

"A HEART KEPT PURIFIED"-II

(ON THE AUTHORITY OF GOD'S WORD)

S182R(Ref/S60R & 96RDG) WED/11/25/2020

(ref.verse 1 Pet.1:5)

A previous message explained that real heart purity is not something we can see or feel within ourselves, however it is essential to a true Christian life,..it is received through faith on God's Word,... (and is only kept by faith on God's power) (which leads us to Salvation). It is one thing to receive heart purity, and another thing to hold on to (and maintain) a pure heart by faith in Christ.

Our hope of Salvation is not like reserve power kept in a storage battery, rather it should be a new 'stand of faith' every day, which depends on the power of God to purify our heart and to prepare us for Eternal Life (by whatever means it takes Him).

Heart purity is constantly being kept pure by God's grace and power, through our faith in Christ. So, our responsibility is to make a final choice to stay connected to the true Vine (Jesus Christ), through faith on His Word which leads us to 'Salvation'. The devil puts doubt in our mind to hinder our faith, and so, hinder our answers to prayer. However, (1 Pet. 1:5 says), you "who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation." (and that is something that we see through 'spiritual eyes').

So, Jesus emphasized praying daily for our 'spiritual interests' (Luke 11:4), "Forgive us our sins, For we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us." (That means to ask God to keep our heart pure and clear of wrong attitudes and hidden resentment). "And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the 'evil one'", (Jesus said). He meant; deliver and protect us from Satan and his power for this day. Keep us free from the devil's attacks, and all doubts about our 'heart purification'. It is not something that we see with our eyes or feel via an 'inward experience'.

By telling us to pray day-to-day, Jesus indicated that God has obligated Himself to do that for us daily. Our responsibility is to remain connected, by trusting on God through His Son, so that God can purify our heart and prepare us to receive His promised Salvation for true 'believers' in the faith. (Rom. 11: 20-21), "yet it was their unbelief that cut them off, and you only stand through your faith. Do not be puffed up with pride. Tremble rather--for if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will He spare you."

Our Salvation is something we cannot see through human eyes, feelings, and experiences, rather, something we can see (in faith only) through 'spiritual eyes', (and, God is the only One who can enable us to see what He has in store for true 'believers').

We should believe on the authority of God's Word that our heart has been purified(after we sincerely confessed our mistakes to God and

have forsaken them), by placing them under the Atonement Blood of Christ. We should then have confidence to exercise faith to receive our victory. (1 John 3:21-22) "Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things (acting in faith) that are pleasing in His sight."

(The late Pastor said), "a woman wrote to us saying, 'I do not have the good feelings within myself that I hear other people talk about'. Her problem was; attending some 'holiness meetings', and they are known for telling people, 'Oh, you must have the witness within'. The only evidence they have of being surrendered to God (and sanctified), is a wonderful feeling when they are at meetings (and perhaps 'fine experiences' the devil will use to deceive them to place faith on) (instead of on God), and, to thinking that they are sanctified because of those feelings."

"A wonderful experience" (however), "is not faith at all". It has nothing to do with real faith. Faith only works through a word (either spoken or written). The apostles Paul and Peter taught that we are to purify our hearts by faith. We 'are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation'. Jesus told His disciples that they were clean through the 'Word', and they accepted their heart purity through believing the 'Word'."

The Pastor said he "wrote back to the woman", and referred to his own personal experience (with that kind of temptation from Satan), when he first "took a 'stand' to receive 'heart purity', and to have the fulness of the Spirit. "Satan then tried his best to deceive me (he said). If anybody ever believed Satan (most of the time), it was me".

"Satan had totally convinced me that the work had not been done in me (at all). He told me that if such a work had been done to purify my heart, I would surely notice it (and feel some spiritual experience). The devil had me think that if I did not soon feel and see some kind of an experience, then I would soon land in the Pit with Satan. I got the 'shakes' when I heard a young man testify about a wonderful experience he had felt (and that it seemed to him to be like a glimpse of God). I thought, 'Oh, if I could only have such an experience like that.' "Praise God!, however, I never got that (deceptive) experience!"

"I later discovered what kind of a God I had on my side. I had a terrible battle with the devil, but God won the battle for me (when I learned to believe for God to purify my heart, if I never saw nor felt any 'experience'). It was then I learned that heart purity was to be maintained day by day, by faith" alone.

