

**The Goal Is Love # 6  
Love Springs From A Pure Heart**

(1 Tim 1:5) "But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."

**INTRODUCTION**

So far in this series, we have dealt with the goal or tello and why it is important to have goals or objectives. We looked at why we needed to have the goal of love. Apostle David shared a message entitled, Forgiveness, The Hallmark Of Love. We looked at the characteristics of love. Then, the past couple of weeks we looked at the definitions of love.

In the next few weeks, we will be looking at what love flows or springs out of. You may know the Lord and possess love, but the love of God is not what is coming out of your life. There is a reason for that. Sometimes there are things which muddy the waters before it gets to you.

At our house we use well water most of the time. We finally have city water and we switch back and forth. The well water is good most of the time, but when it rains real hard for a few days, the water in our well gets real murky. There is an underground stream that our well feeds from. We have a deep well, so the stream is very deep, but it picks up runoff from some source after the rains. The water in our house turns real murky. So, when it rains, we use the city water until the well clears up.

Some of us have and know the love of God, but when the storms of life come and it pours down on us, our love gets murky. Our patience runs short instead of being long. Our gentleness and meekness turns harsh. Our forgiving repeats a matter. We take into consideration a wrong suffered. We get provoked. We get selfish instead of laying our lives down for others. Instead of hoping and believing the best, we lose hope and doubt the other person. The soil of our heart becomes road side soil because we have misunderstanding. The soil of our heart turns rocky because we have offenses that are keeping our roots from spreading. It is causing us to dry up in the persecution, because we don't have another water source to tap into. There is no other real source than the Lord. The water flowing or springing from our heart is murky.

Today, we are going to look at where this love we have been looking at, springs from. We are going to look at several ways to keep our water clean or pure at all times. We are going to look at the LOVE THAT SPRINGS FROM A PURE HEART.

(1 Tim 1:3-16) "As I urged you upon my departure for Macedonia, remain on at Ephesus, in order that you may instruct certain men not to teach strange doctrines, {4} nor to pay attention to myths and endless genealogies, which give rise to mere speculation rather than furthering the administration of God which is by faith. {5} But the goal of our instruction (*command or charge*) is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith. {6} For some men, straying from these things, have turned aside to fruitless discussion, {7} wanting to be teachers of the Law, even though they do not understand either what they are saying or the matters about which they make confident assertions. {8} But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, {9} realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous man, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers {10} and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching, {11} according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted. {12} I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service; {13} even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. And yet I was shown mercy, because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; {14} and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus. {15} It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. {16} And yet for this reason I found mercy, in order that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience, as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life."

## **I. THE CONTEXT OF THE PASSAGE**

In the text today, there are people in Ephesus who have wrong motives for instructing God's people. Their heart was to be teachers of the Law. They were motivated to be seen, to be up front, to be THE Teachers. They were there for position and the respect of men. They were there for selfish motives and reasons. Their heart was not pure. They were not there to help people walk uprightly and draw close to God. They were not there to help people love God and love their neighbor. They were there to make themselves look good. They were there to exalt themselves.

Paul's heart was pure. He had no selfish motives. His desire was to see the kingdom of God established in these Ephesian believers. His desire was for the Law to be used lawfully. His desire was for believers to live uprightly. Sound doctrine produces sound lifestyles. A sinful lifestyle is contrary to sound teaching (Vss 9-10). Paul acknowledges that he was once the foremost or chief of sinners, but he found mercy in Jesus Christ and now he is an example for those who would believe in Jesus for eternal life. Paul also makes mention that it was the Lord who put him in service. Paul was not self promoting. If you recall in Acts 13, the Holy Spirit said to set apart Barnabas and Paul for the work for which He had called them. Then, the leadership team, after fasting and praying, laid

their hands on them and sent them away. A pure heart is not self promoting. It allows God to promote and raise up at the right time. A pure heart serves and waits for God to raise up and exalt. It is not from the east or from the west that exaltation comes, but from the Lord. We are to be leery of anyone wanting position. Their heart may not be pure.

(Acts 13:1-3) "Now there were at Antioch, in the church that was there, prophets and teachers: Barnabas, and Simeon who was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. {2} And while they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." {3} Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on them, they sent them away."

