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The Pure In Heart See God

By a Baptist Editor

Cicero said: "Hold off from sensuality, for if you have given yourself up to it you will find yourself unable to think of anything else." An excellent bit of advice in morals. But Jesus went infinitely further in his doctrine. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

Cicero was concerned for the control of thought. Jesus was also. But the Master was solicitous for the changing of man himself, for the bringing of the soul into position and condition to see God.

Those who by the grace of God preserve internal sanctity, spiritual purity, freedom from evil desire and purpose, have not only deliverance from the down-drag, they experience spiritual light not enjoyed by those whose hearts are befogged by the impure. "They shall see God."

The pure in heart need not wait until they experience heaven beyond death; they have heaven in their hearts even now, and they become increasingly conscious that they are face to face with God. To such "The Lord is at hand," moment by moment.

Impurity of heart, divided devotion, makes the Father seem far away. It destroys the joys of salvation, stops the flow of power. "If I regard iniquity in my heart the Lord will not hear me pray." "Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully."

The pure in heart will see God in the things of nature about them. For those who have eyes to behold his glory, he is there. "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse, because that when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."

Edward Young said: "By night an atheist half believes in God." But the pure in heart spiritually behold him at his work on his heavens and earth, by day and night. "The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech and night unto night showeth knowledge." The Psalmist was not guilty of attempting to erase God from the face of his universe and of writing therefor: Miracled by inanimate law. Man attempts to rationalize God from his creation, because he is impure in heart and cannot behold him in faith. He who atheistically asks: Where is God? confesses his foolish heart has been darkened.

The pure in heart will see God in others—his children. This is the basis for Christian fellowship; this is the joy of Christian associations. The redeemed of the Lord have fellowship together because, through the finished work of Jesus Christ, they have a common spiritual Father. The Psalmist, who by faith looked forward to Christ declared: "I was glad when they said, Let us go into the house of the Lord . . . whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the testimony of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord." He met God in his touch with the people of God and said: "Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." We meet God in the lonely places, but we meet him a thousand fold more as we behold his workings in the hearts of his children and as we assemble as members of his churches. Our enjoyment of such fellowship is measured by the purity of our hearts before the Lord.

The pure in heart will behold him in his Word, the holy Scriptures. To many it is only a book, but to the pure in heart it is more. He speaks to them from every page and line. While the "blind" pick it to pieces, the spiritual feed on its hidden manna. For those dead in sins the Bible has meager meaning, but to those cleansed in the blood of the Lamb and quickened into life, he reveals himself.

The pure in heart shall see God in their sufferings and trials. He who walks with God in the valley bears witness to a heart that is centered wholly on Christ. "Yea, though I walk through the valley and the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over."

Jesus said to his disciples: "I have meat to eat that ye know not of. And the consecrated Christian, wholly dedicated in heart, sees and knows and understands that of which the earth-man does not so much as dream. Paul said to his associates: "For there stood before me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve." We may not see the angel as did Paul, but he makes us to know they are there, and far better, in all our trials he makes us to know "The Lord is at hand"—within reach of us all. And, seeing him, "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." And we "Reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us."

The pure in heart shall one day see him face to face in the land eternal, beyond the sunset. "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servant shall serve him: "And God shall

When Hand Joins Hand

Rev. Chas. V. Fairbairn
in "American Holiness Journal"

Dr. Andrew Murray makes the statement that prayer is the unreaching hand of the Church, power the down-reaching Hand of God; that when hand touches Hand, there will be a transference: God will take over the Church's burden of prayer-desire and will release into her hand the dynamic which she needs for His service. With this in mind, let us turn to "THE ACTS." O, may the Holy Spirit so thoroughly convince and convict us that it is with us, even as it was with them, back there, THE PATH OF PRAYER IS THE ROAD TO POWER, that it will drive us to our knees! For there is no other way!

Jesus commanded the Apostles to go and evangelize the world. Matthew 28:19-20. But the whole program of world-wide evangelism was to be held in abeyance while they tarried, and until they received what they tarried for—THE BAPTISM WITH POWER FROM ON HIGH. Acts 1:4-5.

They obeyed Him implicitly and literally. Acts 1:12-14. THE HAND OF PRAYER TOUCHED HAND OF POWER, and the baptism with the Holy Ghost came upon them. Acts 2:1-4. This launched the great Jerusalem revival and the little band of believers became a mighty, thriving, growing church. Acts 2:41-47. Such success alarmed and enraged the Jewish authorities. Arrests and imprisonments followed, but in answer to prevailing prayer and faith, the Lord delivered them. Acts 4:23-33. So great was the Divine interference that their arch-persecutor, Saul of Tarsus, became converted and turned out to be one of the mightiest preachers of the very gospel which once he persecuted. Acts 9:1-3; 26:9-20. "Then had the churches rest throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified (built up); and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied." Acts 9:31.

When Peter was put in prison, the Church prayed without ceasing and the Hand of Power miraculously intervened and released him. Acts 12:19. Later on, prayer opened prison doors to Paul and Silas at Philippi and the jailer and his family were converted. Acts 16:25-33.

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wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away." "And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie; but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God," here and hereafter.