Even a foolish person knows when they have had enough, so I was finally willing to cease my "efforts of self", and to take a stand for my 'heart purity' by faith alone, (and, I have never gone back on that stand). I had settled it that I was going to have my heart purified by God's grace only. We should settle it to confess and forsake (our sins of the self life), and as soon as they try to creep back, we should

again confess and forsake them and take a fresh stand on trusting God to purify us. (Matt. 5:8), ""Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

We should be definite about surrendering our life to God, asking God to rebuke Satan and cast him out of us 'bag and baggage' in all things that concern us, spiritually, physically, financially, and in every other way in which we are using human efforts. Pray for God to expose the human efforts to us (for we don't know (or realize) the deception in our own heart), and pray for Him to enable us to make the corrections necessary, to put aside all dependence on self, and to become pure in heart by our faith in God only.

Jesus told His disciples they were clean through the 'Word', and that is the way we are to receive and maintain our 'purity of heart' (1 Pet. 1:5) "kept by the power of God through faith for Salvation."

We are to believe that it is through the Word of God we are purified. We are to place our life in God's hands definitely and finally, and then write out our 'promise of surrender to God' as being a definite choice(of our own will) on our part(and write our signature to it, as we would sign any Scriptural document to show our approval of it). Our statement should be a solemn promise that under no circumstances will we go back on our surrender to God.

"The devil fought hard to convince me that my heart was not made pure by God. It seemed that I was feeling sorry for myself day and night, as to how the Lord was 'testing' me, and how I was 'doing the best I could' (but continually being tormented). The devil was having a good time with me, while I sympathized with myself, but God enabled me to finally see how foolish I was (trying to make a new plan for God), and trying to change His way of working with me."

"The 'truth' was, "I was walking entirely by sight and feeling instead of by faith;... if I was willing to BELIEVE God, sign my contract, believe I was cleansed and pardoned, accept a pure heart by faith in His Word that Jesus Christ was the Lord of my life, and that He was living within (without any demonstration of feelings at all),... .. I would then enter into the realization of all these things."

"From that moment something came into my life which enabled me to live according to the Word (the Pastor said), and to be able to understand why we should live that way. We will discover the real evidence of the presence of the Holy Spirit in a 'believers' life; It will bring a truly surrendered person to fully understand the Word; to where we will be willing to believe and obey God's Word, and to where we can live free from sin, because that is what Jesus Christ's atonement sacrifice accomplished for every genuine 'believer'. It took ten years for God to teach me that lesson, but it was worth every minute it took to learn such a valuable lesson of 'spiritual truth'.

Many professed children of God never enjoy their divine privilege of being victorious over sin, self, and Satan. It is so easy to believe the devil's suggestion, that it is impossible to have 'self'

removed from our heart (and to be able to live free of sin's grip in this life). But, if we look to the 'Word of God', we will find that the very object of Christ coming to earth to die on the Cross for us, was to deliver us from the self-life and our sins, (destroy the works of the devil), and to enable us to... "serve Him in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life." (Luke 1:74-75).

When we truly turn to God's Word, we will be shown the plan that God has for our deliverance, and we can realize that we do have a 'living hope' for victory in Christ. God will enable us to see that it is not only our privilege to be set free from sin, but that it can be an actual deliverance from the desire to sin.

When we begin to see ourselves as God's Word says that we are, because of the Atonement work of Christ,... what our viewpoint of His Word should be and the position we should take, it becomes (by God's grace) a simple and easy plan to follow for deliverance from the sins of self and Satan.

God's part in His plan for us, is for Him to break the power of sin, self, and Satan over our life, and for Him to keep us on the right path of faith and trust, through believing on His Word about what His Son accomplished for us (full atonement from sin). (Ezek. 36: 25-27), "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them." (That is God's promise for those who believe His Word (1 Pet. 1:5 reminds), those "who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation."

Allowing God to purify our heart (through our faith), not only enables a person to live a Scriptural life, but enables one to maintain purity of heart against all the temptations of the devil.

A believer must take their 'stand' to accept the purification of their heart BY FAITH, and then to maintain that position through the Blood of Christ, and on the authority of God's written Word. That's the first step. (A conscious, willful, decision must be made, 'that God's Word says I am cleansed by the Blood of Christ when I surrender the will of 'self' (so that is what I must believe in order to be free from the 'sins of self').

I must see myself as God's Word says I am (through His Blood shed for me.) (John 15:3, Jesus said), "You are already clean because of the Word I have spoken to you." (He did not say we are clean because of anything we have done, or will do, or can do, rather, just believe My Word that you are clean). (4)" Remain in me, and I will remain in you. (Jesus said). No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."

