

TO SEE GOD

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Hebrews 8:6 tells us that the New Testament is established upon “better promises” than the Old. Through the knowledge of Christ, we have been given “exceeding great and precious promises” (2 Pet 1:3-4). And if we meet God’s conditions to receive these promises, it is absolutely certain that He will fulfill them to the letter (2 Cor 1:19-20). Among these great promises is that of one day being able to see God. In Matthew 5:8, Jesus said, “Blessed are the pure in heart: *for they shall see God.*”

The treasure of the heart

No man yet has seen the Father (John 1:18; 1 Tim 6:16). But after Jesus pardons the righteous on Judgment Day, he will deliver them (his kingdom) to the Father (1 Cor 15:24). At that time, Jesus will show the Father to the redeemed (1 Tim 6:13-16). But to be eligible for that incomparable reward, it is essential that we be pure in heart. The heart is the source of all that we think (Matt 9:4; 15:19; Mark 7:21; Luke 2:32; 9:47; 24:38; Acts 8:22; Heb 4:12), say (Matt 12:34; Luke 6:45) and do (Matt 15:18-19; Mark 7:21-22). When there is any evil in the heart, that evil will be transmitted through the thoughts, words and deeds of the person. The Lord says, “A good man out of the good treasure of the heart brings forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things” (Matt 12:35; Luke 6:45). Those who bring forth evil things from the evil treasure of the heart will never see God. To have the “evil treasure” removed from our hearts and be full of the “good treasure” is what it means to be “pure in heart.” We are commanded to purify our hearts (Jas 4:8). Our part in this work is to purge ourselves from these evil things (2 Tim 2:21). Can this be done?

Bridling the whole body

God intends for us to overcome sin. The Lord says, “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous” (1 John 2:1). Though we have all sinned in our past (Rom 3:23; 1 John 1:8,10), we must escape this corruption (2 Pet 1:4), and become unspotted from the world (Jas 1:27). Hebrews 12:1 says, “Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.” It is possible for us to “cease from sin” (1 Pet 4:1-2), just as the Corinthians had stopped doing so many of the wicked things they did prior to becoming Christians (1 Cor

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6:9-11). Faith is the victory that overcomes the world (1 John 5:4-5). In fact, it is the “unjust” that “cannot cease from sin” and they will be punished by God for that (2 Pet 2:9-14). They are the ones who will *not* see God (Heb 12:14). Rather, we *can* overcome all things (2 Cor 10:3-6; Eph 6:10-18; Rev 2:7,11,17,26; 3:5,12,21; 12:11; 21:7). By having our hearts cleansed (purified) from all evil, we are equipped to overcome sin. When we have *only* good treasure in our hearts, we will only bring forth good in our thoughts, words and deeds. That is why God says the perfect complete man is able to bridle his whole body (Jas 3:2). God’s work is to purify our hearts by faith (Acts 15:9), to establish our hearts “unblameable in holiness” before Him (1 Thes 3:12-13). Love out of a pure heart is “the end of the commandment” (1 Tim 1:5). God’s word is designed to make us spiritually complete, thoroughly furnished unto all good works (2 Tim 3:16-17). Keeping God’s word will cause God’s love to be perfected in us (1 John 2:5).

Bringing forth fruit with patience

David was able to fulfill all of God’s will because his heart was pure like God’s (Acts 13:22; 1 Sam 13:14; 1 Kgs 15:5). Christ’s disciples must bring forth good fruit (John 15:8), and that requires our having a good heart (Luke 8:15). We need a pure heart to be able to successfully escape evil desires and to follow after what is good, such as righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart (2 Tim 2:22). The hope that we have of being in the likeness of Christ’s resurrection (1 John 3:2) and of seeing God (Matt 5:8), should motivate us to purify ourselves even as Christ is pure (1 John 3:3). No matter how much we have grown spiritually, it is always possible for our hearts to grow in evil, causing us to depart from God. We must take heed always not to allow that to happen (Heb 3:12-13). Jesus warned that only those Christians who resist falling away and instead bring forth fruit with endurance will be saved (Luke 8:11-15; Matt 24:13). Those who are not holy will never see God (Heb 12:14). Those who are not holy and not pure in heart will face everlasting destruction, permanently separated from God’s presence and from the glory of His power (2 Thes 1:9). Only those who are holy, fully separated to serve God, and who are pure in heart will ever see God.