

*Series: The Sermon on the Mount: Kingdom Living 101*

Main Idea: In Matthew 5:8 Jesus shows us the blessed connection between having a pure heart and seeing God.

I. Jesus shows us God’s kind of person – the beatitudes (3-10).

A. The first four are the “need beatitudes.”

God helps those who can’t help themselves.

B. The second four are the “help beatitudes.”

God helps those who try to help others.

II. Jesus shows us who will see God – the pure in heart (8).

A. Jesus says the heart is the key.

B. Jesus says that having a pure heart is essential.

C. Jesus says that seeing God is the certain hope.

Take Inventory: Some questions to ask ourselves...

1. What is true of my heart today?

2. How important to me is the purity of my heart?

3. Do I consider seeing God my highest privilege?

*Scripture Reading: Psalm 24*

“We come now to what is undoubtedly one of the greatest utterances to be found anywhere in the whole realm of Holy Scripture.” So says Martyn Lloyd-Jones speaking of Jesus’ words in today’s passage, Matthew 5:8. “No one can ever exhaust this verse,” concludes The Doctor.<sup>2</sup>

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.”

There is no greater incentive for living, no greater experience to anticipate. Seeing God is what Adam and Eve had in the garden, when God walked with them. It’s at the heart of what they lost when they sinned, hid themselves from Him, and eventually were cast from the garden.

There is no more beautiful subject to behold than God, which means there is no more breathtaking experience to realize than the one Jesus identifies here. *Seeing God.*

What’s the most awe-inspiring thing you’ve seen in your life? I’ve stood two or three times on the rim of the Grand Canyon. That’s quite a site. And Pike’s Peak. That’s pretty incredible to see. The stars on a clear Montana night. The Pacific ocean. The Alps. All breathtaking. I remember seeing my two children on the days they were born, and then my two grandchildren. Again, sights which words cannot describe.

But those are all dim reflections in a mirror compared to this. Jesus identifies a group of people that He says will see the most inspiring, the most satisfying, the most exhilarating of all sights. *God.* And not just hear about God, but actually see God. Jesus says, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will *see God.*”

I considered taking two beatitudes this morning. Surely, there’s not enough in one verse to hold our attention for an entire message, is there? I see now that such a thought indicates how little I and most of us think about what Jesus says is the highest incentive for living.

If I told you there was an opportunity to see Lebron, or Tiger, or Oprah, or Taylor, millions of people would be interested. But seeing God? Sadly, that sounds sort of boring, even to those who know better.

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\*\* Note: This is an unedited manuscript of a message preached at Wheelersburg Baptist Church. It is provided to prompt your continued reflection on the practical truths of the Word of God.

<sup>1</sup> For a previous look at this passage, see the series preached at WBC in 1988.

<sup>2</sup> Lloyd Jones, p. 106.

We know God (or say we do), but seeing Him? For most of us, it's just not on our top ten thoughts for the day. We are so locked into the temporal realm that we think the eternal is kind of boring.

But it is far from boring. The Puritan Thomas Watson, who was born around 1620 and died in 1686, wrote a 36 page book on the subject of our text which I read this week. Listen to what he said about seeing God.

“This sight of God will be a satisfying sight. Cast three worlds into the heart, and they will not fill it; but the sight of God satisfies! “I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness” (Psa 17:15). Solomon says, “The eye is not satisfied with seeing” (Ecc 1:8). But there the eye will be satisfied with seeing. God, and nothing but God, can satisfy. The saints shall have their heads so full of knowledge and their hearts so full of joy that they shall have no lack.”<sup>3</sup>

*A satisfying sight.* That's what seeing God is, says Watson. A sight that satisfies, which is why we should long for this experience above all other longings.