(Psa 75:4-7) ""I said to the boastful, 'Do not boast,' And to the wicked, 'Do not lift up the horn; {5} Do not lift up your horn on high, Do not speak with insolent pride.'" {6} For not from the east, nor from the west, Nor from the desert comes exaltation; {7} But God is the Judge; He puts down one, and exalts another."

## II. THE DEFINITION OF HEART

What is the heart that Paul is referring to? We know that the heart is the central organ in our body that pumps and supplies all the blood to all the body. It is a muscle that we need to keep in good shape. But what is the meaning of heart in Scripture?

The word for heart in the O.T is LEB and in the N.T. it is KARDIA. Both words are almost identical in their meaning and usage.

The word heart is used over 900 (955) times in Scripture and almost never is it used literally. The exception is in Exodus 28:29-30, which speaks of the breastplate of decision over the heart of Aaron.

**1. It Represents The Seat Of Our Affections.** The heart is regarded (as in the modern usage) as the seat of the affections. An example is in Psalms 62:10, which says that if riches increase, we are not to set our heart upon them. Heart is used as the seat of affections.

**2. It Represents The Seat Of The Intellect.** The heart is also used as the seat of the intellect. In Genesis 6:5 it says, "every inclination of the thoughts of his heart." Here, the word heart is speaking of the place where our thoughts come from, the seat of our intellect.

- ponders in the heart Luke 2:19
- imaginations originate Pro 6:18
- considerations are made Jer 12:11
- beliefs are made Rom 10:10, Luke 24:25
- understanding comes from 1 Kings 3:9, Job 38:36

**3. It Represents The Seat Of The Will.** The heart is also used to speak of the seat of our will. Psalms 119:2 says, “who seek Him with all their heart.” This refers to their will. They have set their will to seek God. There is a choice that they have made in their heart and it has been set on seeking God. It is the seat of the will.

- intentions are made Heb 4:12
- purposes are formed Pr 20:5, Ac 11:23
- will is exercised Eph 6:6 (doing will of God from heart)

**4. It Represents The Seat Of Emotions.** Often the heart refers to the seat of our emotions or our innermost being. Genesis 6:6 says that “his heart was filled with pain.” It is talking about the deep feelings and the innermost being of a person.

- astonished Deut 28:28
- broken Ps 34:18; Ps 69:20; Ps 147:3; Is 61:1
- bitter Ezek 27:31
- discouraged Num 32:7-9
- failing 1 Sam 17:32
- fainting Gen 45:26
- fearful Is 21:4; Is 35:4
- glad Deut 28:47; Ps 104:15; Pr 24:17; Pr 27:11
- grieved 1 Sam 25:31; Ps 73:21
- heavy Pr 12:25; Pr 25:20; Pr 31:6; Matt 26:37
- joy Job 29:13; Ec 2:10
- merry 1 Sam 25:36; 1 Kings 21:7, Esther 1:10; Pr 15:13; Pr 15:15; Pr 17:22
- trembling Deut 28:65

**5. It Refers To The Character Of A Person.** Sometimes the word heart is referring to the character of a person, whether good or bad. It is referring to his nature, character, or reputation.

- honest and good Luke 8:15
- pure Ps 24:4, Pr 22:11, Matt 5:8, 1 Tim 1:5; 2 Tim 2:22; 1 Pet 2:22
- true Heb 10:22
- understanding Job 38:36
- wise Job 9:4
- deceitful and desperately wicked Pr 12:20; Is 44:20; Jer 17:9
- froward and proud Ps 101:4-5
- stubborn and rebellious Jer 5:23
- wicked Ps 58:2

**6. It Represents The Core, Center Or Middle Of An Object.** In Psalm 46:2 we are told that we should not fear even if the earth should change or the mountains slip into the heart of the sea. The heart of the sea means the middle of the sea. It is not talking about the coast, but into the depths of the sea.

