

BELIEVE ON GOD'S WORD

(FOR OUR REPENTANT HEART TO BE PURIFIED)

S330R 0920 23W

'Purity of heart' is essential to the true Christian life; however, it is not something that we can see or feel within ourselves... rather, it is received through faith on God and His Word, and is kept by faith on His power to lead us to salvation.

There have always been professed 'believers' who have never had their hearts purified in the 'true Bible way' (which means it is accomplished only by the power of God). The main thing is; that it is one thing to receive heart purity and another thing to hold on to and maintain a pure heart (by faith). Our Salvation is not like something kept in storage (the Pastor said), rather, it should be kept through a continual stand of faith on God every day, and not depending on anything but the power of God to keep it for us. It means a heart which is constantly being kept pure and clean by God's grace and power. It means that we are to make a final choice to 'stay connected' to the true Vine (Jesus Christ) through faith on His Word which leads us to 'Salvation'. (1 Pet. 1:5 says), you "who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation, ready to be revealed in the 'last time'."

Our hope of Salvation is not like power kept in reserve (in a storage battery), rather, it is staying connected to God's divine power so that we can move forward in the true Christian life, (just like the (old-time) electric bus-trolleys had a pole which had to stay connected to the overhead wire in order to move forward). Our faith for Salvation should not be a dependence on anything but the power of God to purify our heart (by whatever means it takes Him to do so), as we live up to our responsibility to stay connected in faith (to the true Vine). It is a new 'stand of faith' every day.

Jesus told His disciples to pray daily for whatever physical, spiritual, or temporal blessing they would need. (Luke 11:2-3), "He said to them, "When you pray, say, 'Father may Thy name be kept holy; let Thy Kingdom come; give us day after day our bread for the day.'" (Notice that Jesus' prayer began with the daily supply of our financial needs, and then He related to the far more important need, which is our 'spiritual interests'). (4) "And 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 clean from wrong attitudes and resentment (hidden or otherwise). "And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the 'evil one'." He meant deliver and protect us from Satan this day, and his attacks, and his power. Keep us free from the devil's attacks.

According to these Scripture verses (given by Jesus), it is God's work to do these things on a daily basis, (which He has obligated

Himself to do for us). Our responsibility is to remain connected to the true Vine, 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. (staying connected to Christ). Do not be puffed up with pride. Tremble rather—for if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will He spare you."

Our staying connected to the true Vine, Jesus Christ, to have our heart purified and made ready to receive Salvation, can be compared to the pole on the electric trolley car, which is its means of power (forward movement) while it is on the overhead wire.

Our faith touches the 'promises' of God just the same as the trolley pole touches the wire. While we are walking by faith on God's promises (maintaining a sincere faith for our heart to be purified by God), our heart will be kept purified (according to 1 Pet. 1:5), you "who are kept by the power of God through faith for 'Salvation'." (If we do not exercise faith in God for things we need and circumstances in this life (which we can see), how could we ever begin to exercise faith in God for something so important as our Salvation (which we cannot see with human eyes). It is something that we must see (in faith) through spiritual eyes God is the only One who can enable us to see that, and to be "kept by the power of God through faith for salvation", (1 Pet. 1:5). When we cease to exercise faith on the 'power of God' to do that for us, we lose our heart purity and will go backward spiritually. We may be thinking that we are not so bad after all, but not being able to meet things right, and not able to exercise faith to receive our victory, is a terrible position spiritually. In many instances, we can find ourselves having more confidence in the lies (and plans) of Satan, than we have in the plans and Word of God. It becomes a real test to ourselves (as to our true spiritual condition). (Rom. 2:29 says), "true circumcision is heart-circumcision--not literal, but spiritual; and such people receive praise not from men, but from God."

After we have made corrections, confessed to God (and our fellow man, if necessary), and forsaken every wrong attitude or mistake we have made (or any other sins that God has revealed to us to be made right in our life), ... then we should believe on the authority of God's Word that our heart has been purified, by placing those things 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 that are pleasing in His sight."

