



Mid-Week

Bible Study and Prayer
Wednesdays 6:45pm – 8pm



Good Hope Baptist Church

Pastor Josh Franklin

The Beautiful Attitudes pt. 6-

God Becomes Real to You When You are Real with Him

Matthew 5:8 (NKJV) - Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.

John MacArthur says, "The word 'blessed' implies the condition of well-being that results from salvation, the status of one who has a right relation to God."

Now what does this word pure mean? It's the word we get our English word, Catharsis, from, which means a purifying, and it does not have to do so much with cleanliness, although that is inferred. **It has to do more with unity or singleness of heart or mind.** It literally means, blessed is that which is unmixed. For example, grain that would have chaff in it, would not be pure. Or metal that would have alloy in it would not be pure. Or milk that had been diluted would not be pure. Or an army that would have people who would defect, defectors in it, would not be pure. And so when he says, "Blessed are the pure in heart", what he is talking about is, Blessed are those who have integrity, that do not have divided hearts. That do not have double hearts. **The word literally means singleness of heart.**

Matthew 6:24 - "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

James 4:4, 8 - ⁴ Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God... ⁸ Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and purify *your* hearts, *you* double-minded.

What do we mean by "heart"? We talk about giving your heart to Jesus. The skeptic says, "What are you going to do? Reach in the Thoracic cavity and bring out that pulsating muscle and give that to God?" No. When the Bible uses the word heart, it's not talking about the muscle that pumps the blood. It is talking about the core of the individual. It's talking about the inner person. It's talking about **the master control.**

Proverbs 4:23 - Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life.

Jeremiah 17:9-10 - The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, / test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

Mark 7:20-23 - And He said, "What comes out of a man, that defiles a man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

Jeremiah 24:7 - Then I will give them a heart to know Me, that I *am* the LORD; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God, for they shall return to Me with their whole heart.

Kierkegaard said, "*Purity of Heart is to will one thing: a call for unmixed motives that seek only the will of God.*"

"Pure in Heart" means an undivided love which regards God as our highest good, and which is concerned only about loving God. [Lloyd-Jones, 95]

The PROMISE: You will see God

2 Corinthians 4:4 (KJV) - In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Hebrews 11:27 - By faith he [Moses] forsook Egypt... for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.

Christian people can see God in a sense that nobody else can. The Christian can see God in nature, whereas the non-Christian cannot. The Christian sees God in the events of history. There is a vision possible to the eye of faith that no one else has. But there is a seeing also in the sense of knowing Him, a sense of feeling He is near, and enjoying His presence. [Lloyd-Jones, 97]

A.T. Pierson used to say, "History is His Story" – and he was right.

John Wesley said that he read the newspaper to see what God was doing in His world.

You'll see God. So how will you see Him. You'll see Him in circumstances. You'll see Him in nature. You'll see Him in the face of your grandchild. You'll see Him in the scriptures. And God will become a bright, living reality to you. The Bible will burst aflame in your hands. God will be real to you. And I'll tell you why. Because you'll see Him. You'll perceive Him. You will know Him because your heart is pure. In this same sermon on the mount, the Lord Jesus Christ said, "when your eye is single, your body will be full of light."

Someone once asked Helen Keller, "Isn't it terrible to be blind?" She responded, "Better to be blind and see with your heart, than to have two good eyes and see nothing."

Now think of the complete Beatitude: "Blessed [approved of God] are the pure in heart [those with a clean, unmixed heart for God] for they will [continuously] see God [in life and in eternity]."

Extra Teaching Helps

R. Kent Hughes: In 1982 the *Los Angeles Times* carried the story of Anna Mae Pennica, a sixty-two-year-old woman who had been blind from birth. At age forty-seven she married a man she met in a Braille class; and for the first fifteen years of their marriage he did the seeing for both of them until he completely lost his vision to retinitis pigmentosa. Mrs. Pennica had never seen the green of spring or the blue of a winter sky. Yet because she had grown up in a loving, supportive family, she never felt resentful about her handicap and always exuded a remarkably cheerful spirit.

Then in October 1981 Dr. Thomas Pettit of the Jules Stein Eye Institute of the University of California at Los Angeles performed surgery to remove the rare congenital cataracts from the lens of her left eye—and Mrs. Pennica saw for the first time ever! The newspaper account does not record her initial response, but it does tell us that she found that everything was "so much bigger and brighter" than she ever imagined. While she immediately recognized her husband and others she had known well, other acquaintances were taller or shorter, heavier or skinnier than she had pictured them.

Since that day Mrs. Pennica has hardly been able to wait to wake up in the morning, splash her eyes with water, put on her glasses, and enjoy the changing morning light. Her vision is almost 20/30—good enough to pass a driver's test. Think how wonderful it must have been for Anna Mae Pennica when she looked for the first time at the faces she had only felt, or when she saw the kaleidoscope of a Pacific sunset or a tree waving its branches or a bird in flight. The gift of physical sight is wonderful. And the miracle of seeing for the first time can hardly be described.

The Applause of heaven, Max Lucado, p.121)

The heart is the center of the spiritual life... That is why the state of the heart is so critical. What's the state of yours?

