

"HEART KEPT PURIFIED-III"

(ON THE AUTHORITY OF GOD'S WORD)

S183R(Ref/S61R & 96/RDG)

WED/12/2/2020

'Heart purity' and our 'Salvation' is something we cannot see through human eyes (or know via good feelings and experiences), rather, something we must see in faith through 'spiritual eyes'. A wonderful 'experience' is not faith at all (and it has nothing to do with real faith'), which only works through a word (spoken or written). So we should believe on the authority of God's written Word, that our heart has been purified, by sincerely confessing our mistakes to God and then forsaking them... (placing them under the Atonement Blood of Christ). We should then have confidence to rightly exercise faith to receive our victory, (and God is the only One who can enable us to see what He has in store for true 'believers' who have truly surrendered (their will) to do God's will).

We should ask God each day to keep our heart pure and clear of wrong attitudes and hidden resentment, deliver and protect us from Satan and his power (while praying for His guidance for each day).

Although 'heart purity' is not something we can see (or feel) within ourselves, it is something that is essential for us to have, and to receive through faith on God's Word,... and it is only kept by faith on God's power (which leads us to Salvation). It is one thing to receive purity of heart, and another thing to maintain it. Our hope of Salvation is not like reserve power kept in storage, 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.

A truly surrendered heart is constantly being kept pure by God's grace and power through our faith, as we stay connected in faith to the true Vine, Jesus Christ. (1 Pet. 1:5 says), you "who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation." And (Rom. 11:20 admonishes), "yet it was their unbelief that cut them off, and you only stand through your faith."

All Christians (and others) need to discover what an almighty God we have, Who wants to cleanse our heart day by day (Acts 26:18 says), "that they may turn from darkness to light and from the obedience to Satan, to God, in order to receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified through faith in Me."

[We must all learn that by exercising faith on God's 'promises', we are "kept by the power of God through faith for salvation".]

We want to be definite and sure about surrendering our life to God, asking Him to rebuke Satan in all that concerns us, spiritually, physically, financially, (and in every other way where we may be using human efforts in our life). Pray for God to expose those human efforts to us (for we often do not realize the deception in our own heart). Pray for God to enable us to make necessary corrections, put aside all dependance on 'self', and to become pure in heart. We want God to make us willing to BELIEVE His Word that we are cleansed and pardoned, and to

accept a pure heart by faith in His Word, that Jesus Christ is the Lord of our life and living within us (without any demonstration of feelings). [That is what God's Word says we are. (Rom.6:6) "This we know-- that our old self was nailed to the cross with Him, in order that our sinful nature might be deprived of its power, so that we should no longer be the slaves of sin;"]

If we will choose to believe this verse of God's inspired Word (as to how we should view the 'spiritual condition' of our own heart, because of what Jesus Christ accomplished for us on the Cross), God will then enable us to live according to His 'Word', and, to be able to understand why we should live that way. If we will only believe on Christ's atonement sacrifice on authority of God's Word alone (not because of anything we have experienced or seen), we will enjoy the fulfillment of Jesus' words to 'Thomas' (John 20:29) "Because you have seen me, you have believed. 'Blessed' are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

God will enable us to discover the real evidence of what the presence of the Holy Spirit means in a 'believers' life. In due time He will bring a truly surrendered person to fully understand His Word; (to recognize the 'principles of Truth' involved in every situation that we face, to be willing to believe and obey God's Word, and, to where we can live free from sin). That is what Christ's atonement sacrifice accomplished for every true 'believer'. (Rom.6:11-12), "In the same way you also must regard (think of) yourselves as dead in relation to sin, but as alive in relation to God, because you are in Christ Jesus. (You) Let not Sin therefore reign as king in your mortal bodies, causing you to be in subjection to their cravings;"

We must settle it in our mind, that through the Blood of Jesus Christ (and on the authority of God's Word), our heart is cleansed and is being sanctified by God through our faith in Him. That is the 'first step', and the 'second step' in sequence, is equally important, to confess and forsake all 'known sin' in our life, followed by an unconditional surrender of our will (to do the 'will of God'). God wants us to give up all our natural ways (which are much different from Scriptural ways and plans), and to accept all of God's ways and plans for our life (not reserving a right to disobey any part of the New Testament). We are to obey God's commands concerning our spiritual life, meeting all wrongs right (by turning the other cheek, etc.). If people deliberately cheat us we are not to resist; when they want to borrow from us we are not to refuse; if people lie about us, we are to commit it to the hands of the Righteous Judge, (and not try to correct it by our own human efforts).

