the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things**, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.”

[Matthew 23:25-26](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt23.25-26) “25 “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 self-indulgence**. 26 Blind Pharisee, **first cleanse the inside of the cup and dish, that the outside of them may be clean also**.”

and again in[Mt 23:27-28](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt23.27-28) “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.”**

**One can make the outside look good, looking righteous, appearing to love mercy and justice, serving the body of Christ and the community all while being just like the pharisee’s who on the inside, in the “Inner Man” is full of dead men’s bones and unrighteousness.**

**People will praise you for how wonderful you are because man does judge by the outward appearance but God judges the heart and he sees the dead men’s bones and unrighteousness.**

**So what does it mean to be pure in heart?**

In the Greek here the word “pure” is καθαρός (katharos) [kath-a-ros] and it has three basic meanings in its various uses in scripture:

1. Genuine or authentic - one who is not filled with falsehood or hypocrisy - we have heard the saying “his motives are pure”

2. Clean - one who is morally pure (clean of unrighteousness) or an innocent person

3. Unmixed - not mixed or blended with anything else

The first thing we must do to be pure in heart is strive to live an authentic life in Christ - In the inner man. Back in my younger youth we had this term: facing. It was a term that was used to describe the face that one puts on based on the people with which one was with presently. The goal then was their acceptance of you based on the face you presented when the real you was something different. Don’t be one who is facing for those around you, live life to Christ, led by His spirit without falsehood

This is a relational dynamic. Remember Jesus words from [Matthew 12:35](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt12.35) “35 **A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good things..**.”

Jesus described this attitude when he spoke of Nathaniel who later became one of the 12 apostles (Bartholomew) [John 1:47](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Jn1.47) “47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, **in whom is no deceit!””**  In whom there is nothing false: he is genuine.

Second then we strive to live **holy**, “Clean” as one who is morally pure. Both of these two definitions look towards that Christian Ethic we have been talking about, right actions right motive and right goal.

This purity of heart does not describe some state of sinless perfection, but rather it is a heart posture towards purity, holiness and authenticity. The Apostle John said in [1 John 1:8](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.1Jn1.8) “8 **If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**”

Spurgeon was at a conference where a preacher taught sinless perfection in an outspoken manner and even claimed to have reached a state of sinless perfection himself. Spurgeon didn’t challenge him on the spot. Instead, the next morning he poured a pitcher of milk over the man’s head, to which the ‘perfectionist’ responded with the kind of rage and hostility that you’d expect from any sinner. sinless perfectionism debunked.

Its a funny story that may or may not be true and we chuckle at it. But the truth is we cannot live sinless lives, we will never achieve a state of sinless perfection until eternity

Holiness is often a dirty word. It is applied to externals - “do this, don’t do that” this is where holiness becomes a focus. Holiness is not an external state, but an internal one: Blessed are the pure in heart, those whose heart is morally pure, clean from all unrighteousness. When the heart is pure the rest of your life will follow.

[Hebrews 12:14](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Heb12.14) “14 Pursue peace with all people, and **holiness, without which no one will see the Lord**:”

[Matthew 5:8](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Mt5.8) “8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.” Blessed are those who are holy in heart for they shall see God.

Hold onto that verse in Hebrews for a few minutes we are going to come back around to it.

Richard Roberts, Son of Oral Roberts, preacher of the 20th century and founder of Oral Roberts University in Tulsa Ok said this:

You can not change your heart, God will not change your mind, but if you will change your mind, God will change your heart - Richard Roberts

The Heart and the Mind are tied together thread whereas one effects the other. In [Proverbs 23](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Pr23) in a thought about a deceitful, evil man - a man in the Hebrew who has an “evil eye” meaning he is looking for the way to accomplish evil. Scripture says of that man “as he thinks in his heart so is he” He is deceitful

God says in [Isaiah 55:8](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Is55.8) “8 “**For My thoughts are not your thoughts**, Nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord.”

Our thought life directly affects our heart life and our expression of that life in our lives. Our thoughts don’t line up with God’s thoughts. God does not change our thought life but he can change our hearts when we change our thought life:

[Romans 12:2](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ro12.2) “2 And do not be conformed to this world, **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”**

[2 Corinthians 10:5](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.2Co10.5) “5b casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,”**

Want purity of Heart? Change your thought life and make it Holy and let God change your heart and make it Holy, Pure.

The third aspect of a pure heart is “unmixed”

I have on a Gold wedding ring as I am sure many of you have on today. God is a valuable metal and the measure of it in value is called a Karat. The most common measures of Gold are: 10K, 14K, 18K, and 24K. You pay more, because its value is higher for a higher K of Gold. What most people don’t know about the “Karat” of Gold is that it is the measure of the purity of Gold:

• 24K – this is the highest karat level for gold meaning it is 100% pure gold.

• 18K gold is 75% purity level,

• 14K is 58.3% purity level,

• 10K is 41.7% purity level.

That means anything under 24K Gold is ”mixed” with something else. Some other metals that lower its value because it is affected by another.

A pure heart is one that is so consecrated tot he Lord that it leave no mixture of other things in it.

D.L. Moody once said “The world has yet to see what God will do with a man fully consecrated to Him”

We mix in a little self and become 18K, we mix in a little worldliness and become 14K, add in some sin and we are 10K, you get the idea. Blessed are the pure in heart are those who strive to be unmixed, wholly devoted to the Lord.

What does Jesus mean that those who are pure in heart shall “see God?”

In [Exodus 33:17-20](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Ex33.17-20) “17 So the Lord said to Moses, “I will also do this thing that you have spoken; for you have found grace in My sight, and I know you by name.” 18 And he said, “Please, show me Your glory.” 19 Then He said, “I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.” 20 But He said, **“You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.”**” God said to Moses, you can see my goodness pass before you and proclaim my name to you but you cant see me for no man can see me and live.

So if no man can see the Lord and live what then does Jesus mean here “Blessed are the pure in heart **for they shall see God**” and the writer of the book of [Hebrews 12:14](https://ref.ly/logosref/BibleNKJV.Heb12.14) “14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, **without which no one will see the Lord:”**

This word for “see” in both these passages is the Greek word ὁράω (horaō) [hor-a-oh] means “become visible” in otherwords we could say it like this “Blessed are the pure in heart for God will become visible to them”

Last week was the anniversary of the passing of my father in law, Liela’s father and we watched one of his favorite movies - Hacksaw Ridge. It is the true story of Desmond Doss, a Seventh Day Adventist man who held to a strict view of “though shall not kill” who went into WW2 as a combat medic.

There is one scene, where he is pulling wounded men from the battlefield he comes up on one man whose face and eyes are covered with blood and mud and debris. And this soldier is wounded, and cant walk and yet he is crying out that he is blind. so much else is going on in this mans life, but he is blind. Desmond Doss takes out his canteen and washes the mans eyes and a rag and wipes the eyes clean of the blood and mud and debris and the man proclaims “I Can See, I though I was Blind but I can See”

He is in the midst of the greatest difficulty of his life but he can see.

When your heart is pure and you heart is in pursuit of holiness God will become visible to you. You will begin to see Him at work in your situations and circumstances. You begin to see Him revealed in nature and life and relationships.

You begin to recognize Him in the sphere of your life. See Him at work in your life.