When someone barks at you, do you bark back or bite your tongue? That depends on the state of your heart.

When your schedule is too tight or your to-do list too long, do you lose your cool or keep it? That depends on the state of your heart.

When you are offered a morsel of gossip marinated in slander, do you turn it down or pass it on? That depends on the state of your heart...

The state of your heart dictates whether you harbor a grudge or give grace, seek self-pity or seek Christ, drink human misery or taste God's mercy.

No wonder, the, the wise man begs, "Above all else, guard your heart."

Example: Your heart speaks of total commitment. When people fall in love, they're called what? Sweethearts, not sweet heads, but sweethearts. They fall in love. Now it's the heart that is the core of individual. It is that part of the individual that dictates the character, directs the will, and dominates the affections.

The Inter-relation of the 8 Beatitudes (Lloyd-Jones)

The first three beatitudes deal with our AWARENESS OF OUR NEED: poor in spirit, mourning because of our sinfulness, meek as the result of a true nature of self and its great ego.

FOURTH BEATTITUDE – God's provision for that need: you will be filled.

The next three beatitudes are the result of being filled – merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers.

The last beatitude is the final outcome – persecuted for righteousness' sake.

The Inter-relation of the 8 Beatitudes (Adrian Rogers)

First of all you see yourself as a bankrupt sinner, "Blessed are the poor in spirit." Secondly you are broken over that, "Blessed are they that mourn." Thirdly my dear friend, you yield yourself to Him, "Blessed are the meek." You say, "Here God I want your will." God puts a hunger in you. "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness." That's Jesus. You have a hunger and a thirst for the Lord Jesus Christ. And then by mercy, He gives you mercy. Blessed are the merciful, that's what you need today that you might have mercy. Then my dear friend, there's a pure heart. It is the work of God. Oh Doctor Jesus will give you a brand new heart.

From "Have You Seen God This Week?" By Bill Bennett

1. **Virtues of a Pure Heart.** Note that Jesus does not say Blessed are the perfect, the sinless or the prudish in heart but the pure. What is a pure heart?
 - a. A created heart (the new creation) Ezekiel 36:26.
 - b. A clean heart (we cannot be sinless, but we can be blameless).
 - c. A committed heart – single minded
 - d. A concentrated heart – totally focused on Jesus.
2. **The Vision of the Pure Heart**
 - a. The Earthly or Present Vision – No one in this life has seen God in His total essence (John 1:18) nor can anyone see Him with the natural eye (1 Timothy 6:16). However, the true Christian has a spiritual eye, called the “eyes of your heart” in Ephesians 1:18. With the eyes of the heart, the true man of God sees Him though He is invisible. Hebrews 11:27 says that “Moses endured because he saw Him who was invisible.” It is the privilege of every child of God to see God as He walks this pilgrim path. This is what I call “Living in Heaven before you die”. Just how do we see God in this life? We see Him like Moses saw Him. Moses was never permitted to gaze upon His face but He saw His mighty works. Examples, when He parted the Red Sea, when He appeared in the burning bush, or destroyed Pharaoh’s army, etc. Just a few of the ways we see God are as follows:
 - 1) We see God when we are saved.
 - 2) We see God when we win someone to Christ
 - 3) We see God when we encounter Him in meaningful worship
 - 4) We see God when our prayers are answered
 - 5) We see God when we internalize the Word and meditate on it.
 - 6) We see God when He heals us
 - 7) We see God when He protects us from disaster
 - 8) We see God when He fills our hearts with joy
 - b. The Heavenly or Future Vision – One day every redeemed person will see God in His total glory and total essence.
 - 1) Job, though highly troubled and suffering greatly, exclaims victoriously these words, “I know my redeemer lives and at the last day shall stand upon the earth, and even though the skin worms destroy my skin, yet in my flesh shall I see God and not another” (Job 19:25-27). Job was referring to the second coming.
 - 2) Every saint will see Him face to face at the Rapture (1 Thess. 4:16-18).
 - 3) Every saint sees Him immediately upon death (1 Cor. 5:8).
 - 4) In the last chapter of the last book of the Bible, we read these words, “they will see His face and His name will be on their forehead” (Rev. 22:4).
3. **The Victory and Value of Having a Pure Heart**
 - a. Those who are seeing God in the present life are living a life of hope, joy, steadfastness, and faithfulness. Moses, though sorely tried, persevered because He saw Him who was invisible. Personally I find nothing as encouraging in my life as that of seeing God at work all the time in many, many ways. And even if I cannot perceive His working, by faith I know He is and never leaves me nor forsakes me (Heb. 13:6; Is. 41:10, 13). I recall being in a snow storm and on a high place when my care began to circle around like a top, then I heard the Lord say, “the Lord is with you.”
 - b. The Eternal Victory – Heavenly, glorious, wonderful, indescribable and unspeakable. The very essence of heaven will be dwelling and looking upon the face of the eternal God. John sums it up in Revelation 21:4-5. “Just think, the tabernacle of God (the very residence) is among men and He will dwell among them and they shall be His people... and He will wipe away all tears from their eyes and there shall be no more death, sorrow, crying or pain for the former things have passed away”. Does someone want to say Hallelujah!