God's part (in His plan to bring us into 'His will'), 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). He promised, (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 (one that trusts God), 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."

(God promised that His Spirit will be within those who turn back to Him, believe His Word that we are purified by the Blood His Son shed for us, and are willing to obey His Word no matter what the consequences might seem to be). 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 a re-consecration, and a re-commitment in our heart to do God's will in everything, (so that He can purify our 'heart').

We all need to follow the advice of Solomon (Prov.4:23), "Above all else 'guard' your heart", (or) "Keep your heart with all diligence" (which means, to give the sincerity of your heart your full attention), "For out of it spring the issues of life." [If we do not keep our heart with all diligence, the devil will tempt us to waver, because that is how quickly he works to destroy (dissolve) the faith of anyone who will allow him to do so. We must refuse the devil in the Name of Jesus Christ who defeated Satan's power, (when Christ rose to Life.) We must pray for God to help us to "guard our heart" from the devil's temptations to have us to depend on human plans and efforts.

Jesus told us not to have laid-up possessions (to rely on), but, to pray each day in faith for God to provide the necessities for that day. He told us to not even have an anxious thought about the needs of tomorrow (Matt.6:33) "But make His Kingdom and righteousness your chief aim, and then these things shall all be given you in addition. Do not be over-anxious, therefore, about to-morrow, for to-morrow will bring its own cares."

Jesus admonished those who disregard His commands about obeying His Father's financial plan, (usually because of following advice and plans of 'fallen man'), ...as well as those who seek to be recognized for their deeds (done in the 'will of self'), (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!'"

We must be definite in making a final (and unconditional) surrender of our life to do God's will, (because a half-way surrender will not bring good results). If we desire for God to purify our heart, (because we believe His Word that Christ's atonement sacrifice paid for that cleansing for us) (and that God has promised that He will do that for us), then we should settle it in our mind that we are going to allow Him to purify our heart. If a person has not settled it to go all the way through with God, then they might as well serve the devil (the Pastor said), .. because there is no half-way place in divine things.

(Rev. 3:15-17) "I know your doings--you are neither cold nor hot; I would that you were cold or hot! Accordingly, because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, before long I will spew you out of My mouth. You say, I am rich, and have wealth stored up, and I stand in need of nothing; and you do not know that if there is a wretched creature it is *you* --pitiable, poor, blind, naked." (spiritually speaking). [We can

see from this passage, what God thinks about a 'half-hearted surrender' on our part; saying we want to do His will, but not actually doing it).

(Verse 18), "Therefore I counsel you (Jesus said), to buy of Me gold refined in the fire that you may become rich, and white robes to put on, so as to hide your shameful nakedness, and eye-salve to anoint your eyes with, so that you may be able to see."

The white robes that are mentioned means purity of heart for the 'believer', while the eye-salve is the blessing of the Holy Spirit within, to enable believers to see things from a divine standpoint. Unfortunately the 'lukewarmness' that is especially noted, can be seen among most professed Christians today, (which is the result of their accepting and teaching 'wrong doctrines'). It is not possible for a person to maintain 'heart purity', when they are 'on the fence' about most things in their life.

However, for those people whose surrender is sincere and final to do God's will in their life, Jesus gives them great encouragement, (Rev.3:19-21), "All whom I hold dear, I reprove and chastise;" (in order to purify the 'believer'), "therefore be in earnest and repent. I am now standing at the door and am knocking. If any one listens to My voice and opens the door" (of their heart), "I will go in to be with him and will feast with him, and he shall feast with Me. " `To him who overcomes I will give the privilege of sitting down with Me on My throne, as I also have overcome and have sat down with My Father on His throne."

(The Bible gives us a wonderfully large amount of 'spiritual 'light' (as well as admonition) on this subject of 'heart purity', so that we can see how important and necessary it is that our surrender to God be final and without compromise).

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." (Rom.12:1). (This means our body and all that concerns us; 'spirit, soul, and body' and every plan of ours, ... is to be definitely turned over to the hands of God to be managed and controlled, and to be brought into the center of His will.)

Of course we do not know every plan of God when we start out to live a true Christian life (nor do we realize everything that lies ahead of us), but God only calls us to take 'one step' at a time (and He knows how fast He can take us on His pathway). The 'first step' is to obediently surrender our self-will', to go God's way; (but we must be definite in accepting God's plans and His ways in everything when shown), and He will then enable us to know and understand His ways.

An obedient surrender comes from a heart that is purified by God, (not because of 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. Jesus told His disciples they were clean through the Word. They accepted their 'heart purity' through that Word, and made a true surrender of their will, instead to follow His will in their life, (which meant giving up forever all efforts of self-trust). For those who live by faith on God (from a heart purified by God), (Matt.5:8 assures them, "Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God."

