

# SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Dave McCollum | Tuesday, June 14, 2016

## **Title:** Personal Purity

*“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.” (Matthew 5:8)*

**Introduction:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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The \_\_\_\_\_ the heart the \_\_\_\_\_ the vision

## **1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Pollution**

*“For the children of Judah have done evil in my sight, saith the LORD: they have set their abominations in the house which is called by my name, to pollute it.” (Jeremiah 7:30)*

*“And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not hearkened to receive instruction. But they set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it.” (Jeremiah 32:33-34)*

*“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.” (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)*

- A. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Pollution
- B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Pollution
- C. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Pollution

**2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Purity**

*“Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” (2 Timothy 2:22)*

*“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.” (Hebrews 10:22)*

*“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.” (James 4:8)*

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ your Influencers
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ each Influencer
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ change of Influencers

**3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Purity**

*“There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.” (Proverbs 30:12)*

*“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.” (Psalm 51:10)*

*“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” (2 Corinthians 7:1)*

- A. Personal desire for \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Personal determination for \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Personal daily \_\_\_\_\_

**Conclusion:** \_\_\_\_\_

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# Personal Purity

*Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*

Matthew 5:8

**Introduction** (Read all “Purity” verses kept coming back to this one)

I. **Personal Purity** – *“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.”*

II. **The Heart** - not physical but spiritual (the totality of the inner person). The real you. (895 instances of word “heart” in Bible - majority: spiritual heart)

- We are controlled by our heart (The director of our words and actions)
  - Genesis 6:5-6 (First mention - Time of Noah) *“And GOD saw that the wickedness (Actions) of man was great in the earth, (Why wicked?) and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.”*
  - Proverbs 23:7 *“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...”*
  - Matthew 12:34 *“Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh...”*
  - Proverbs 4:23 *“Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”*
- The Spiritual heart, like Physical heart, has four primary parts/ sections
  - **Intellect** (Imagines, thinks, devises, perceives, meditates, wise, considers, knows, understanding, presumes, enticed, inditing...)
  - **Emotion** (Grieved, afraid, joyful, hate, sorrow, discouraged, love, hot, merry, touched, troubled, desires)
  - **Attitude** (Integrity, willing, humble, obstinate, valiant, proud, faithful)
  - **Morality** (Evil, departing, upright, wicked, naughtiness, stealing, right, cursing, hypocrites, mischief)
- III. **See God** - *Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*
  - John 1:18; 4:12 *“No man hath seen God at any time...”* Physical sight
  - Spiritual sight - The spiritual heart is the lens through which we see God

(2 Corinthians 5:7 - *walk by faith not by sight*)

- The cleaner the heart the clearer the vision

#### IV. What difference does seeing God make? What's the big deal?

(Examples)

- Difference in **King David's** life - Goliath (**saw God**) courage/ victory; 1 Samuel 17:46 - *"This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel."* Victory - Fearless? He saw God!

(**Lost sight of God**) - saw Bathsheba brought lust/sin/shame/ death. Psalm 51:10 *"Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me."*

- Difference in **Elijah's** life - Ahab (**saw God**) *"And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word."* Mount Carmel - Courage - He saw God!

(**Lost sight of God**) *"Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time. And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there."* Saw Jezebel - Fear, doubt, discouragement;

(**Saw God again**) Mt Horeb - *"And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake: And after the earthquake a fire; but the*

*LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.*”-  
restored and taken up in chariot of fire.

- Difference in **Joseph’s life** (Pure heart - **Consistently saw God**)  
Parents house, Pit, Potiphar’s house (“*how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?*”), prison, palace (Genesis 50:20 - “*But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.*”) So steadfast? He saw God!
  - What difference will seeing God make in your life? All the difference in the world (courage, strength and victory in temptations and trials).
- V. “*Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*”
- Personal purity is directly connected to our victory or defeat in this life
  - It’s not just about seeing God in heaven someday - it’s about seeing God now so we can experience the courage, power, and victories in this life.
  - 1 John 3:2-3 “*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*”
  - Today we are going to learn some practical steps on how to achieve personal purity so we can see God and have a blessed/victorious life.
  - “*Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*”

First - We need to understand...

