

The King's Purpose for You, Step Eight

Brandon Phillips / General

The King and His Glory / Matthew 5

In the His introduction to His Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5-7), the King's Manifesto for His Kingdom, King Jesus reveals nine steps to your purpose and ultimate blessing in this life and beyond.

Pre-sermon Comments

John 15:18-19 LSB

¹⁸ “If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ “If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

Matthew 13:30 LSB

³⁰ ‘Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn.”’”

Proposition and Outline

Step One: Possess True Poverty ([Matt 5:3](#)) [Review]

Step Two: Persevere in Learning What Offends God ([Matt 5:4](#)) [Review]

Step Three: Pursue Lowliness ([Matt 5:5](#)) [Review]

Step Four: Pursue Righteousness ([Matt 5:6](#)) [Review]

Step Five: Prefer Mercy ([Matt 5:7](#)) [Review]

Step Six: Pursue Inward Purity ([Matt 5:8](#)) [Review]

Step Seven: Pursue Peace (Be a Peacemaker) ([Matt 5:9](#)) [Review]

Step Eight: Patiently Endure Persecution for Righteousness' Sake ([Matt 5:10](#))

Step Nine: Patiently Endure Libel ([Matt 5:11](#))

Sermon Text

[Matthew 5:1-12](#) (LSB) ¹ Now when Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him. ² And He opened His mouth and *began to* teach them, saying, ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the lowly, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. ⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰ **Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.** ¹¹ “Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. ¹² “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Introduction

2 Timothy 3:10-12 LSB

¹⁰ But you followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, perseverance, ¹¹ persecutions, *and* sufferings, such as happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, *and* at Lystra. What persecutions I endured, and out of them all the Lord rescued me! ¹² Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

A brief survey of ancient Christian tradition reveals that Peter, Andrew, Philip, and James the son of Alphaeus were all crucified; Bartholomew was whipped to death and then crucified; James the son of Zebedee was beheaded, as was Paul; Thomas was stabbed with spears; Mark was dragged to death through the streets of Alexandria; and James the half-brother of Jesus was stoned by order of the Sanhedrin. Others, including Matthew, Simon the Zealot, Thaddeus, Timothy, and Stephen, were also killed for their unwavering commitment to the Lord.

“Eighty and six years have I served him, and he never did me wrong; and how can I now blaspheme my King that has saved me?” ~ Polycarp

“Alas, sirs, these speeches are fit to catch children; but we, who are taught and nourished by the Sacred Scriptures, are ready to suffer a thousand deaths, rather than permit one tittle of the Scriptures to be altered.” ~ Eusebius

“He needs not fear confiscation, who has nothing to lose; nor banishment, to whom heaven is his country; nor torments, when his body can be destroyed at one blow; nor death, which is the only way to set him at liberty from sin and sorrow.”

Review

2 Corinthians 5:17 LSB

¹⁷ Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

Step Five: You will Prefer Mercy ([Matt 5:7](#))

Matthew 5:7 LSB

⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

[Luke 23:34](#) (LSB) ³⁴ But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” AND THEY CAST LOTS, DIVIDING UP HIS GARMENTS AMONG THEMSELVES.

Step Six: You will Pursue Inward Purity ([Matt 5:8](#))

Matthew 5:8 LSB

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

[Acts 7:55–56](#) (LSB) ⁵⁵ But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; ⁵⁶ and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

Step Seven: You will Pursue Peace (Be a Peacemaker)

([Matt 5:9](#))

Matthew 5:9 LSB

⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Worldly Peace

Jesus's Peace

James 4:4–5 LSB

⁴ You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world sets himself as an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think that the Scripture speaks to no purpose: “He jealously desires the Spirit which He has made to dwell in us”?

[Ephesians 2:1–2](#) (LSB) ¹ And you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience,

[Galatians 5:19–21](#) (LSB) ¹⁹ Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

[Romans 1:16](#) (LSB) ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

[Romans 15:24](#) (LSB) ²⁴ whenever I go to Spain—for I hope, passing through, to see you, and to be helped on my way there by you, when I have first enjoyed your company for a while.