In the *Theological Dictionary Of The New Testament*, Geoffrey Bromiley gives the following:

1. The thought that the heart is the central organ and the seat of physical vitality occurs in the NT only in Luke 21:34 and James 5:5.
2. There is in the NT a rich usage of *kardia* for:
  - a) The seat of feelings, desires, and passions (e.g., joy, pain, love, desire, and lust; cf Acts 2:26; John 16:6; 2 Cor 7:3; Rom 10:1; Rom 1:24)
  - b) The seat of thought and understanding (cf. Matt 7:21; John 12:40, Acts 8:22; Mark 11:23; Rev 18:7; Rom 1:21)
  - c) The seat of the will (e.g., Acts 11:23; 2 Cor 9:7; Luke 21:14)
  - d) The religious center to which God turns, which is the root of religious life, and which determines moral conduct (e.g., Luke 16:15; Rom 5:5; Rom 8:27; Eph 3:17; Heb 8:10; 2 Pet 1:19; as the heart of the sinner, Mark 7:21; John 12:40; Eph 4:18; James 1:26; as the heart of the redeemed, Matt 11:29; 1 Tim 1:5; 1 Thess 3:13; Col 3:22; 1 Pet 3:15; James 4:8, etc.).
3. The meaning “inward part of the earth” occurs in Matthew 12:40.

### III. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A PURE HEART

Paul says that the goal of his instruction comes from a pure heart. What is the significance of having a pure heart? We are going to take a look at some reasons why a pure heart is so significant.

**1. To See God.** Jesus said in the sermon on the mount, “Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God.” We want to see God. We want to enter into His presence. We want an intimacy with God. We desire fellowship with Him. If we are not pure in heart we are not going to see God.

(Mat 5:8) ""Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

David says the same thing in Psalms 24. He asks a question about who can ascend the hill of the Lord. He asks who can stand in His holy place. The answer was those who had clean hands and a pure heart. In order to be in the presence of the Lord, we need a pure heart.

(Psa 24:3-4) "Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? And who may stand in His holy place? {4} He who has clean hands and a pure heart, Who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood, And has not sworn deceitfully."

(2 Tim 2:22) "Now flee from youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."

**2. To Bring Sound Doctrine.** Sound Doctrine is that which challenges and changes our behavior to more like Jesus. If leaders in a church are going to lead you into intimacy with the Lord, their hearts need to be pure. If their teaching is going to help you see God, they need pure hearts. This is why Paul points out the difference in his heart and the heart of some that want to be teachers.

(1 Tim 1:5) "But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."

David again, shows the importance of this in Psalms 51. After he has confessed his sin and repented, asks God to create in him a clean heart. Then, he goes on to say that he will teach transgressors God's ways and sinners will be converted to the Lord. A pure heart comes before effective teaching.

(Psa 51:13) "Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways, And sinners will be converted to Thee."

**3. For A Sincere Love Of The Brethren.** We are told in 1 Peter that we need to purify our hearts for a sincere love of the brethren. Without a pure heart, we cannot love our brothers and sisters in Christ like we are supposed to. If there is selfishness in our heart, we can not love our brothers and sisters with agape love. Love is not selfish, therefore, we cannot sincerely love our brothers. If we are full of pride, we cannot love our brothers, because love is not arrogant. If we are impatient or unforgiving, we cannot sincerely love our brethren. We must have pure hearts in order to love our brothers.

(1 Pet 1:22) "Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart,"

(1 Cor 13:4-7) "Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, {5} does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, {6} does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; {7} bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

**4. For Stability In Life.** We are told in James that if we lack wisdom, we are to ask from the Lord and He will give generously to us. If we ask with doubt, we are told that we are like the waves of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind, being unstable in all our ways, being double minded.

(James 1:5-8) "But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. {6} But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. {7} For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, {8} being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."

You see a double minded man does not have a pure heart. As a result of being double minded, your life is unstable. How many of you can identify with a marriage that is unstable. There are some impurities in your marriage. There are some impurities in your heart. Instability is a result of being double minded. Listen to what the Lord tells the double minded to do a little later in the book of James. Being double minded is a condition of the heart—the seat of the intellect.