## I. **The Problem of Pollution**

**(\*\*1969 – 10 years old – Cleveland, Ohio - very polluted – Cuyahoga river – caught fire – embarrassing - Cleveland became brunt of jokes – Russian comedian)**

“*For the children of Judah have done evil in my sight, saith the LORD: they have set their abominations in the house which is called by my name, to pollute it.*” (Jeremiah 7:30)

*“And they have turned unto me the back, and not the face: though I taught them, rising up early and teaching them, yet they have not hearkened to receive instruction. But **they set their abominations in the house, which is called by my name, to defile it.**”*

(Jeremiah 32:33-34)

What is “**the house?**” Temple

*“Know ye not that **ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.**” (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)*

A. The **Profile** of Pollution

1. What pollutes (defiles) the heart?
2. Sin pollutes/defiles the heart

Mark 7:18-23 *“Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him; **Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats? And he said That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.**”*

**Pollution!**

B. The **Proliferation** of Pollution

1. How does it get there? (Purified heart at salvation - what happened?)
2. Proverbs 4:23 *“**Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.**”*
3. Proverbs 4:24-25 *“**Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.**”*
4. Eye - ear - heart process Matthew 13:15 *“**For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with***

*their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.”*

5. Oh be careful little eyes...oh be careful little hears... (Child & Adult)

### C. The **Product** of Pollution

1. What are the effects of a polluted heart?
2. Blurred vision of God - Does not see God clearly/consistently
3. Inconsistent (defeated/powerless) life for God
4. A double mindedness (James 4:8) “...purify your hearts, ye double minded.” (Psalm 12:2) “...with a double heart do they speak. (James 1:8) “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

Now that we understand the problem of pollution we need to apply...

## II. The **Process** of **Purity**

“**Flee** also youthful lusts: but **follow** righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a **pure heart**.” (2 Timothy 2:22)

**Flee** Lusts – **Follow** righteousness...

“Let us **draw near with a true heart** in full assurance of faith, having **our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water**.” (Hebrews 10:22)

- The conscience is the moral compass of the heart.
- (Titus 1:15) “**Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.**”

“**Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse** your hands, ye sinners; and **purify** your hearts, ye double minded.” (James 4:8)

- 2 Timothy 2:22 - **Flee** lusts and **Follow** righteousness
- James 4:8 - **Cleanse** hands and **purify** hearts

- Process of purity involves **purging** and **purifying**
- Everything that we see and hear influences our heart - We must control our influencers. Proverbs 4:23 ***“Keep thy heart with all diligence...”***
- Before we can purge and purify you must...

#### A. **Identify** your Influencers

1. List your weekly activities
2. List all influencers (positive and negative)
3. Be specific (Not just T.V. - program; Not just game - Pac Man; Friends - name, etc...)

#### B. **Investigate** each Influencer

1. Investigate by **morality** (Bible standard)
  - a. Good influence
  - b. Bad influence
  - c. Neutral influence
2. Investigate by **minutes** (Time standard)
 

Hebrews 12:1 ***“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,”***

#### C. **Initiate** change of Influencers (By **purging** and **purifying**)

1. The **purging**
  - Inward purging (thoughts)
    - **A Confession** - 1 John 1:9 ***“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”***
    - **A Casting** - 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 ***“(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down***



*imaginings, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;*”

➤ *Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”*

- Outward purging (negative influencers)
  - *Proverbs 28:13 “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.”*
  - *Proverbs 16:6 “By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.”*

2. The **purifying** (Not enough to purge the bad - replace with pure)

- Scripture purifies
  - *Psalm 119:140 “Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.” Psalm 119:11 “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”*
- Supplication purifies
  - *Psalm 51:10 “Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”*

First we saw the problem of pollution, then the process of purity, now comes...

**III. The Personal of Purity** (Thing of purity is very personal – you and God)

*“There is a generation that are **pure in their own eyes**, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.” (Proverbs 30:12) – Laodicea church (lukewarm - doubleminded)*

*“Create in me a **clean heart**, O God; and renew a **right spirit** within me.” (Psalms 51:10) – It was personal to David*

*“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us **cleanse ourselves** from all **filthiness of the flesh and spirit**, perfecting **holiness** in the fear of God.” (2 Corinthians 7:1)*

A. Personal desire for **clarity**

1. A **Humble** desire

- Psalm 10:17 *“LORD, thou hast heard the **desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:**”*

2. A **Hungering** Desire

- Exodus 33 (Moses) *“And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence... And he said, I beseech thee, **shew me thy glory** (I need to see you)... And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live... And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a clift of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.”*

B. Personal determination for **cleanness** (no clarity without cleanness – *“Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.” Matthew 5:8)*

- (Daniel) Daniel 1:8 *“But Daniel **purposed in his heart** that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.”*

C. Personal daily **cleansing**

- (Peter – John 13) “*Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.*” (As we walk this dirty world we need daily cleansing)

## **Conclusion**

*Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.* (Matthew 5:8)

## **Problem of pollution – Process of Purity – Personal of Purity**

My family moved from Cleveland, OH in the summer of 1970. I’ve never been back. I’ve been told that it is now a clean and beautiful place to visit and live. But, it took a fire, embarrassment, and worldwide attention to bring change, to bring purity. What’s it going to take to bring personal purity in our lives?