The 'second step' is to 'walk by faith', and to 'believe' on the authority of God's Word that we have become holy and acceptable to God, without seeing any proof or feeling an experience within ourselves (like the natural heart wants to see or feel). That is the 'second step' and it is in divine order. We must learn to 'walk by faith' on God's Word and Promises, burning every bridge behind us that would have allowed us to return to trusting on self-efforts. Regard-less of the devil's deceitful suggestions (our own weaknesses, or what circumstances seem to be); we are to steadfastly 'believe' that God has made our heart pure, simply because that is what His Word says it is!! (John 15:3-4), "You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you." (You) "Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me."

All that God is asking us to do, is to be willing to believe (after we have made a sincere and final surrender of our will, to be in His will) in (every part of our life). The Bible says that God is a jealous God, who will fight our battles for us, but He must have our whole-hearted surrender and our 'place of trust' on Him (not a partial commitment). A sincere confession and forsaking of our sins (as we learned from 1 John 1:9, and Rom. 12:1), and, the same instruction in (Psalm 37:5-6), "Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday."

Some people think it would be a hardship to turn their life over to God (for Him to control and manage them), thinking that their life will be turned upside down if they are not controlling it themselves--by their own efforts. If you hire someone to do something (that you don't know how to do yourself), would you try to tell them how to do it? That is the secret to turning our life over to God for Him to manage for us, to make us right in His sight, and to teach us how to go His way to save us from the Lake of Fire (and all to His own honor and glory). We are to turn every burden over to the Lord, placing the responsibility of our life on Him, and then 'TRUST' in Him alone!! The result is that God will begin to work at once, (to "bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday.")

When we sincerely make that commitment to the Lord, it will be the deathblow to the self-life (that must be taken from our heart). It means that we would not move a finger in the way of self-efforts to assure financial resources, [by laying up finances for the future, depending on financial insurance or pension plans, go into debt through buying on credit or lay-away plans; or try to get healing through medicine or drugs; or seeking to avenge wrongs done to us, etc. We will not covet things, nor try to control other people.

If we have willful rebellion or disobedience in our heart (or have not burned the bridges so that we can't go back to self-trust), then we cannot believe on God and receive the purifying of our heart (that we want Him to do for us). Satan can overwhelm us, so that we have more confidence in his lies (than we have in God's Word), all resulting from the lack of a whole-hearted surrender to God.

A committed heart (made pure by God's Word), will have us to refuse the lies of the devil, and to put our confidence in the Word of God (regarding finances, healing, protection, deliverance from efforts of 'self-life in our heart.) As we take up that position of surrender to do God's will, He will give us understanding and wisdom to enable us to progress from our new purity to full maturity in Christ Jesus. (Heb.6:1) "Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary 'principles of Christ', let us go on to perfection,... not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God," (relaying of repentance for lack of faith in God). (vs.3-6) "And advance we will, if(as) God permits us to do so. For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once for all been enlightened, and have tasted the sweetness of the heavenly gift, and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have realized how good the word of God is and how mighty are the powers of the coming Age, and then 'fell away'-... it is impossible, I say, to keep bringing them back to a new repentance, for, to their own undoing, they are repeatedly crucifying the Son of God afresh and exposing Him to open shame."

Our sincere repentance and surrender of 'self' to have God take those 'lifeless works' of 'self' from our heart and life, allows us to have our 'heart made pure' by God, as we are "kept by the power of God through (our) faith for Salvation"!! That is why it is so important and essential for us to believe on the authority of God's Word, that our heart is being "Kept Purified by God", (as we stay repentant and remain connected by faith to the True Vine, Jesus Christ)

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The First Century Gospel Church

#183R/MAIN POINTS: (12/2/2020)

1... When we start out in the Christian life, we all need to discover what an almighty God we have,...also, that He wants to cleanse our heart day by day,... and, that our heart is kept pure by His power, through our faith in Him.

2...'Purity of heart' is not something that we see or experience through a certain 'feeling' within ourselves,... instead, we must settle it in our mind that through the Blood of Jesus, and on the authority of God's Word, that our heart is being cleansed and sanctified by God through our faith in Him. That's the first step

3... The next step is to make a definite/final surrender of the self-life to God, trust on Him daily to rebuke Satan's control over us physically financially, and spiritually, and then believe "that our old-self was nailed to the cross with Him",. "so that we should no longer be slaves of sin". (Rom.6:6).

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