(James 4:8) "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

**5. For An Effective Prayer Life.** In the passage in James 1 that we just looked at, James tells us that let not that man expect to receive anything from the Lord. An impure heart will result in an ineffective prayer life. You ask for things and you don't see any results. I am one that is for getting rid of any and all hindrances to my prayer life. I want to get rid of any double-mindedness. I want to get rid of all doubt and unbelief. I want to get rid of all bitterness and pride. Why? Because I want to have an effective prayer life. I want our church to be an effective house of prayer.

(James 1:7-8) "For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, {8} being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."

(Mark 11:23-24) "'Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it shall be granted him. {24} "Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they shall be granted you."

This principle is echoed in the O.T. We find that men gathered to David with one heart. Their hearts were unified. They were perfect in heart. They were not divided. Therefore, they were effective soldiers. We know that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but spiritual, for the tearing down of strongholds. If we want to pull down strongholds, that is through prayer and worship, we need to have pure hearts before the Lord.

(1 Chr 12:33) "Of Zebulun, there were 50,000 who went out in the army, who could draw up in battle formation with all kinds of weapons of war and helped David with an undivided heart."

(1 Chr 12:38) "All these, being men of war, who could draw up in battle formation, came to Hebron with a perfect heart, to make David king over all Israel; and all the rest also of Israel were of one mind to make David king."

In Psalms 78, fathers are exhorted to instruct their children. We are told that because the fathers did not teach their children and prepare their hearts, that they turned back in the day of battle. In other words, they were ineffective warriors. We need pure hearts in war.

(Psa 78:8) "And not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not prepare its heart, And whose spirit was not faithful to God."

**6. To Keep From Defiling Yourself.** Jesus taught the disciples in Matthew 15 about what defiles a man. He made it very clear that it is not what we eat that defiles a man. The Pharisees got mad that the disciples did not wash their hands before eating. Jesus gives them a very important Scriptural principle.

(Mat 15:11-20) ""Not what enters into the mouth defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man." {12} Then the disciples came<sup>^</sup> and said<sup>^</sup> to Him, "Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?" {15} And Peter answered and said to Him, "Explain the parable to us." {16} And He said, "Are you still lacking in understanding also? {17} "Do you not understand that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and is eliminated? {18} "But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. {19} "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. {20} "These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man.""

Notice that it is the things which come out of the heart that defile a man. A man's words can defile him, and a man's thoughts can defile him. A man's actions can defile him. All these words, thoughts and actions begin inside the heart. It is important to keep our hearts pure so that we do not become defiled. You are fighting a losing battle when you constantly try to put out forest fires. You need to catch the arsonist that is setting them.

Last summer I did a message on Ephesians 4:29. I mentioned that there were two ways to stop unwholesome words or corrupt communication from proceeding from your mouth. The first way is to carefully monitor every word we say, which I highly recommend everyone to do. However, this is not the best solution. It is always better to get to the root of the problem. If you are saying things that are rotten, corrupt or unwholesome, things that are defiling, not edifying, not giving grace to those who hear, there is a root problem. The root problem lies in your heart. You must examine your heart. You must cleanse your heart of the unforgiveness, bitterness, etc. so that the words that proceed from your mouth do not tear down, but build up or edify.



(Mat 12:34) ""You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart."

One preacher I listened to said that the church is too busy cleaning out cobwebs. Instead they should be getting rid of the spiders that cause them. The cause of the cobwebs in our lives are not spiders, but an unclean heart. Out of an unclean heart come all kinds of cobwebs that entangle and defile our lives. How do we get rid of the spiders? How do we clean up or purify our hearts?

#### **IV. PURIFYING OUR HEARTS**

David is a man who is known to have a heart after God. He was a man who walked in the integrity of his heart. Like all of us, David had his moments. After he fell with Bathsheba, David repents and asks the Lord to create in him a clean heart.

(Psa 51:10) "Create (bara) in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me."

This word BARA means to create something from something which does not exist. It is the same word used in Genesis 1:1 when God created the heavens and earth. It is a creation by divine power. David is saying that he did not possess a clean heart. It didn't exist in him at that time. He was asking God to do a fresh creative miracle in him, giving him a clean or pure heart.

CREATE: H1254. bara', baw-raw'; a prim. root; (absol.) to create; (qualified) to cut down (a wood), select, feed (as formative processes);--choose, create (creator), cut down, dispatch, do, make (fat).

