

A PROMISE TO SEE GOD

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Hebrews 8:6 says that Jesus Christ has “obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of *a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.*” Similarly, 2 Peter 1:3-4 says, “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us *exceeding great and precious promises:* that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” One of those great promises is found in Matthew 5:8, where Jesus Christ says, “*Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*”

The promise to see God

To be able to actually see God is truly one of the greatest promises we have been given. 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 need for a pure heart

The heart is the source of all that we think, say, and do. In Mark 7:21-23, Christ says, “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: all these evil things come from within, and defile the man” (see also Matt 9:4; 12:34; 15:18-19; Luke 2:32; 9:47; 24:38; Acts 8:22; Heb 4:12). When there is any evil in the heart, that evil will be transmitted

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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. 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). We are commanded to purify our hearts (Jas 4:8).

Fulfilling God’s will

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). It is possible at any time 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). 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.