

## 100% Pure

***“Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.” (Ps.51:10-11)***

We all like to see on labels, “100% Pure”, because we are wanting some product that is unadulterated - like 100% pure cranberry juice, or 100% pure maple syrup or 100% pure water. None of us would settle for water that was 98% pure, with only 2% of it being sewage! In Psalm 51:10 David cries out to God for that kind of purity for his heart. After his fall into adultery and murder, he knew that a partially pure heart would not guard him against the death grip of sin he had fallen into. He knew that sin has a hardening effect on the heart that could lead to great wickedness, even the loss of the Holy Spirit.

But, is it possible to have a pure heart? Many try to deflect the conviction that this question brings by saying things like, “Well, no one is perfect.” It is true that no one is perfect in an absolute sense, but the kind of purity that the Bible promises us is one based on our relationship with our heavenly Father, not on some state of totally accrued qualities. As we walk in a loving and obedient relationship with the one who is Light the blood of Jesus purifies our hearts (1 Jn.1:5-7). If we stumble, we do not stay in our sin, but look to the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus and then continue on in a pure relationship with Him. It was Jesus who said, *“Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God.” (Mt.5:8).*

However, we must be as honest and earnest about wanting a pure heart as David was. Each one of us must come to the place where we have opened ourselves up to the Word and Spirit of God and confessed all known sin and surrender all of our desires to Him, if we want to enjoy a Spirit-filled life. James charges wayward Christians with these words: *“Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” (Jm.4:8)*

Leading up to a great revival that transformed a Scottish community on the Hebrides islands in 1949, there were some men meeting for prayer, night after night, crying out for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on their needy community. Then one night one of the men read, *“Who shall ascend into the hills of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands and a pure heart.” (Ps.24:3,4a).* He then said, “It seems to be worthless to be gathered here night after night seeking God as we are doing, if our hands are not clean and our hearts are not pure. O God, are my hands clean? Is my heart pure?” At that moment the presence of God flooded the place and became part of a great move of God. May we experience an outpouring of the Spirit of power upon us this year, as we pray with that kind of purity.

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