[Romans 15:28](#) (LSB) ²⁸ Therefore, when I have completed this and have put my seal on this fruit of theirs, I will go on by way of you to Spain.

[Romans 1:17](#) (LSB) ¹⁷ For in it *the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith*; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS WILL LIVE BY FAITH.”

[Romans 1:18](#) (LSB) ¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.

[Ephesians 6:14-15](#) (LSB) ¹⁴ Stand firm therefore, HAVING GIRDED YOUR LOINS WITH TRUTH, and HAVING PUT ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, ¹⁵ and having shod YOUR FEET WITH THE PREPARATION OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE.

He has made us to be purveyors of His peace

¹⁸ Now all *these* things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their transgressions against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. ²⁰ So then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as God is pleading through us. We beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

[Matthew 5:9](#) (LSB) ⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

[1 Peter 3:15](#) (LSB) ¹⁵ but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, *always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you*, yet with gentleness and fear, Here's the problem -

The world is not interested in Jesus's peace or His peacemakers -

[John 15:19](#) (LSB) ¹⁹ "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

Steps Eight and Nine: Patiently Endure Persecution and Libel for Righteousness' Sake ([Matt 5:10-11](#))

[Matthew 5:10](#) (LSB) ¹⁰ Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

The righteousness of God

[2 Timothy 3:12](#) (LSB) ¹² Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

The crowning feature of the happy person is persecution! Kingdom people are rejected people. Holy people are singularly blessed, but they pay a price for it.
~ John MacArthur

The righteousness that exemplifies Christ's Kingdom

[Matthew 5:3](#) (LSB) ³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[Matthew 5:10](#) (LSB) ¹⁰ Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Christ living in His people today produces the same reaction from the world that Christ Himself produced when He lived on earth as a man. ~ John MacArthur

[Hebrews 11:4](#) (LSB) ⁴ By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he was approved as being righteous—God approving his gifts—and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.

[Matthew 23:35](#) (LSB) ³⁵ so that upon you may fall *the guilt of* all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar.

[Colossians 1:24](#) (LSB) ²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and I fill up what is lacking of Christ's afflictions in my flesh, on behalf of His body, which is the church,

Will I suffer persecution for my faith?

[2 Timothy 3:12](#) (LSB) ¹² Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

[John 15:18-19](#) (LSB) ¹⁸ “If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before it hated you.” ¹⁹ “If you were of the world, the world would love its own;

but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

The Gospel

Matthew 16:13 LSB

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, saying, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

[Daniel 7:13-14](#) (LSB) ¹³ “I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And came near before Him. ¹⁴ “And to Him was given dominion, Glory, and a kingdom, That all the peoples, nations, and *men of every tongue* Might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion Which will not be taken away; And His kingdom is one Which will not be destroyed.”

[Matthew 16:14](#) (LSB) ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.”

[Matthew 16:15](#) (LSB) ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

[Matthew 16:16](#) (LSB) ¹⁶ And Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

[Matthew 16:17-19](#) (LSB) ¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. ¹⁹ “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.”

[Matthew 16:20-21](#) (LSB) ²⁰ Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ. ²¹ From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day.

[Matthew 16:22-23](#) (LSB) ²² And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “God forbid *it*, Lord! This shall never happen to You.” ²³ But He turned

and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.”

[Matthew 16:24](#) (LSB) ²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

[Matthew 16:25](#) (LSB) ²⁵ “For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

[Matthew 16:26](#) (LSB) ²⁶ “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

[Matthew 16:27](#) (LSB) ²⁷ “For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EACH ONE ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS.

