



“Show me God” is the title of an intriguing book that expresses the curiosity (or skepticism) of many men around the world. But what if it were possible to see God? Would you want to? Would your c.v. be sufficient to warrant an invitation? Would you meet the expectations of protocol to be in the presence of the King of Kings?

We like to say that we have been in the presence of great men or women. It is a rare privilege. The standards are high. Likewise, to be in the presence of God, the standards are high. In the sixth beatitude Jesus said, “*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.*” Do you qualify? Can any of us really be “pure in heart?” How can our hearts be made pure?

Jesus says we will never be completely happy until our hearts are pure. The *heart* is man’s entire mental and moral activity, both the rational, emotional, and the spiritual elements. In other words, the heart is used figuratively for the hidden springs of the personal life. Finlayson says, “As unadulterated water is said to be pure and gold without alloy is pure gold, so the pure heart is the undivided heart where there is no conflict of loyalties, no cleavage of interests, no mixture of motives, no hypocrisy and no insecurity. It is whole-heartedness God-wards.”

Howell adds, “There is a purity that looks like simplicity, focus, single-mindedness; and there is a purity that looks like goodness, cleanness, holiness—and the two are not unrelated. And neither is championed in our culture.” Neither was it the norm in the religious establishment at the time of Jesus. He described the Pharisees as “whitewashed tombs which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men’s bones and everything unclean” (Matthew 23:27). He condemned the outward (only) appearance of holiness. He went on to equate anger with murder and lust with adultery (Matthew 5:22 and 28), both elevating the standard of righteousness and identifying the hidden inward source of the outward behavior.

Jesus said, “Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:20). Jesus is the only one who has ever lived a pure and holy life. That leaves us with a disturbing and penetrating question: “*How can I enter God’s kingdom when I can’t keep His commandments?*” The answer will be found not in what *we do*, but in what *Jesus has already done!*

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1. What hindered the Pharisees from being able to “see God?” What hinders you?
  2. What is the condition of the human heart? (Jeremiah 17:9, Mark 7:20-24)
  3. What occurs in the process of making something pure?
  4. This beatitude can be seen in Psalm 24: 3-6. What does this add to your understanding?
  5. How are you *made* pure? (Genesis 15:6; Ezekiel 36:25-27; 1 Corinthians 1:2, 30; John 3:3)
  6. How can you *become* pure? (James 4:8; John 15:3, 17:14-19; 1 Corinthians 15:33; 1 John 1:7 )

*“Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy;  
without holiness no one will see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14)*