People often pray in contradiction to what is really in their heart (the Pastor said), because their heart has not been made right with God. It would be to our benefit for us to take a good look at

what status we really believe our heart to be in, to understand (and know) what we are really believing, and where we actually believe ourselves to be in our spiritual life. Do we (or do we not) see and believe through God's Word, that our hearts have been made pure and clean, because His Word tells us what His Son accomplished on the Cross to cleanse, pardon, and free us from sin. There is no half-way place in the 'spiritual life', so we must be in one place or the other. What do we really believe about ourselves at this moment? (is the question we should ask).

God's Word gives us His plan of what we should believe we are, and where we should (in faith) see ourselves spiritually. (Whether or not we see or feel it makes no difference). God's plan is for us to believe that our heart is pure through faith on the authority of His Word that Jesus' Blood cleansed our heart.

The apostle Paul said, we are to "walk by faith, not by sight" (or feeling). We are to believe something when God's Word says it is so. To take our victory in faith on God's promises to deliver us in time of trial, is to "walk by faith, not by sight", and it will always include a 'spiritual blessing'. We are "kept by the power of God through faith for Salvation." (1 Pet. 1:5).

God's plan is that we are to maintain an ongoing faith on His Word and 'promises', and to believe that we are as His Word says we are. (Gal. 2:20), "I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I that live, but Christ that lives in me;" (Our believing that Christ lives in us, is believing that our heart has been purified by His Blood)... "and the life which I now live in the body I live through faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up to death on my behalf."

The moment we take the stand of faith on God's Word (that we are delivered from sin, and that our heart is purified by the Blood of Christ),... the devil will put all his skill and deceit into play, to try to convince us that we are not cleansed through Christ's Blood. He will use every possible suggestion to our mind, in trying to cause us to think we are not purified, and that we have not met the conditions to sincerely repent and believe that we were freed from all desire to sin. (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;"

The devil will then tell us that if we ever did have a clean heart, we must have lost it, and then try to convince us of that, through every method he has learned in his six thousand years of deceiving people. That is where the fight for our faith comes in.

(Rom. 6:11 assures us, however), "In the same way you also must regard yourselves as dead in relation to sin, but as alive in relation to God, because you are in Christ Jesus."

We should be encouraged from God's Word that we are a true believer. (1 John 4:4) "As for you, dear children, you are God's

children, and have successfully resisted them; for greater is He (God) who is in you, than he (the devil) who is in the world."

The devil fights against a faith that is believing in perfect peace of mind, health and protection, peace in our home, and salvation for ourselves and our household. Our privilege, however, (and all that is made possible through the Holy Spirit), is to maintain our truly repentant and forgiven attitude of heart (made possible by the shed Blood of Christ). Satan knows we have that privilege in Christ, so if he can get us to question that attitude, or get us to doubt God's Word (and be on the fence about whether our heart has really been cleansed and forgiven as God's Word says),... he can then undermine and rob us of faith (in every part of our life).

The doubt the devil puts in our mind will hinder our answers to prayer, prevent us from meeting things right in the home-life, and in financial matters. The devil will try to make us afraid of being in a drafty place, or of getting our feet wet for fear of catching a cold. If we feel a little pain in our back, he will try to make us think that we have some serious physical problem. It may sound surprising that the devil will try to undermine a faithful heart (a heart that was made pure by the Blood of Christ), but if he does succeed, he can then get in with doubt on every point, and a real spirit of fear will overtake us.

We must be definite in refusing Satan's doubts and fear in the 'Name of Jesus Christ', so the devil will have to flee from the power of Christ (whose resurrection to Life defeated the power of the devil). If we are not definite in refusing the devil's thoughts (in the Name of Jesus), the devil's suggestions of doubt and fear will soon have more weight than God's Word, (and God's Spirit of love, power, and wisdom). The point to be made (and the one thing we need to do), is as Solomon admonished (Prov. 4:23), "Above all else 'guard' your heart", (or) "Keep your heart with all diligence" (which means 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, waver and doubt will come almost immediately (because that is how quickly the devil works to destroy the faith of anyone who will allow him to do so, instead of refusing him in the Name of Jesus Christ, who defeated the devil's power, when He(Christ) rose to Life.)

