

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Hosanna, Don't Ever Stop, Alive in You, Broken Vessels

WELCOME

Heart Check. On a scale of 1 to 10 (highest), rate how pure your heart is.

WORD

MATTHEW 5:8

⁷Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

How can one be pure in heart? Is it really possible to see God? Didn't God already tell Moses that no man could see Him and live? (**Exodus 33:18–20**) Furthermore, how can we believe in something that is unseen?

Job, a righteous man of his time, declared that he was able to finally see God (**Job 42:5–6**). How did he do it? Though we cannot categorically see God with our physical eyes because He is a spirit, through our heart He can make us see Him. This is why the Beatitude said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

BE PURE IN HEART

In Greek, "heart" comes from the word *'kardia'* which refers to a person's inner self, the center of our being, volition, mind and desires. The heart is the seat of our will that controls the emotions, which direct our thoughts and actions. In fact, the evil that we see comes from the very heart of men (**Mark 7:20–23**).

"Pure" in Greek is *'katharos'* which means clean and pure. A pure heart is clean, single minded and directed towards God. To have a pure heart is a challenge not only because the Bible tells us that the heart is deceitful (**Jeremiah 17:9**) but also because the high standard for purity of heart is God Himself. Placed right beside the perfect God, we are all unclean.

God's standards remain unchanged: those whose heart is true are the ones who can see God (**Psalms 24:3–4**). We need to keep in mind that we cannot pretend to have a pure heart for God knows our heart (**Acts 15:8–9**). So, how do we become pure in heart?

Purified by God (Ezekiel 36:25–27). For our hearts to become pure, God first has to clean it. God Himself will cleanse us from all our filthiness and our idols. He

will also give us a new heart and spirit and then He will help us walk with Him. Jesus Himself is the atoning sacrifice that makes us clean (**Hebrews 9:13–14**).

Unadulterated in Motive (James 4:8). We must guard our hearts for it is so easy to be double-minded or half-hearted. Do not allow even a little compromise that could remove something precious and ultimately take away the joy of the Lord in you. Urgently, repair any of such compromises and return to God.

Righteous in its Pursuit (2 Timothy 2:22). One of the best ways to pursue righteousness is to surround ourselves with a group of likeminded people who also pursue righteousness. If we truly know the Lord and are really following Him, we will always struggle when surrounded with sin. A tension inside of us shall always make us feel uneasy. This is because a child of God can never live in harmony with sin.

Exclusive for God (Matthew 22:37). To be pure is to be all for God with heart, mind, and soul. Loving God is the only thing in this world that will make us better at loving others. Loving God is the best thing that we can do for our heart and there is nothing like it.

SEE GOD

Here are some ways by which we can see God.

See God in His invisible attributes and nature. We see God through the power in His creation, His Word and His people. As two people look at the same creation; one may see God, the other may not. The difference comes from the perspective of the heart. To see God, we must first have a change of heart (**Psalms 51:10, 12**).

Experience His manifest presence. We can see God through His manifest presence in the lives of His

WORD (cont'd)

people (**Matthew 5:6**). More so, God the Father promised us that the Holy Spirit will be with us forever (**John 14:16–21**).

Enter future glory. This is God's promise that someday those who know Him will see Him. Everyone who has this hope fixed on Jesus, purifies himself, just as He is pure (**1 John 3:2–3**). When we know the ending of the movie, no matter how difficult the sequence of the story goes, we are comforted because we know that in the end it will have a happy ending. For us who know the promises of God, we hold unto His promises that He will take care of us.

For standing up for their faith in God, Daniel's friends believed that God will deliver them from the furnace of blazing fire. But they also said that even if

God would not spare them, they will still not bow down to other gods (**Daniel 3**).

All of us will have difficult trials. And because all human beings age, even the person with the least amount of problems in the world will one day have to face death or the death of his loved ones. It is when we get closer to death that we start to wonder about life.

Whether God spares us or not, heals us or not, God is our God. He does not promise that we will be free from fire but if we walk with Him faithfully, His promise to us is, sooner or later, we will be freed. If we allow the trials of life to purify us, we will not become bitter. In fact, people will say, "I see something in your life that I also want to have" (**Zechariah 13:9**).

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. **Promise Keeper.** What is God's promise in **Matthew 5:8**? How do you feel about His promise?
2. **Being Pure in Heart.** In what specific ways can you improve the purity of your heart?
3. **See Him Through.** What trials are you currently experiencing in your life? How do you see God amidst these trials?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.
– *Matthew 5:8*

Who are the people in your life today who need to see Jesus?

Use the passage of how Jesus purifies our heart with the cleansing of our sins by His blood as an opening line to at least one person this week.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends