

Blessed Are the Pure in Heart

Jesus' sixth beatitude is this:

*Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God. (Matthew 5:8, NASB)*

That is very much like Psalm 24, where it says,

*Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord?
And who may stand in His holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood
And has not sworn deceitfully.
He shall receive a blessing from the Lord
And righteousness from the God of his salvation.
(Psalm 24:3-5, NASB)*

Father, I long to be pure.
I long to want only what You want.
I long for my every desire, every thought, and every action
to flow from love for You.
You have planted this desire deep within me.
I know that I can only live in Your holy presence
if I have clean hands and a pure heart.

But Father, purity is beyond me.
I was born in sin.
My roots sink deeply into it.
Even when I want to do the right thing,
without You I'm too weak.
Only You are pure, and
only You can make me pure.
You call me to a purity that only You can provide.
And Lord, You have promised it to me.
You said:

*"I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from
all your filthiness...I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you...I
will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes."
(Ezekiel 36:25-27, NASB)*

Father, You have promised my purity, and
You have provided it completely through Jesus Christ.
But what is my part?

Am I only a passive observer in all this?
How should I respond to what You have done for me?

Paul wrote:

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
(2 Corinthians 7:1, NASB)

And this:

In reference to your former manner of life...lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit...and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. (Ephesians 4:22-24, NASB)

And to the Colossians, he wrote:

Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature. Rid yourselves of all such things. (Colossians 3:5, 8, NASB)

Father, Your promises are always a call to faith, and
faith always demands action.

My faith is in You.

I believe that in Jesus Christ, Your *divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness* (2 Peter 1:3, NIV).

I believe that as I walk in the light,
I have unbroken fellowship with You, and
You deliver me from all sin (1 John 1:7).

I believe that as I turn to You and trust You,
You help me lay aside my old self and
put on the new self You have created for me.

Holy God, I believe that as I trust and obey You,
You help me purify my heart and mind and life.

Praise to You, Father!

Continue to make me more and more like Your pure and beautiful Son,
Jesus Christ!

Hymn: Holy in Me

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