Jonathan Edwards, commenting on this verse, said, “If men should hear of some vast estate, or some rich hidden treasure, and at the same time should hear of some very feasible way in which they might make it all their own; how ready would they be to hear, with what eagerness would they listen to those who should bring such news and give them such directions, provided they had reason to believe that what was told them was true! We are here told of a much truer and greater blessedness than any treasure of silver, and gold, and pearls can yield; and we are also told of the way whereby we may assuredly become the possessors of it, by him who certainly knows.”<sup>4</sup>

Edwards is right. If I told you there is a treasure buried in a field outside of town and I have a map, you'd want to see the map and the treasure. You could hardly think of anything else. Well, there is a treasure, and I have a map. Jesus gave it to us, and we're going to look at it this morning as we open our Bibles to Matthew 5. Jesus is going to show us two things. First, He shows us the map, God's kind of person. We see that in the beatitudes. Second, He shows us the treasure, seeing God, and tells us who will see God, namely, the pure in heart.

### I. Jesus shows us God's kind of person – the beatitudes (3-10).

To appreciate the sixth beatitude, we need to put it into the context of the rest. "Blessed are." Jesus repeats this eight times. "Approved are." Jesus is describing the person that meets God's approval. The beatitudes are related, a package deal. One leads to the next, then to the next.

The beatitudes break into two categories. The first four address the vertical, the second four the horizontal. One commentator describes them as the “need beatitudes” and the “help beatitudes.” In the first four beatitudes Jesus says that "blessed" people are those who are in NEED.

**A. The first four are the “need beatitudes.”** Verse 3, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Who qualifies for heaven? Those who don't qualify, for they have nothing. The poor. The spiritually poor. Those who have a spiritual need and admit it. But they don't just admit it. They grieve over it.

Verse 4, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” Why do they mourn? Because they see a problem, and they can do nothing about it. The problem is sin. They've inherited this problem. It goes all the way back to the first man and woman. Original

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<sup>3</sup> Thomas Watson, *The Pure in Heart*, (1620-1686)

<sup>4</sup> Jonathan Edwards, [http://www.prayermeetings.org/files/The\\_Pure\\_in\\_Heart\\_Blessed.pdf](http://www.prayermeetings.org/files/The_Pure_in_Heart_Blessed.pdf)

sin. But it's their sin too. They don't do what they know they should do with their lives. They choose to do what they shouldn't do. And they mourn over it.

Keep in mind Jesus' audience. The crowds were following Him, so He went up on a mountain and sat down (verses 1-2). His disciples came to Him, and with the crowds listening in He delivered His kingdom manifesto. This is Kingdom Living 101. If you want to be my follower, you must declare spiritual bankruptcy. I give My kingdom to those who admit that they don't deserve to be there. And you must mourn over it too. And I will comfort you.

But this need isn't just private, but goes public. Verse 5, "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." The meek, the humble, those who possess kingdom status but don't let it go to their heads. These are God's kind of people. They possess power, yes, I give it to them, but it's power under control. They are meek and lowly, like I am, and will be called the scum of the earth, like I was, but indeed they will inherit the earth.

These all have to do with need. Poor in spirit. Mourn. Meek. Which is why they engage in the activity of the fourth, verse 5, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." Who are God's kind of people? The hungry and thirsty, yes, but for what diet? For righteousness. This is our greatest need. Oh, in our depravity we don't think it is. We think we're good people. We tell ourselves that. We tell each other that.

But then we read what God tells us in His Word, "There is none righteous, no, not one."

And His kind of people admit it, and mourn over it, and it shows in the meek way they present themselves to others. And it all leads to this. They hunger for it until they receive what they lack from another. They won't settle for self-righteousness. They receive the righteousness they need from their King Himself.

In the need beatitudes, Jesus makes something very clear...

**God helps those who can't help themselves.** Not the healthy, but the sick. Not the whole, but the broken. Not the righteous, but the sinner. And why would God help people like that? In a word, *grace*. He is gracious. This is why He sent His Son into the world, to rescue the needy. He helps the needy. And once He does, they become like Him.

That brings us to the second section. The need beatitudes lead to the help beatitudes.

**B. The second four are the "help beatitudes."**

Verse 7, "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." What have we, those who were once spiritually bankrupt, received? Mercy. So what do we do? We start showing mercy to others who are spiritually bankrupt. God didn't treat us the way we deserved, so we don't treat others that way.

This is the blessed person, says Jesus. The person who shares what he receives. Mercy.

Any sinners bump into your life this week? How did you treat them? Were you merciful to them? Were you like God in the way you treated them? According to Jesus...

