



"Blessed Are The Pure In Heart"

Rev. G. W. Ridout in Pentecostal Herald
 In our doctrine of Christian holiness as taught by Wesley and the theologians of Methodism we put it down as one of the absolute essentials of sanctification—the experience of heart purity—the cleansing of the heart through the precious blood.

Rev. John A. Wood in that wonderful book on Perfect Love gives the following on the subject of purity of heart.

A pure heart will be indicated—

1. By pure and holy conversation. "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." If the heart is right, the conversation will be sweet, truthful, humble, heavenly, and holy.
2. By opposition to all impurity. A pure heart loathes sin, and has no affinity for it. It shrinks from it, as a worm would from a fire. It abominates it, and recoils from it.
3. By thorough watchfulness. The love of purity instinctively leads to watchfulness against impurity. The holy soul is led to watchfulness, in this polluted world, by its own instincts.
4. By reluctance to mingle with the gay, the vain, and worldly. It has no moral affinity for such society, and no taste for such associations. The charm of the world has been broken. The pure heart has tastes, motives, communion, and enjoyment totally dissimilar to the worldling.

"Let worldly minds the world pursue;
 It has no charms for me;
 Once I admired its trifles too,
 But grace hath set me free."

II.

Some years ago Gipsy Smith, the great English evangelist, was holding a revival in Philadelphia and in one of his noonday meetings in Arch Street Methodist Church he told a story on heart purity which I shall never forget. I consider it one of the finest illustrations on heart purity.

An Englishman had the misfortune to lose his sight. Doctors told him he would have to go blind for the rest of his life. One day he was visited by a friend who sympathized with him over his affliction. This friend wanted him greatly to visit with him a certain famous physician. "Oh, no," he said, "what's the use, my doctor tells me there is nothing can be done about it." But his friend prevailed upon him to make the visit with him. The great doctor examined the blind man very carefully

and then asked him to continue any medicine he was taking and follow out a course of medicine he would prescribe; this was agreed to and he went back home and began the new treatment. In a week or more there was a change; he could see dimly. He visited the doctor again who told him to continue on with the medicine, which he did, and to his delight in a few weeks he could see, his sight restored. A friend of the great doctor said in talking over this case and cure, "Doctor, I did not know you were an eye specialist." The doctor replied, "No, I am not, but I saw that this man's heart was in a dirty condition, and if I could clean up his heart his sight would return. That's what I did."

I frequently used this illustration when preaching on "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see." Matt. 5:8.

Blessed Are The Pure In Heart

Blessed are the pure in heart,
 For they shall see our God;
 The secret of the Lord is theirs;
 Their soul is Christ's abode.

The Lord who left the heavens
 Our life and peace to bring,
 To dwell in lowliness with men,
 Their Pattern and their King.

He to the lowly soul
 Doth still Himself impart,
 And for His dwelling and His throne
 Chooseth the pure in heart.

Lord, we Thy presence seek;
 May ours this blessing be;
 Give us a pure and lowly heart,
 A temple meet for Thee.

—Rev. John Keble.

III.

I have referred this case to several doctors whose comments were not very reassuring, but recently in my reading I got the finest and most conclusive proof of the truth of this case. I take pleasure in passing it on to my readers.

A Dirty Heart, Poor Vision

Preaching in Brighton, England, Rev. Henry Howard said once he was trying to prepare a sermon for children. He said to himself, "What has the heart got to do with seeing?" "I went to the telephone," he continued, "and called the principal doctor in our city. I asked him if there was any disease of the heart that

affected the eyes. 'Oh', he said, 'certainly, Mr. Howard, there is. We call it a Dirty Heart.' I asked him for particulars, and he explained that it was a disease in which ulcers formed on the inner walls of the heart. There was no pain there, but the blood vessels of the eyes were affected, the eyes became bloodshot; and if there was no cure, the blood vessel burst, and the man became blind. A clean heart, a clean vision!"

Blest are the pure in heart,
 For they shall see our God;
 The secret of the Lord is theirs;
 Their soul is His abode.

Still to the lowly soul
 He doth Himself impart,
 And for His temple and His throne
 Selects the pure in heart.

"Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." I like sometimes in preaching on that text to stop at the words, "They shall see." It is a fact beyond the power of contradiction that the pure in heart see further into the deeper things of God; they understand more clearly the will of God; then enjoy keener conceptions of revealed truth than those who have entered into the clean heart experience.

IV.

There is a vast difference between purity and power. Many there are who seek after power, pray for power, they have ambition for power, but with God it must be first pure. This is the divine program, and the soul of heart does not stumble over terms. Sanctification is a Bible term for a Bible experience. Dr. Fowler in a gracious sermon on John 17:17, "Sanctify them through thy truth: Thy word is truth," gives the following:

Sanctification is the utter expulsion of the sin-principle. It is the fullness of what, before, one has in part. Sanctification is "an instantaneous deliverance from all sin." It is "the pure love of God and man shed abroad in a faithful believer's heart by the Holy Ghost given unto him to cleanse him and to keep him clean from all the filthiness of the flesh and spirit, and to enable him to fulfill the law of Christ, according to the talents he is intrusted with, and the circumstances in which he is placed in this world." "The degree of original sin which remains in some believers, though not a transgression of a known law, is nevertheless sin, and must be removed before one goes to heaven, and the removal of this evil is what we mean by full sanctification." "Regeneration is the beginning of purification. Entire sanctification is finishing that work."