The Lord’s Supper

[Luke 22:14–23](#) (LSB) ¹⁴ And when the hour had come, He reclined *at the table*, and the apostles with Him. ¹⁵ And He said to them, “I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; ¹⁶ for I say to you, I shall never again eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.” ¹⁷ And when He had taken a cup *and* given thanks, He said, “Take this and share it among yourselves. ¹⁸ “For I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine from now on until the kingdom of God comes.” ¹⁹ And when He had taken *some* bread *and* given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.” ²⁰ And in the same way *He took* the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood. ²¹ “But behold, the hand of the one betraying Me is with Me on the table. ²² “For indeed, the Son of Man is going as it has been determined; but woe to that man by whom He is betrayed!” ²³ And they began to argue among themselves which one of them it might be who was going to do this thing.

More Quotes on being persecuted for the sake of righteousness!

Persecution is simply the clash between two irreconcilable value-systems. ~ John Stott

Persecution is an attempt to produce worldly peace by force. ~ Brandon Phillips

⁹²¹The doctrine that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners is no more to be wounded by the sword of persecution than is the ocean to be scarred by the keels of navies. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

The fire of God can't be damped out by the waters of man's persecution. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

Persecution is one of the surest and most tangible evidences of salvation. Persecution is not incidental to faithful Christian living but is certain evidence of it. ~ John MacArthur

Persecutions are in a way seals of adoption to the children of God. ~ **John Calvin**

Persecution is like the goldsmith's hallmark on real silver and gold; it is one of the marks of a converted man. ~ **J. C. Ryle**

The weight of glory makes persecution light. ~ **Thomas Watson**

Persecution is the legacy bequeathed by Christ to his people. ~ **Thomas Watson**

The church of Christ has been founded by shedding its own blood, not that of others; by enduring outrage, not by inflicting it. Persecutions have made it grow; martyrdoms have crowned it. ~ **Jerome**

In the history of the church the most severe persecution has come from religionists. ~ **John Walvoord**

Though they be never so meek, merciful, pure in heart, their piety will not shield them from sufferings. They must hang their harp on the willows and take the cross. The way to heaven is by way of thorns and blood.... Set it down as a maxim, if you will follow Christ you must see the swords and staves. ~ Thomas Watson

Again, in these times religion has become jolly good fun right here in this present world, and what's the hurry about heaven anyway? Christianity,

contrary to what some had thought, is another and higher form of entertainment. Christ has done all the suffering. He has shed all the tears and carried all the crosses; we have but to enjoy the benefits of His heartbreak in the form of religious pleasures modeled after the world but carried on in the name of Jesus. History reveals that times of suffering for the Church have also been times of looking upward. Tribulation has always sobered God's people and encouraged them to look for and yearn after the return of their Lord. Our present preoccupation with this world may be a warning of bitter days to come. God will wean us from the earth some way—the easy way if possible, the hard way if necessary. It is up to us. ~ **A. W. Tozer**

Scars are the price which every believer pays for his loyalty to Christ. ~ **William Hendriksen**

If persecution should arise, you must be willing to part with all that you possess, with your liberty, with your life itself, for Christ, or you cannot be his disciple. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

Never did the church so much prosper and so truly thrive as when she was baptized in blood. The ship of the church never sails so gloriously along as when the bloody spray of her martyrs falls on her deck. We must suffer and we must die, if we are ever to conquer this world for Christ. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

We are not to do anything that calls for persecution. But by just being like Christ persecution becomes inevitable. ~ Martyn Lloyd Jones

If we are serious about our Christian witness, the day may be near when we may be persecuted—even killed—for our faith. We should be stirred, as John was stirred, as we witness this vast company of God's saints in heaven who have come through earth's great tribulation. I am not saying we are not Christians. I am only trying to find out why we are so far from revival and refreshing and renewal. I am only trying to determine why we are so far from recognizing the urgency of God's will laid upon us by the Holy Spirit. If we belong to Jesus Christ, we should never compromise our spiritual decisions on the basis of "What is this going to cost me?" We ought only to ask, "What is my spiritual duty and my spiritual privilege before God?" ~ **A. W. Tozer**

