

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OF TRUTH AND FREEDOM
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"THEY SHALL SEE GOD"

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1

Purity in Heart

Matthew 5:8 (NIV)
8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

James 4:8 (NIV)
8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

The blessing of seeing God is not just for a future time. Jesus promised His followers would see God as a blessing for having a pure heart. What does it mean to have a pure heart? What does it mean to see God? When we recognize we are sinners and believe Christ came to die to redeem us from the curse of sin, we are given a new heart: a pure heart, a heart that loves and listens to God, a heart that can discern good from evil because it is directed by the Holy Spirit, a heart that constantly seeks to draw near to God, and one that is not double-minded. With such a heart, a born-again believer strives to live with integrity, love others as Christ has loved us, be transparent in our motives and actions, and live with an intentionality of pleasing God always. A person with a pure heart is one who constantly seeks an awareness of God's presence in everything and lives as if God is standing right next to them. They 'see' God in everything and at all times.

2

The Knowledge of His Power and Love

2 Peter 1: 5-8 (NIV)
5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.

Seeing God is knowing His power, love, and might. To be fruitful in this knowledge, Peter encourages us to constantly add to our faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, mutual affection, and love. May we ask the Holy Spirit to help us cultivate these virtues. It involves being humble, turning away from wrong choices, and drawing closer toward God through prayer and the reading of His Word. It also involves practicing an awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit, who God promised will reside in us from the beginning of our rebirth. We must be attentive and consciously seek His actions and directions in our lives. Seeing God is not a one-time event but comes with being in constant relationship or fellowship with the Holy Spirit. Even when we falter or have periods of doubt or hopelessness, He does not leave us alone, for He is faithful and already knows our frame. May we see God in everything we do, and at all times. Amen!

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