

Study Guide
The Radical Joy of God
Pure in Heart

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Matt. 5:8

1. What do you think it will be like for you to see God?

Share with each other examples of how you have already seen glimpses of God:

- a. in nature
- b. in scripture
- c. in His church
- d. in circumstances
- e. in something personal to you

2. Why do you think Jesus links being "pure in heart" with "seeing God"?

"Make every effort...to be holy, for without holiness no one will see the Lord." Hebrews 12:14b

"Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? He who has clean hands and a pure heart..." Psalm 24:3-4

3. Discuss how being "pure in heart" goes deeper than being pure in speech, thought and actions.

"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life." Prov. 4:23

4. Scripture describes aspects of purity. Discuss the dynamics of how these relate to us:

a. Ascribed Purity:

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Cor. 5:21

"Abraham believed God, and it was credited to Him as righteousness." James 2:23

b. Progressive Purity:

"Perfecting holiness in the fear of God." 2 Cor. 7:1

"Not that I am already perfected, but I press on to take of that for which Christ has taken hold of me." Phil. 3:12

5. Notice how farmers can plow, plant and fertilize for a crop, but that they know it ultimately depends on outside forces to produce a harvest. Discuss how cultivating purity in our lives is a joint venture between us, and God.

a. Plowing (Gal. 2:20)

- b. Weeding (Psalm 139:23-24)
- c. Fertilizing (Proverbs 4:4)

Application- Take a few moments to pray quietly and discern whether God is indicating a "next step" for you in your journey of progressive purity.

Message Slides

What does it mean to see God?

>each on mouse click<

- a. ... in Nature
- b. ... in Scripture
- c. ... in His Church
- d. ... in Circumstances
- e. ... in Intimacy
- f. ... in Heaven

"Pure" (Gr. Katharos)

>on mouse click<

"Heart" (Gr. Kardia)

The Condition of our Hearts

Jer. 17:9 "The heart is **more deceitful** than all else and is **desperately sick**;

Gen. 6:5- The LORD saw how great man's wickedness on the earth had become, and that **every inclination of the thoughts of his heart** was only evil all the time.

Mark 7:21-23- "**For from within**, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts,

Examples

Envious- 23:17- "Do not let your heart **envy** sinners..."

Anxious- 12:25- "**Anxiety** in a man's heart weighs it down..."

Deceitful- 12:20- "**Deceit** is in the heart ..."

Lustful- 6:25- "Do not **desire** her beauty in your heart..."

Hopeless- 13:12- "**Hope deferred** makes the heart sick, ..."

Bitter- 14:10- "The heart knows its own **bitterness**..."

Broken- 14:13- "Even in laughter the heart may be in **pain**..."

Backsliden- 14:14- "The **backslider** in heart will have his fill of his own ways..."

Don't trust your heart.

Prov. 28:26- "He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but he who walks wisely will be delivered."

What does it mean to be pure in heart?

>each on mouse click<

1. Original purity
2. Ultimate purity
3. Ascribed purity
4. Progressive purity

Progressive Puritya. Design

Eph. 1:4- "even as he chose us in Him, ...that we should be holy and blameless..."

1 Peter 1:15-16

"But as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

Progressive Puritya. Designb. Effort

Heb. 12:14b

"Make every effort...to be holy, for without holiness no one will see the Lord."
(paraphrase)

2 Cor. 7:1- "Perfecting holiness in the fear of God..."

My Experience *(image of vegetable garden)*

Add these points...

1. Plowing

Gal. 2:20- "I am crucified with Christ..."

2. Weeding

Psalm 139: 23-24

“Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!
And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!”

3. Fertilizing

Proverbs 4:4- “Let your heart **hold fast** my words; keep my commandments and live.”