

Volume 6, Day 23: The Pure in Heart
See God in Everything!

Purity is not innocence, it is much more. Purity is the outcome of sustained spiritual intimacy with God. We have to grow in purity. The life with God may be right and the inner purity remain unsullied. Yet every now and again the natural spirit which reaches the outside will be sullied. God does not shield us from this possibility because in this way we realize the necessity of maintaining the vision by personal intimacy which alone produces purity. If the spiritual bloom of our life with God is getting impaired in the tiniest degree, we must stop doing everything and reacquire the intimacy. Remember that vision depends on character – "... the pure in heart see God."

We may have thought that the 'pure in heart' are those whose moral quotient approaches perfect behavior and attitudes. However, Jesus was referring specifically to the way we see other people. Do we tend to find fault and criticize their inappropriate expressions. Or do we give them the benefit of the unknown and see them as having noble motives which we simply may not understand at the moment. When we cast purity on the motives of others until their motives have been clearly revealed as evil, we can see God in them. God is good. Thus if we see good in them, we also see God who creates the good in them. There is none righteous without God's Holy Spirit in them. But we have the best chance of helping them see God when we first see them as God sees them. They, too, are his children (only once born).

God makes us pure by His sovereign grace, but we have something to look after, this bodily life by which we come in contact with other people and with other points of view, it is these that are apt to sully us. It is only by the Holy Spirit within us that we are brought into perfect accord with the purity God gives us by His grace. The spiritual understanding is blurred the instant that our expressions are unloving toward others. Make every reasonable effort to increase your awareness of how your expressions reflect the spirit (or Holy Spirit) within you. One of these spirits will always be more evident than the other.