**God helps those who try to help others.** That's what we see in the help-beatitudes. We just can't keep what we have received to ourselves. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. So I receive mercy, and then show it to others, and then receive it again. And on and on.

I become a peacemaker, says Jesus in verse 9, just like God is. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God." We have received peace, and so we share it. God brings down walls. We try to bring down walls, walls between people and God, and walls between people and people. How? By sharing the power of the gospel of Christ.

And sometimes people don't appreciate our help. Is the peacemaking effort worth it? Yes, says Jesus as He wraps up the help beatitudes. Verse 10, "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

So the "Need Beatitudes" tell us, "God helps those who can't help themselves." The "Help Beatitudes" tell us, "God helps those who try to help others." But none of the beatitudes tell us, "God helps those who think they can help themselves."

There's no place in God's kingdom for self-sufficiency, self-dependence, and self-support. The beatitudes are a pointed reminder that WE NEED GOD.

You say, "But you skipped one." I did, and it's time now to go into the deep end with the deepest and most satisfying of all subjects. In some ways, this beatitude is at the heart of them all. Literally. Verse 8, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."

## II. Jesus shows us who will see God – the pure in heart (8).

In the sixth beatitude Jesus tells us three things about seeing God.

**A. Jesus says the heart is the key.** "Blessed are the pure in *heart*, for they will see God." There were people in Jesus' audience who were very influenced by the spirit of the Pharisees, just like we are, who tended to think that seeing God is connected with our actions. Do good, and you see God. Don't do good, and you don't see God.

But Jesus goes deeper. He emphasized the heart, not surprisingly because it's one of the most important words in the Bible.

Deuteronomy 6:5 says, "Love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength." In Deuteronomy 26:16 the Lord says to obey His commands "with all your heart." In Deuteronomy 30:2, "Obey him with all your heart and all your soul."

Leviticus 19:17 warns, "Do not hate your brother in your heart."

1 Samuel 16:7 says the Lord looks at the heart. 1 Chronicles 28:9 says, "The Lord searches every heart." Psalm 44:21 says the Lord "knows the secrets of the heart."

In 1 Kings 3:9 Solomon asked for a discerning heart. In 1 Kings 9:4 the Lord said to Solomon, "As for you, if you walk before me in *integrity of heart* and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever..."

The Psalms are filled with emphasis on the heart.

Psalm 14:1 "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'"

Psalm 19:14 "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD my Rock and my Redeemer."

Psalm 51:10, 17 "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me...The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise."

The wisdom book of Proverbs has much to say about the heart as well.

Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the LORD with all your heart..."

Proverbs 4:23 "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life."

Proverbs 7:2-3 "Keep my commands...write them on the tablet of your heart."

The prophets addressed the heart.

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?"

Jeremiah 17:10 "I the LORD search the heart."

Jeremiah 24:7 "I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the LORD. They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart."

Jeremiah 32:39 "I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me for their own good and the good of their children after them."

Ezekiel 11:19 "I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh." (also 36:26)

Ezekiel 18:31 “Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit.”

And of course, the gospel of Jesus is all about the heart.

Romans 10:9-10 “If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.”

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

1 Corinthians 14:25 says that when a non-Christian comes to a church service and hears the preaching of God’s Word, “the secrets of his heart will be laid bare.”

So the heart is important. But what exactly is the heart? As Americans, we tend to use the term "heart" to describe our emotions. If we say, "John has a lot of heart", we mean that John is a generous, compassionate, thoughtful person. For us, the heart is the seat of our emotions. But for the Jew (and Jesus was a Jew, and He was speaking to Jews), the heart was much more comprehensive. The heart is the source not only of man’s emotions, but also of his intellect and will. Reasoning takes place in the heart. Decision-making takes place in the heart. Choices are made in the heart. The heart is the unseen aspect of a person's life. Motives. Aspirations. Thoughts. Feelings. It’s all there.

The heart is the center of human life. It’s the control center. It’s who we are. And Jesus says that when it comes to seeing God, the heart is the key.