(Gen 1:1) "In the beginning God created (bara) the heavens and the earth."

We cannot give ourselves a clean heart. We cannot forgive ourselves. God can forgive us. We can receive God's forgiveness and cleansing. We cannot create a pure heart. God cleanses and purifies our heart. We must be willing vessels. We must ask God to cleanse and purify our hearts. We must be willing vessels.

Why do we need the Lord to create in us a clean heart? We find in Jeremiah 17:9-10 that the heart is more deceitful than all else. It is desperately sick. Unless God creates a pure heart, our hearts are filthy. They are sinful. They are deceitful and desperately sick.

(Jer 17:9-10) ""The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it? {10} "I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, According to the results of his deeds."

Even though God purifies our hearts, we have a vital role to play in the process. How do we purify our hearts? Here are some steps that we must take.

**1. Repent Of All Known Sins.** The first step is to repent of your known sins. We cannot ask God to cleanse our hearts if we are not willing to deal with the sins that we know about. We must acknowledge and confess our sins. In 1 John 1:9, we are told that if we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us and to CLEANSE us from all unrighteousness. Acknowledging and dealing with our sins is the first step. Notice what David does in Psalm 51.

(Psa 51:1-13) "(For the choir director. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came to him,) (after he had gone in to Bathsheba.) Be gracious to me, O God, according to Thy lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Thy compassion blot out my transgressions. {2} Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. {3} For I know my transgressions, And my sin is ever before me. {4} Against Thee, Thee only, I have sinned, And done what is evil in Thy sight, So that Thou art justified when Thou dost speak, And blameless when Thou dost judge. {5} Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. {6} Behold, Thou dost desire truth in the innermost being, And in the hidden part Thou wilt make me know wisdom. {7} Purify me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. {8} Make me to hear joy and gladness, Let the bones which Thou hast broken rejoice. {9} Hide Thy face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. {10} Create (BARA) in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. {11} Do not cast me away from Thy presence, And do not take Thy Holy Spirit from me. {12} Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, And sustain me with a willing spirit. {13} Then I will teach transgressors Thy ways, And sinners will be converted to Thee."

(1 John 1:9) "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Some people have a difficult time with this first step. Many people in the church today simply have not been taught how to repent. One of the things that I have taught in this church and in the jails is a message entitled 3 Steps To Sincere Repentance.

#### **Three Steps to Sincere Repentance**

1. Seek God's Face. 2 Chr 7:14
2. Deal With The Sin.
3. Express Sincere Repentance.

There are some guiding principles that help us to sincerely repent and to communicate our sincerity in repentance. In that message I gave 8 steps to help us in our communication or expression of our sincere repentance.

<b>EXPRESSING SINCERE REPENTANCE</b>	
<b>1. Speak privately.</b> Matt 18:15	<b>5. Speak soberly.</b>
<b>2. Speak visibly.</b>	<b>6. Speak responsibly.</b> Luke 18:10-14, Gen 3:12
<b>3. Speak clearly.</b>	<b>7. Speak singularly.</b> Pr 25:9, Luke 18:10-14
<b>4. Speak slowly.</b>	<b>8. Speak lovingly.</b> Ja 5:20, 1 Pet 4:8, Pr 10:12, Pr 17:9

**2. Ask The Lord For A Clean Heart.** The second step is to ask the Lord for a clean heart. David prayed and asked the Lord for a clean heart. David's prayer is not merely words. His prayers come out of a repentant heart. He has already openly acknowledged and confessed his sins before the Lord. Now, he is asking the Lord to create in him a clean heart.

**3. Receive His Cleansing By Faith.** In the book of Acts, we find that both the Jews and Gentiles were treated the same by the Lord. He made no distinction between them. He cleansed the hearts of both the Jews and the Gentiles by faith. It is by faith that our hearts are cleansed and purified. It is the blood of Christ that cleanses us from sin. It is His payment in full for our sins by His blood that allows us to be cleansed. We believe and receive His forgiveness and cleansing by faith.

(Acts 15:9) "and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith."