The second step coincides with the first, and that is a confession and forsaking of all known sin, coupled with an unconditional surrender

of our life and will to God. That means to give up all our un-Scriptural ways, which are so unlike the Scriptural ways described in God's Word, (rather, to accept God's plans and ways to conduct our life in full dependance on His power). (Matt. 18:3, Jesus said), "In solemn truth I tell you that unless you turn (or change) and become like little children, you will in no case be admitted into the Kingdom of the Heavens."

As a believer we must not think we can disobey any part of the New Testament. We are to obey every command given (concerning our spiritual life); to meet wrongs right (as Jesus commanded us to meet them by turning the other cheek), and to meet every issue as the New Testament commands. (Jesus said, Matt. 28:20), "teach them to obey every command which I have given you. And remember, I am with you always, day by day, until the Close of the Age." (Jesus is with us in Spirit, to enable us to obey His commands, because mankind proved for four thousand years that we can not obey God in our own strength).

Jesus told us that if people try to steal from us, we are not to resist; when they want to borrow from us, we are not to turn them away; when someone lies about us, we are to commit it to the Righteous Judge (and not try to handle it according to human efforts of self). He told us not to have laid-up possessions to rely on, rather, to pray each day, trusting on God's promises to provide for that day.

Jesus gave us some very direct and detailed commands on how to meet things according to God's Word and plan, which is the only way to be within His 'will'. When God enables us to realize that we have not acted within His will (on some issue of life), we should humbly confess, forsake, and start over by re-consecration (and commitment) of our life to do God's will in everything.

Jesus first gave stern admonitions to those who disregard His commands about obeying His Father's financial plan, and those who seek to be recognized for things done in the will of 'self', (due to following the advice and plans of 'fallen man'). (Luke 6:24-26), "But alas for you rich men, because you already have your consolation! "Alas for you who now have plenty to eat, because you will be hungry! "Alas for you who laugh now, because you will mourn and weep aloud! "Alas for you when men shall all have spoken well of you; for that is just the way their fore-fathers behaved to the false Prophets!"

Jesus then followed-up with some very clear details of His commands for everyone to follow in meeting people and wrongs done to us. (27-36) "But to you who are listening to me I say, Love your enemies; seek the welfare of those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who revile you. To him who gives you a blow on one side of the face offer the other side also; and to him who is robbing you of your outer garment refuse not the under one also. To every one who asks, give; and from him who takes away your property, do not demand it back. And behave to your fellow men just as you would have

them behave to you." (that is called the 'golden rule' for all of us to follow).

(Luke 6:32-38), "If you love those who love you, what credit is it to you? Why, even bad men love those who love them. And if you are kind to those who are kind to you, what credit is it to you? Even bad men act thus. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is it to you? Even bad men lend to their fellows so as to receive back an equal amount."

"Nevertheless, love your enemies, be beneficent; and lend without hoping for any repayment. Then your recompense shall be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be compassionate just as your Father is compassionate. "Judge not, and you shall not be judged; condemn not, and you shall not be condemned; pardon, and you shall be pardoned; give, and gifts shall be bestowed on you. Full measure, pressed, shaken down, and running over, shall they pour into your laps; for with the same measure that you use they shall measure to you in return."

That obedient surrender to do God's will comes from a heart that is purified by God, not through feeling a wonderful experience within (as Satan deceives so many to desire), but which is not faith at all, ... because real faith only works through believing on a spoken or written 'Word of God'. A true surrender means putting aside forever all of our efforts of self-life and self-trust. (Matt. 5:8 assures the one who lives by faith on God's Word, from a heart purified by God), "Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God."

Jesus told His disciples they were clean through 'the Word', and they accepted their heart purity (through that Word). That is the way we all are to receive our 'purity of heart', (by staying "connected to Christ", to "continue in Him", and so, be "kept by the power of God through faith for Salvation" (1 Pet. 1:5).

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THE FIRST CENTURY GOSPEL CHURCH/PHILADELPHIA

SOME MAIN POINTS: (11/25/2020)

1... The human heart is purified by the 'Word of God' as Jesus told his disciples (not through any righteous actions on our part), and it is "kept (pure) by the power of God" through our faith in Him.

2... Thus, the 'believer' stays purified by remaining committed to having God's 'will' done in our life, and staying connected to the 'True Vine', Jesus Christ, in an enduring 'life of trust' at the foot of the Cross. (Rom.11:20-21) "Yet it was their unbelief (or 'misplaced trust') that cut them off, and you only stand through your faith."

3... 'A Purified Heart' is not something that can be seen by the natural eye, nor do we experience any certain feeling within, rather, it is something we see 'in faith' through 'spiritual eyes'. &&&&&&&