**B. Jesus says that having a pure heart is essential.** “Blessed are the *pure* in heart, for they will see God.” Notice the blessed connection between having a pure heart and seeing God. Who will see God? The pure in heart will.

This again is not a new thought. Jesus is taking it right out of the Old Testament. In 2 Samuel 22:27 David says, “To the pure you show yourself pure.” In Psalm 24 David asks and answers the question, “Who may ascend the hill of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart...(3-4)”

What is a "pure heart"? The Greek word for "pure" is *katharos* and it’s used in a variety of ways; to describe soiled clothes which have been washed clean; to describe corn which has been winnowed or sifted and cleansed of all chaff; it’s used of an army which has been purged of all discontented, cowardly, and inefficient soldiers so that what's left are first-class fighting men. So the basic meaning of *katharos* is "unmixed, unadulterated, or unalloyed".

So how can I know if my heart is pure? There are three things that are true of a pure heart. One, if my heart is pure, it is free from sin. Two, it is undivided in its focus on God. And three, it has been cleansed.

First, it’s *free from sin*. In contrast with ceremonial purity, Jesus says His followers must exhibit inner moral purity. Or to put it another way, it's not enough to have rules-righteousness. Jesus says we need heart-righteousness. The Pharisees were obsessed with external, ceremonial purity. They had their religion down to a tee. On the outside they were spotless. But on the inside? Jesus told them in Luke 11:39, "You Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup, and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness." They fooled men with their religious hypocrisy. But they did not fool God.

So Jesus says that if I want to see God I must, first, have a heart that is free from sin. No adultery, yes, but Jesus will say, “No lust either.” No killing, yes, but no anger either.

But it’s not just negative, for secondly, if my heart is pure it will be *undivided in its focus on God*. A good word for this is singlemindedness. Without folds. Open. Nothing

hidden. Says the Law of God, "And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."

Our problem, of course, is that we lack that. We have a divided heart, and we have it from birth. So when I'm a little boy and I learn about God, something inside says, "Yes, I should love and obey Him." But something else says, "No, I want to do things my way." And I do, because my heart is divided.

The LORD rebuked the people in Isaiah's day (Isaiah 29:13), "This people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me. . ."

Free from sin. Undivided in its focus on pleasing God. That's a pure heart.

This is a demanding beatitude, isn't it? Jesus says that if I want to see God then I must have, not just good actions, but a heart that is pure in those actions. Jesus raises the bar.

So I make sacrifices as a parent to provide for my kids. A good thing? Yes, but did I do it for the glory of God with a heart that is pure?

I preach a sermon and teach you God's Word. A good action? Sure. But what's my motive? Your approval? A paycheck? Or the fame of God?

You come to church today. You give an offering. You take notes during the sermon. Commendable actions. But why did you do them? Is your heart uncontaminated in its aspiration to see God's kingdom come and His will be done?

This is our problem. We do not have pure hearts, not even on our best days.

Several years ago at our association's annual conference, I heard another pastor confess something concerning a conversation he had with his wife. On the way home from church one Sunday, he said to his wife, "You know, there have been some great sermons preached throughout history." She replied, "There's been one less than you think."

Left to ourselves, none of us have a pure heart. I do not hate sin, and I do not love God as I ought. Thankfully, there's something else that's true of a pure heart. One, if my heart is pure, it is free from sin. Two, it is undivided in its focus on God. And three, it has been cleansed. This is the condition of a person's heart who will see God. It is clean because it has been cleansed.

David knew this. He'd blown it. He'd committed adultery with Bathsheba and murdered Uriah in a cover-up plot. How is he ever going to be right with God? He can't make his heart pure, let alone his life. So what does he do?

He asks God. Hear him as he cries out in Psalm 51, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

How can our hearts become pure? Some say we must make them pure. We must become monks and separate ourselves from the contamination of the world. So we isolate ourselves and seek to obtain a pure heart. But of course it doesn't work, and nowhere in the Bible do we read that this is the solution.

Others say we clean up our hearts by cleaning up our lives. So we start doing things, good things. And they are good things. But they don't change the condition of our heart. They can't.