One day in 1993 as I was studying my Bible on my computer, I came across this verse. I keep three versions of the Bible open at all times on my computer. I use the New American Standard Bible, the King James Version and the Greek/Hebrew Bible with the Strong's Index. I can highlight any word and the corresponding Greek or Hebrew word is also highlighted. The Strong's definition of the word also appears in a separate box.

As I was reading Acts 15:9, I saw the following words: katharizo:G2511 . kardia:G2588 . pistis:G4102. Katharizo is the word for cleanse or purify. Kardia is the word for heart. Pistis is the word for faith. Our hearts are cleansed by faith. The Spirit impressed me that this was to be the name of our daughter who Karen was carrying. So when Karen delivered a healthy little girl on April 29, 1993, we named her Kathleen Faith Murchison. Kathleen means purified in heart. It is a constant reminder to me and to everyone that we are purified in heart by faith in what Jesus has done for us on the cross.

In the book of Isaiah, we are told that Isaiah and his children were given for signs and wonders in Israel. I happen to believe that all of us are to be a sign and wonder. We are the light of the world. We are the salt of the earth. We are to be carrying a message. Our names also carry significance and meaning. Kathleen's name testifies to the world how we are cleansed from our sins.

(Isa 8:18) "Behold, I and the children whom the LORD has given me are for signs and wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion."

## **V. MAINTAINING A PURE HEART?**

In the book of Proverbs, Solomon tells us to watch over our hearts with all diligence. The wisest man on earth knew some things. He knew that our heart was the key to our actions and words. Whatever a man put in his heart or allowed into his heart was going to influence his actions. He says that from it flow the springs of life. That is exactly what Paul is saying in 1 Timothy 1:5. Love is going to flow out of a pure heart. If the heart is not full of love, if the heart is not pure, then what flows or springs out of it will not be pure. Love cannot flow out of an impure heart. How are we to watch over our heart? What are some ways that we can do this? We are going to look at three ways to maintain a pure heart.

Prov 4:23 "Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life."

**1. The HP Water Softening System.** On our property, I was told that the water in the well was good and that it was a deep well. We had a pump put in the well and used it to water our garden last year. Watering the garden and using it for your main water supply are two different things. Before we moved into the house, I had the water tested by the University of Georgia. They do the testing for Cherokee County. Here is what they found.

Water Analysis Report		
Element	Concentration (PPM)	EPA Maximum Level (PPM)
Aluminum	0.03	No Set Maximum
Boron	Negligible	No Set Maximum
Cadmium	Negligible	0.01 (P)
Calcium	43.4	No set Maximum
Chromium	Negligible	0.05 (P)
Copper	0.01	1.0 (S)
Iron	0.01	0.30 (S)
Magnesium	11.8	No Set Maximum
Manganese	0.09	0.05 (S)
Molybdenum	Negligible	No Set Maximum
Nickel	0.01	No Set Maximum
Phosphorus	Negligible	No Set Maximum
Potassium	5.9	No Set Maximum
Sodium	22.9	No Set Maximum
Zinc	0.90	5.0 (S)

