

79.5 Battling from a Pure Heart

As we engage in WWII, we see this is an information and spiritual war. People call this the “Fifth Generation War,” which focuses on the hearts and minds of people with weapons of mass distraction rather than weapons of mass destruction, although a combination is in use. Scripture reminds us that we constantly battle evil entities, from Satan to his angels to his demons to people who knowingly or unknowingly sold their souls to the *Wicked Puppet Master*. Evil is far more pronounced today than ever in my lifetime, and we must battle it on every front.

I want to repeat the verse from our last podcast, where we considered the importance of wisdom and reflect on the purity factor today. Our text is **Matthew 10:16** (NKJV), and it reads:

¹⁶ **“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.**

We could translate the word “harmless” in this verse as “innocent” or “pure.” When we engage in the spiritual battle, we do not do so with vindictiveness but from pure hearts. We want what is true and good, not just to get our way or demand attention. Everything Jesus did was done with a pure motive, whether going to the cross, forgiving sinners, or confronting evil leaders. He first chose to please His Father by sharing His truth and serving people for their good, not His ego.

Jesus said that the “*pure in heart*” would see God in **Matthew 5:8**. A pure heart is an undivided heart. If we had pure gold, we would have metal without impurities. We do not take a little bit of God and a little bit of the world and decide our way. A person with a pure heart gives their whole heart to God, as He tells us in the “*Great Commandment*” of **Deuteronomy 6:5** (NKJV):

⁵ **You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.**

In **James 1:8** (NKJV), the writer warns us of the consequences of our doubt when we do not pray in faith and believe in God. He declares, “⁸ **he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.**” We see the picture of a man with some faith and some doubt, and the latter produces indecision and fear. The blameless and pure heart not only sees God in every corner of life, but he also develops faith over fear.

The pure heart is a sacrificial heart that would rather endure hardships for others’ sake. You may remember Thomas Paine’s famous quote from his writing, “*The American Crisis*,” which reads:

“If there must be trouble, let it be in my day, that my child may have peace; and this single reflection, well applied, is sufficient to awaken every man to duty.”

Paine had been eating in an inn and discussing the American troubles with Great Britain. The innkeeper indicated that he only cared about peace in his lifetime and was unconcerned about the crisis his daughter might face. Wouldn’t you rather deal with our predicament now and endure the difficulties than have your children and grandchildren deal with what we refused to do?

The trials we endure make us better people. What we are going through as a nation will improve us if we allow it. I seem to be pulling from James quite a bit, but notice what he says about the value of trials in **James 1:2** (NKJV):

² **My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience [or perseverance, endurance].**

Trials bring us the spiritual quality of patient endurance, but they also bring us purity. **Malachi 3:3** (NKJV) speaks of God’s role in purifying people. Note the passage:

He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness.

The silversmith purifies silver in the fire and knows that once he can see his reflection in the molten metal, the fire has burned away the impurities. God looks for His "reflection" in us as the impurities burn away through trials. He uses our fiery trials to make us more and more into His image.

Jesus is the most remarkable example of the pure heart. Not only is He undivided in His loyalties, but He is also sacrificial in His functions. Let me give you an example of His impact.

There is a remarkable prison in Brazil called "Humaita," The government has allowed two Christians to run the prison for over twenty years using Christian principles. All the work is done by the prisoners, except that required by two full-time staff. Families outside the prison adopt an inmate to work with during and after his prison sentence. **Chuck Colson** told what he experienced when he visited the prison:

"When I visited Humaita, I found inmates smiling - particularly the murderer who held the keys, opened the gates, and let me in. Wherever I walked, I saw men at peace. I saw clean living areas and people working industriously. The walls were decorated with Biblical sayings from the Psalms and Proverbs... My guide escorted me to the notorious prison cell once used for torture. Today, he told me, that block houses only a single inmate. As we reached the end of a long concrete corridor and he put the key in the lock, he paused and asked, "Are you sure you want to go in?"

"Of course," I replied impatiently, "I've been in isolation cells all over the world." Slowly he swung open the massive door, and I saw the prisoner in that punishment cell: a crucifix beautifully carved by the Humaita inmates - the prisoner Jesus, hanging on a cross.

"He's doing time for the rest of us," my guide said softly.¹

The way to spiritual insanity is to divide our loyalties. Jesus reminds us in **Matthew 6:24** (NKJV):

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Jesus says that it is not only a bad idea to try and serve two masters, but it is also impossible. How many Christians have tried to divide their loyalties between God and money or their will and God's will? When we try to have divided loyalties, we are both double-minded and impure of heart.

We continue to engage the spiritual enemies of God who would destroy our nation, families, and churches. We are spiritually fighting for America's soul by bringing God's kingdom to earth as it is in heaven. We do not have a divided heart but a pure one in this conflict as we want His will over ours and are willing to sacrifice for His cause, following the example of Jesus.

Keep The Light of a Pure Heart Burning!

¹ Lucado, Max. In *The Grip of Grace*. Word Publishing, Dallas, Texas, 1996, pg. 113-114.