Lloyd Jones is right, "You can start trying to clean your heart, but at the end of your long life it will be as it was at the beginning, perhaps blacker. No! it is God alone who can do it, and, thank God, He has promised to do it. The only way in which we can have a clean heart is for the Holy Spirit to enter into us and to cleanse it for us."<sup>5</sup>

Dear friend, if you have a pure heart today, it is clean because it has been cleansed. If your heart isn't clean, it could be, but you can't do it. God must apply the cleansing agent.

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<sup>5</sup> Lloyd Jones, p. 115.

What's the cleansing agent? We find the answer in Hebrews 9:14 [ESV], "How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God."

The blood of Christ, which is sort of shorthand for what Jesus did on the cross, is the cleansing agent. Jesus Christ, the perfect man, shed His blood, dying as a sin offering. When we put our trust in Him and what He did for us, God cleans up our heart, indeed, He gives us a new heart.

As 1 John 1:9 explains, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

And so now, we whose hearts were once unclean, possess hearts that are clean. They're clean because they have been cleansed. He cleansed them.

And what do those with clean hearts do? Hebrews 10:21-22 [ESV] tells us, "Since we have a great priest over the house of God,<sup>22</sup> let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

Thomas Watson said it well, "Purity of heart is heaven begun in a man."<sup>6</sup> When your heart is pure, you want to be near the One who made it pure. And you will be. Indeed, you will see Him. Blessed are the pure in heart, for *they will see God*.

**C. Jesus says that seeing God is the certain hope.** What an amazing promise! Those with pure hearts shall see God! Our God who is Holy. Our God who is splendid in His righteous character. Our Creator. Our Redeemer. We shall see Him.

God told Moses in Exodus 33:20, "You cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live." But if we possess a heart that Christ has made clean, we will see God. Christ Himself says we will. It's a certain hope.

When? When will we see God? First of all, now, through eyes of faith. Jesus said in John's gospel, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father (14:9)." When we open our Bibles, we see Jesus, it all points to Him. And when we see Jesus, we see God.<sup>7</sup>

Yet we see "as through a glass darkly," as the AV puts it in 1 Corinthians 13:12. Peter explains in 1 Peter 1:8, "Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory."

This is the tension we live with in the present. We don't see Him, yet we do. We who are in Christ see God right now in ways no one else in the world can. We see Him in nature, whereas the non-Christian cannot. When it rains, we see Him. When a baby is born, we see Him. We see Him in history. We see Him in present world events. We see Him now, by faith.

But the day is coming when *by faith* will turn into *sight*. Listen to Revelation 21:3-4, "And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.<sup>4</sup> He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.'"

Not only will we see Him, but we will live with Him. We, His people. He, our God, together in the paradise of a new heaven and earth, enjoying what Adam lost, forever.

Take Inventory: Some questions to ask ourselves...

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<sup>6</sup> Thomas Watson, *The Pure in Heart*, (1620-1686)

<sup>7</sup> 2 Cor 4:6 "For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

### 1. *What is true of my heart today?*

God looks at the heart. He sees the heart. What does He see when He looks at your heart, at my heart, right now?

“Well, I’m not perfect, but God knows my heart is right.” Ever said those words? Be careful. They’re usually spoken as a sort of conversation stopper, like when you’re in argument with your spouse. Who can say otherwise? No one can see your heart.

Except God. And He has a very different assessment. He does not see a good heart, unless by His grace He made it that way. He says my heart from birth is deceitful above all things; who can know it (Jeremiah 17:9)? He says it remains that way until He makes it clean by the gospel of His Son.

Do you agree with His assessment? Do you agree that if your heart is ever going to be clean, He must make it that way? Listen to Thomas Watson again:

“If we must be pure in heart, then we must not rest in *outward* purity. Morality is not sufficient. A swine may be washed, yet a swine still. Morality does but wash a man; grace changes him. Morality may shine in the eyes of the world, but it differs as much from purity as a pebble differs from the diamond. Morality is but strewing flowers on a dead corpse. A man who is but highly moral is but a tame devil. How many have made “morality” their Savior! Morality will damn as well as heinous vice. A boat may be sunk with *gold* as well as with *dung*.<sup>8</sup>

The question again, what is true of my heart today? You say, “I’m not sure.” Then I urge you to pray with the psalmist, “Search me, O God, and know my heart. Try me, and know my ways. See if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

### 2. *How important to me is the purity of my heart?*

So if God alone can make the heart clean, does that mean we are passive in the matter? No, most certainly not. Listen to James’ counsel in James 4:8, “Cleanse your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, you double-minded.”