<b>Water Analysis Report</b>	
<b>pH:</b>	7.4 (Desired pH range 6.5 to 8.5)
<b>Calculated Hardness:</b>	Hard Water
<b>Abbreviation Key:</b>	The letter (P) beside an EPA Maximum Level indicates that EPA has established a primary drinking water standard for this element. These are elements which have been shown to cause adverse health effects. The letter (S) indicates that EPA has established a secondary drinking water standard for this element. These elements are not generally considered threats to health, but can cause nuisance problems such as staining, tastes or odors.
<b>PPM:</b>	Stands for parts per million. One part per million is equivalent to 1 pound of an element dissolved in 1,000,000 pounds of water.
<b>Hardness of Water:</b>	<p>The calculated hardness of this water sample exceeds 120 parts per million (ppm). The water is therefore, considered hard. Water hardness is related to the amount of calcium, magnesium and other minerals in the water. Hard water does not pose a threat to health, but it can cause scale formation in pots, water pipes and water heaters. It can also interfere with the cleaning action of soaps and detergents, forming film on skin, clothing and fixtures.</p> <p>Water can be softened by installing an ion-exchanging water softener which removes calcium, magnesium, etc., by exchanging them for sodium. Drinking softened water may not be recommended for individuals on sodium restricted diet because of the increased sodium concentrations.</p>
<b>Manganese:</b>	<p>The concentration of manganese in this sample exceeds EPA's secondary maximum contaminant level of 0.05 parts per million (ppm) for drinking water. Manganese does not pose a threat to health, but can cause bitter or metallic taste and dark brown or black stains in laundry and plumbing fixtures. Water treatment is recommended only if these particular symptoms are causing a problem.</p> <p>An ion-exchange water softener can be used to remove up to 5.0 ppm combined manganese and iron, but is not normally used unless water softening is also desired. Any oxidized manganese and/or iron should be removed by filtration ahead of the water softener.</p>
<b>Sodium:</b>	The concentration of sodium in this sample exceeds 20 ppm. EPA has not set a maximum drinking water contaminant level for sodium; however, persons who consume this water regularly and have a history of heart problems or high blood pressure should consult their physician. Sodium can be removed from drinking water by using a point-of-use demineralization system such as distillation or reverse osmosis.

Their tests revealed two things that were very clear:

- we needed a water softening system and
- we needed a reverse osmosis filter.

The water softening system was to keep the dishwasher, hot water heater and other appliances from being ruined by the hard water. A water softener system would also have some positive effects on cleaning. Less soap, shampoo and detergent are needed for everyday cleaning. The ion exchange water softening system would also pull out the iron and manganese from the water, which had color and odor drawbacks. The only negative effect was that it increased the level of sodium in the water, which was already high.

The ion exchange water softener works this way. The softening system uses salt, which can be purchased at Lowe's. Salt has a negative charge. The calcium, manganese, iron and other heavy and hard minerals have a positive charge. There is an ion exchange when the salt is mixed with the minerals in the water. Then, the calcium and manganese get flushed out with the salt. The water coming out of the water softening system has a slight bit more sodium, but all the minerals and metals have been displaced and flushed out.

What is it that works as a softener to keep our hearts pure? It is humility. Humility is like the salt in our water softener. It has an ion exchange with the hard minerals that come its way. When someone says something harsh to you, humility responds with a gentle answer and turns away wrath.

(Prov 15:1) "A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger."

When someone accuses you, humility has an ionic exchange and dissolves the accusations. It does not revile back. Jesus did not revile back when He was reviled.

(1 Pet 2:23) "and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously;"

Again, in the sermon on the mount, Jesus tells them to put everything through this softening system. They had been taught much like our culture today, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." Jesus said not to go in the same manner. Don't resist him who is evil. The word resist is *anthistemi*, which means to stand against or oppose. In other words, don't get into a fight or quarrel or battle with the person. It is the same word used in Ephesians 6:13 to describe our resistance to the forces of darkness.

G436. *anthistemi*, anth-is'-tay-mee; from G473 and G2476; to stand against, i.e. oppose:--resist, withstand.

(Mat 5:38-41) ""You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.' {39} "But I say to you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. {40} "And if anyone wants to sue you, and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. {41}

"And whoever shall force you to go one mile, go with him two."

(Eph 6:13) "Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm."

When someone slaps us, we are to put that through the softening system of humility. When humility has the ionic exchange with anger, the result is love. It is not provoked. It is slow to anger. It turns the other cheek.

The first way that we can watch over our heart with all diligence, the first thing we can do to maintain a pure heart is to put it through the softening system of humility.

**2. The RO 7W Filter (Reverse Osmosis 7 Stage Word Filter)** The other filter that was necessary was a reverse osmosis filter which would take out any sodium or other minerals and/or contaminants. It would give us pure drinking water.

The H2O Distributors Reverse Osmosis Filter (RO) has four stages:

**Stage One:** The first stage has a sedimentary filter which removes particles of .5 microns or larger. This removes dirt, sand, etc.

**Stage Two:** The second stage has a carbon block. The carbon treats four different problems: taste, odor, color and organics.

