

Joy in the Lord Part 7: Joy for the Purified

April 02, 2023

Matthew 5:8, Ps. 24

What does it mean to have a pure heart? Is this statement in Matt. 5:8 related to Ps. 73:1? No mention of seeing God in Ps. 73, it sounds related but has the wrong context. James 4:8 is a warning to sinners and those who don't submit to God. The best passage for comparison is Ps. 24. There are two connections to Ps. 24: 1) V3, those who can approach God must have a pure heart. 2) V5, the reward for seeing God is blessing and righteousness.

3 Questions to Answer about this Passage:

1) **Who May See God?** 4 Qualifications from Ps. 24:3-6, asks who can freely ascend to God's hill and stand in His holy place?

1) **One with innocent hands:** V4, the deeds we do reveal the condition of our heart. Matt. 5:23-24 discusses the heart before someone offers a gift to God. The person examines himself and remembers a brother has something against him. In Matt. 5:29-30, Jesus says it is better to remove the wickedness than to continue in it and it cause eternal death.

2) **One with a pure heart:** V4, a pure heart is the right motivation, attitude, and inner disposition. Matt. 5:27-28 talks of adultery in the heart of a man who can't have another man's wife but covets her in his heart. Matt. 5:43-44, a pure heart blesses and initiates love towards another.

3) **One who has no idols:** V4, one who hasn't lifted their soul to idols, or worthlessness, to fake and false things. Matt. 6:19-21, their treasure is in heaven. Matt. 6:22-23, their eye sees the light and they worship only God. You cannot serve two masters, God and wealth, Matt. 6:24.

4) **One who has no deceit:** V4, one who isn't dishonest, or lying to others in their hearts. Matt. 5:33, forbids oaths. A believer should answer "Yes" and "No" and keep their word.

>>>**Can we do these things?** We are **not** innocent according to James 2:10, Rom. 3:12. We are **not** pure in heart according to Gen. 6:5, 8:21, Jer. 17:9, Pro. 20:9. We are idolatrous according to Matt. 19:24-25, "Who can be saved?" We have lips of deceit according to Jer. 17:9. The answer to Question 1: Who may see God? – No one may see God.

2) **How May I See God?** Matt. 5:8 defines the result of salvation which is a pure heart. We are a new creation in Christ, 2 Cor. 5:17. God's law is written on our hearts, Jer. 31:33. We are born again by the Spirit, John 3:8. We are declared innocent by faith in Christ (justification), Rom. 3:21-26. God views me as innocent, one with a pure heart, God only as the one I worship, and as one who speaks truthfully at all times. Ps. 51:10, David asks the Lord to create a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit in him. These things are done by God alone. The Spirit of God dwells in us (Rom. 8:9) and gives us the ability to love others and to think the best of those redeemed by Christ (1 Cor. 13). How may I see God? Answer: By being found in the Son, having received the give of grace, through faith, being justified by Christ.

3) **What Does it Mean to See God?** The things in Matt. 5:3-12 are tangible things. V3, is a call to the Kingdom of God. V4, provides a promise of comfort in the believer's completed glorification. V5, is a promise of inheriting the land in the Kingdom. V6, is satisfaction that comes in the Kingdom when righteousness is seen in all things. V7, mercy is received when a believer is included in an eternal Kingdom and not cast into Hell. V8, the ability to see the King in all of His glory, each day, is a reality of the coming Kingdom. Ps. 24:7-10, foretells the coming of the King in all His glory.

Further Discussion and Application

When we contrast what Jesus exposed about the hearts of pharisees in Matt. 23:13-36 with the life of a believer found in Rom. 6:15-23, Eph. 4:17-24, and Col. 3:12-17. What is the result of the work of the Spirit? What evidence is found in the life of a believer? How do we know if someone has been born again?

Rev. 1:13-17 and Isa. 6:1-3 describe the King coming in His glory to reign on the earth. Describe the Lord Jesus in these passages.

Contrast the suffering of Christ in Matt. 27:27-50 with the description of Christ in Rev. 1:13-17 and Isa. 6:1-3. Our salvation was purchased by the blood of Christ. The memories of this world will fade away. What should we be doing in service to our Lord while we wait for His return?

An idolatrous heart results from a heart that hangs on to sinful desires and places things above God. The Holy Spirit dwells in us and empowers us to walk in the Spirit of God so that we don't fulfill the lusts of our flesh. From Gal. 5:16-26, we see a comparison of the old life before Christ and the results of a new life. In our new life: How should we serve God? How should we love others? Does our heart desire to obey the Lord's commands? Do we offer grace and mercy to others? Do we love our enemies as Christ did? What does this new life look like to others?

Read 1 Cor. 2: 1-16. We know from that passage that the world is incapable of understanding the mind of God. Prior to salvation one would think we are crazy, ignorant, and cultish. After salvation, they affirm God's wisdom, mercy, and glory. We need not try to be understood, but we can be prepared with the hope that we have received. What passages remind us of our salvation and life before Christ and now? What is the Gospel message we could proclaim clearly and precisely from the Scriptures we have been taught?