“The fact that I know that I cannot ultimately cleanse my heart in an absolute sense,” says Lloyd Jones, “does not mean that I should walk in the gutters of life waiting for God to cleanse me. I must do everything I can and still know it is not enough, and that He must do it finally.”<sup>9</sup>

Perhaps no passage pulls all this together any more clearly than 1 John 3:1-3, “See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. <sup>2</sup>Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. <sup>3</sup>And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.”

Notice the connection between verse 2 and verse 3. What’s going to happen? Verse 2 says we will see Him. So what does the person who is going to see God do now? Verse 3 says he purifies himself even as he is pure.

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<sup>8</sup> Thomas Watson, *The Pure in Heart*, (1620-1686); <http://www.chapellibrary.org>; around 32 pages

**Thomas Watson** was born around 1620, and died in 1686. Educated at Cambridge, he served as lecturer and then rector at St. Stephens in the Church of England. He was imprisoned in 1651 and ejected from the Church of England in 1662 for nonconformity to the Church’s erroneous practices. He continued to serve God’s people in several congregations thereafter. Watson became a well-respected Puritan preacher in his day and a prolific author. His works include *A Body of Divinity*, *The Lord’s Prayer*, *The Ten Commandments*, *Heaven Taken by Storm*, and numerous others.

<sup>9</sup> Lloyd Jones, p. 116.



If you're in Christ, you are pure. So purify yourself. Take advantage of the cleansing agents God has provided. Preach the gospel to yourself every day. Sing hymns about the cross. Fill your mind with the Bible daily, and meditate on it. Spend much time in prayer. Make fellowship with your church family priority.

And go to work on getting rid of the things from your old life that contaminate the heart. That bitter spirit, that unwholesome television show, those songs that glorify evil. You are pure now, so purify yourself.

As Jonathan Edwards explains, "Though it be God's work to give it, yet it is as truly your work to obtain it; though it be God's work to purify the heart, yet the actual, or rather the active, procuring of it is your act. All pure and holy exercises are man's acts, and they are his duty... We must not think to excuse ourselves by saying that it is God's work, that we cannot purify our own hearts; for though it be God's work in one sense, yet it is equally our work in another. James iv. 8, " Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners, and purify your hearts, ye double-minded." If you do not engage in this work yourselves, and purify your own hearts, they never will be pure. If you do not get a pure heart, the blame of it will be laid to your own backwardness."<sup>10</sup>

*3. Do I consider seeing God my highest privilege?*

Jesus says it is. Jesus says it's the gift He gives to His people when He gives them a new and pure heart. "For they will see God," He says. He wants us to see God. He made it possible for us to see God. He wants us to cherish what He cherishes. Do we?

Back in the eighteenth century Fanny Crosby wrote the song, "My Savior First of All."

*When my life work is ended, and I cross the swelling tide,  
When the bright and glorious morning I shall see,  
I shall know my Redeemer when I reach the other side,  
And His smile will be the first to welcome me.*

*Thru the gates of the city in a robe of spotless white,  
He will lead me where no tears will ever fall;  
In the glad song of ages I shall mingle with delight  
But I long to meet my Savior first of all.*

Those words were particularly significant for Fanny Crosby since she was blind. She knew the first person she would ever see would be Jesus Christ.<sup>11</sup>

Most of us have eyes that work, but when we see God it will be as if we're seeing beauty for the first time. Eye has not seen the things God has prepared. Let's get ready for it.

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<sup>10</sup> Jonathan Edwards, [http://www.prayermeetings.org/files/The\\_Pure\\_in\\_Heart\\_Blessed.pdf](http://www.prayermeetings.org/files/The_Pure_in_Heart_Blessed.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.gty.org/library/questions/QA105/will-we-see-gods-face>