People remark how favored the church is in this country. It does not have to face persecution and rejection. If the truth were known, our freedom from

persecution is because we have taken the easy, the popular way. If we would love righteousness until it became an overpowering passion, if we would renounce everything that is evil, our day of popularity and pleasantness would quickly end. The world would soon turn on us. We are too nice! We are too tolerant! We are too anxious to be popular! We are too quick to make excuses for sin in its many forms! If I could stir Christians around me to love God and hate sin, even to the point of being a bit of a nuisance, I would rejoice. If some Christian were to call me for counsel saying he or she is being persecuted for Jesus' sake, I would say with feeling, "Thank God!" ~ **A. W. Tozer**

The servant of Christ must never be surprised if he has to drink of the same cup with his Lord. ~ **J. C. Ryle**

It is preferable to have the whole world against thee, than Jesus offended with thee. ~ **Thomas à Kempis**

"Eighty and six years have I now served Christ, and he has never done me the least wrong; how, then, can I blaspheme my King and my Savior?" ~ **Polycarp**

"It is a strong proof of human depravity that men's curses and Christ's blessings should meet on the same persons." ~ Arthur Pink

You can kill us, but you can't hurt us. ~ **Justin Martyr**

If you were not strangers here the hounds of the world would not bark at you. ~ **Samuel Rutherford**

If there be glory laid up for them that die in the Lord. Much more shall they be glorified that die for the Lord. ~ **Richard Baxter**

Take care if the world does hate you that it hates you without cause. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

A whiff of persecution sometimes puts backbone into otherwise timid Christians. ~ **D. A. Carson**

Never expect to find this world anything better than a wilderness. ~ **Jonathan Edwards**

Christ's followers cannot expect better treatment in the world than their Master had. ~ **Matthew Henry**

If the devil were wise enough and would stand by in silence and let the gospel be preached, he would suffer less harm. For when there is no battle for the gospel it rusts and it finds no cause and no occasion to show its vigor and power. Therefore, nothing better can befall the gospel than that the world should fight it with force and cunning. ~ **Martin Luther**

Trials from the enemies of Jesus confirm our faith. Those who are never tried usually possess a poor, tottering faith. But trial, especially persecution, is like the rough March wind which goes howling through the forest. While the young oaks are almost torn up by the roots at first, it loosens the soil for them, and they send out more rootlets, till they get such a firm grip that they defy the hurricane. That which shakes them at first strengthens them afterwards. ~ **Charles Spurgeon**

God sometimes raises up many faithful ministers out of the ashes of one. ~ **Matthew Henry**

The Word of God never yet prospered in the world without opposition. ~ **Iain Murray**

Wherever you see persecution, there is more than a probability that truth is on the persecuted side. ~ **Hugh Latimer**

The martyrs were bound, imprisoned, scourged, racked, burnt, rent, butchered—and they multiplied. ~ **Augustine of Hippo**

What is persecution?

Appendix

What does it mean to be blessed?

Blessing is the state of happiness in our inward selves. It comes from the acknowledgment of the reality of how fortunate we are to have a relationship with God the Father through Jesus the Son. This relationship produces an inner bliss and contentment that comes from an ever-increasing recognition of all that God has done for us and that no circumstance or set of circumstances can change our happiness or contentment in Christ.

Who is the source of blessing?

God Himself is the source of this blessing. We can only be truly blessed by partaking in His divine nature. As the psalmist promises, “In His presence is fullness of joy and in His right hand are pleasures forever” ([Ps 16:11](#)).

Who are the Blessed?

The blessed are those who have believed in the promises of Christ and are living in the present reality of the Holy Spirit living within them with an ever-increasing understanding of what He is accomplishing through them.

What does it mean to be Poor in Spirit?

God blesses a person who recognizes their spiritual bankruptcy or poverty. They have acknowledged their lostness in sin, hopelessness in life, and helplessness to save themselves. They must see that they are utterly unworthy of God and are entirely dependent upon Him to save them. They have cried out like Isaiah, “Woe is me, for I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, Yahweh of hosts” ([Isa 6:5](#)).

What does Jesus mean by mourning?