We have God's promise (of the inspiration of His Holy Spirit) to keep us from wavering, if we will believe and take our stand of faith on God's Word to enlighten us to understand His promises. (1 Cor. 2:10-11) "For us, however, God has drawn aside the veil through the teaching of the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, including the depths of the divine nature. For, among human beings, who knows a man's inner thoughts except the man's own spirit within him? In the same way, also, only God's Spirit is acquainted with God's inner thoughts." Verse 12 then gives us all the assurance of the Spirit of God that our faith in God should ever need. We must believe that we

have received. (12) "But we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which comes forth from God, that we may know the blessings that have been so freely given to us by God."

Jesus had promised his disciples that same Spirit (John 14:26), "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send at my request, will teach you everything, and will bring to your memories all that I have said to you."

[The main point to consider; it is the work of the Holy Spirit who will enable us to understand God's promises (because that is what God assigned Him to do for us). He cannot work for us if we are not walking by faith in the Word of God, maintaining a conscience that is clear of offences toward God and man (through our purity of heart). We must stay connected by faith to the true Vine, Jesus Christ!! (Rom. 11:20), "Yet it was their unbelief that cut them off, and you only stand through your faith"

God has given us Scripture verses meant to assure and encourage us in our stand of faith on God. (John 15:4) "Continue in me, and let me (that's our choice) let me continue in you." "Just as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself--that is, if it does not continue in the vine (Jesus said)—so neither can you if you do not continue in me."

If we continue to maintain a pure heart; (if we continue to believe the Word of God; if we continue to hold on to the our heart purity through faith in God, and hold onto the indwelling of Jesus Christ in our heart; if we continue to abide in Him), we will be able to ask for whatever Scriptural desire we may have, and we shall receive it. We must remain truly consecrated to Christ, through believing that He is still within us to sanctify (or purify) our heart through His Word. "You are already clean because of the Word which I have spoken to you." (John 15:3)

This means that we are always purified through the Word, not by sight or feeling, because faith only works through a spoken or written word (not by something we can see). There is no faith involved when we can see something (as a human heart wants to do).

Spiritual faith works the same as faith in everyday things. If we see our car parked outside of our home, we can say, "I will drive the car to the supermarket". There is no faith involved. However, if a family member comes home and says, 'I parked the car out front, (even though we haven't seen the car yet), we have faith in their spoken word that the car is outside. We can (in faith) say, "I will drive the car to the supermarket."

That is the way our faith should work in believing God's written Word in all the promises that He inspired to be written for us to read, accept (in faith), and claim fulfillment. When Jesus said, "You are already clean because of the Word which I have spoken to you." (John 15:3), that means we are to believe that our heart is purified through His Word (not by what we feel).

The Pastor said he received many letters from people, saying, "I had such a wonderful experience, but it is all gone now. They tell us they surrendered their life to God (and had real joy), but after a while, which wore off, and they do not know how to explain it. The reason is they walked entirely depending on good feelings, and by what they could see to trust on (instead of walking by faith on God's Word). It was like they drove a stake on their experience and walked around it. In most cases, they never purified their hearts through the Word of God (so they were not sanctified ("kept by the power of God through faith for Salvation").

After a person's heart has been cleansed (by the precious Blood of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit), we are to consecrate (surrender) our life to God, to have Him purify our heart. That means putting aside forever all of our efforts of self and self-trust. (Matt. 5:8), "Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God."

(In summary) a wonderful feeling or experience is not faith at all, because real faith only works through believing on a spoken (or written) Word of God. We are to purify our heart by faith. Jesus told His disciples that they were clean through the Word, and they accepted their heart purity (through that Word). That is the way we all are to receive 'purity of heart', "kept by the power of God through faith for Salvation" (1 Pet. 1:5).

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The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia

#S330R MAIN POINTS:

1... The theme throughout the message is; the human heart is made pure by the 'Word' (Jesus said, John 15:3),...so our responsibility is to believe those words of His, then the Holy Spirit can do the purifying work that is needed in our heart.

2... Also, the human heart is "kept by the power of God through faith for salvation", (says 1 Pet. 1:5), so it is essential that we remain consecrated, by staying connected to the true Vine, Jesus Christ. "Yet it was their unbelief ('misplaced trust') that cut them off, and you only stand through your faith." (Says Rom. 11:20-21).

3... Our 'purity of heart' via of the Holy Spirit within, is not something we can see with the human eye, it is something we must see through 'spiritual eyes', so God is the only One who can enable us to see that through a continuing faith on our part.

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