Godly mourning is a deep and abiding sorrow produced by the knowledge of our sins and how far we fall short of God’s glory. This mourning can only be experienced by those who have recognized their spiritual poverty and desperate need for God’s mercy and grace. *We see this type of mourning in the lives of saints like Isaiah ([Isa 6:5](#)) and David ([Ps 32:3-4](#) & [Ps 51:3-4](#)).*

What does “comforted” mean?

The comfort Jesus refers to is supernatural encouragement that can only come from God Himself - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Father has sent the Holy Spirit to dwell within us. He provides comfort or encouragement that comes from the Father and the Son. As believers who have come to a knowledge of sin, we are comforted from on high.

What does Jesus mean by “the lowly, gentle, or meek”?

The lowly are those who have come to understand their utter unworthiness in the light of God’s holiness. They recognize their sinfulness and how far short they fall of His glory. Those who are lowly place no confidence in their flesh, finding their strength in Him alone. They have committed their way to Him, fully resting in Him. They have come to see their need to trust and delight in Him alone and have cast themselves on His mercy and trust in Him for protection.

What does Jesus mean by hungering and thirsting for righteousness?

Jesus teaches that God blesses those who hunger and thirst for His imputed righteousness. These people recognize that they are entirely parched and starved for a righteousness that is not their own - the righteousness of Christ. At salvation, God imputes Jesus’s righteousness to the believer, thus satisfying their need and making them positionally righteous. The Holy Spirit also comes to dwell in them, starting the process of sanctification, which is the gradual and practical process of becoming more like our Lord Jesus. In other words, we slowly become what we already are in Christ.

What is true mercy?

True mercy is always concerned about people's needs, no matter the situation. It is sympathetic and compassionate, even toward people caught up in the ramifications of their sins, including sin against us. It never seeks to take advantage of anyone. Even when our enemies find themselves under our power and control, mercy always desires what is best for them. Genuine compassion and justice always work together. The genuinely merciful will never overlook justice, yet will seek to show mercy even toward those receiving their just punishments for wrongdoing. True mercy was exemplified by our Lord Jesus as He suffered on the cross at the hands of His godless enemies.

What is the heart?

In Scripture, the heart is much more than our feelings. It is the sum or totality of who we are. In addition to our emotions, it includes our intellect and will. It is the fountainhead out of which everything in our life flows. If our hearts are evil, out of the heart will come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual immoralities, thefts, false witness, and slanders ([Matt 15:19](#); [Gal 5:19-21](#)). If our hearts are pure, having the Holy Spirit, out of our hearts will flow love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control ([Gal 5:22-23](#)).

Why does Jesus emphasize the heart?

Jesus emphasizes the heart because man's troubles always arise from his heart. Our problems have nothing to do with our surroundings. Our surroundings can help shape us, but our impure and sinful heart always leads us down dark paths. Adam and Eve sinned in the most fantastic paradise ever; therefore, the ultimate problem is not our surroundings but our hearts. We can trace every sin back to the impurity of our hearts.

What does our Lord mean by “pure in heart?”

Being pure in heart means being single-minded in our devotion to the Lord, with no hidden spots or agendas. We must recognize that naturally, we have divided hearts like the double-minded man in [James 1:5-8](#). When we realize our heart's sinfulness, we mourn, and God begins cleansing our hearts, making us single-minded without any spot or wrinkle. When we become pure in heart, we no longer have divided loyalties between God and sin.

How do we become pure in heart?

We become pure in heart by faith in God and belief in His Word. He shows us the sinfulness - the impurity - of our hearts. We mourn over it as He continues to reveal it to us. This process is painful, beginning at salvation and continuing throughout our lives as followers of Christ. We must recognize that Jesus alone makes us pure. He cleanses us and makes us whiter than snow.

How do we know we are pure in heart?

When we are pure in heart, we become painfully aware of and burdened by the remaining impurities which still indwell us. We start this process by mourning over our sins. We continue in the same fashion for the rest of our days.