**Stage Three:** The third stage is the reverse osmosis membrane. This is a thin film composition and water is forced under pressure through the holes in the membrane. Only pure water is allowed through the membrane. All bacteria is removed; all dissolved solids and minerals are removed. This treats the problems of taste, color and odor again. The filter also flushes out any contaminants and keeps itself clean.

**Stage Four:** This is a granular activated carbon filter. It treats the water one final time for anything objectionable in taste or odor.

The RO has a pressure tank where the water is stored under pressure. The tank can process up to 25 gallons of pure water per day, more than adequate for our family.

The second way to keep our hearts pure is by using the RO7W filter. The RO7W filter is the filter of God's Word. The word of God is pure. In Ps 12, we find that the words of the Lord are pure words, as silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times. The R/O filter in my house goes through 4 steps. The word of God has been refined seven times. The number 7 refers to perfection, completion, indefinite.

(Psa 12:6) "The words of the LORD are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace on the earth, refined seven times."



My R/O filter gets the water 99% pure, but the RO7W of God's word gets it 100% pure. We must filter everything in our life through the word of God. It is our plumb line. It is our final authority. If something in my life does not line up with the word of God, I may not like it; I may not understand it, but I must be obedient to the word of God if I want my heart pure.

The Scriptures ask a question in Ps 119:9-11, "How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to God's word." Then, it goes on to say in verse 11, "Thy word I have hid in my heart that I may not sin against Thee." It is critical that we obey the word of God. The Scriptures promise that we can keep our way pure if we will keep it according to God's word.

Psa 119:9 "How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy word."

Psa 119:11 "Thy word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against Thee."

Jesus taught the same principle. He told the disciples that they were clean because of the word that He spoke to them. He cleansed them by the Word of God.

John 15:3 "You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you."

The only way that we can keep our way according to the word is to meditate on the word day and night. Joshua 1:8-9 says, "This book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it, for then you shall make your way prosperous and then you will have success." When we meditate on the word of God day and night, when we run everything in our life day and night through this filter of God's word, we can be assured that our hearts will stay pure.

It is when we don't CONTINUALLY run things through that filter, that impurities find their way into our heart. The billboards on I-75, the magazine cover pictures at the grocery store check out, the conversations we engage in can all bring impurities into our heart. We must filter everything through God's word.

This really demonstrates the need for Scripture memory. Children and youth, let me speak to you for just a minute. You are right now at the best time of your life to store up God's word on your heart. There will never be a more opportune time to memorize. Your capacity to learn, memorize and retain is at an all time high. Your time availability is at an all time high. Your potential to use what you memorize is the greatest. You have your whole life to benefit from what you hide in your heart.

Notice in Proverbs 4 when the Lord tells us to watch over our hearts with all diligence what He said immediately before that. He says to give attention to His words, to incline our ears to His sayings. We are not to let them depart from our sight. We are to keep them in the midst of our heart. It will bring life and health to our whole body. We are given the primary way that we are to watch over our hearts before we are given the command to watch over our hearts.

(Prov 4:20-23) "My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. {21} Do not let them depart from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart. {22} For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their whole body. {23} Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life."

Husbands, let me talk to you for just a minute. I encouraged the youth and now it is your turn. In Ephesians 5:25-27, the Lord commands us to "love our wives just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and blameless."

(Eph 5:25-27) "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; {26} that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, {27} that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless."

We have been given the responsibility of not only keeping our hearts pure, but also watching over our wives hearts. We need to wash them with the water of the word. We have a responsibility to wash them and keep them pure. Husbands, we cannot do this if we are not keeping our own hearts pure. We must keep ourselves pure so that we can keep our wives pure. We need to constantly be sharing the word with them. We need to be encouraging them with the word. We need to rise up to our God ordained positions in marriage.

**3. The LW13-17 Filter.** At our house, I told you that after storms, our well gets muddy from underground streams. Because of that we bought a third filter at the water filter company's recommendation. We bought a sedimentary filter. Now our R/O filter has a sedimentary filter as one of it's stages, but this is a big sedimentary filter that filters every gallon that comes into our house.

The way that a sedimentary filter works is that it is like an air filter on your car. It has a fiber screen that the water must pass through. It simply removes the particles that are bigger than the openings in the screen. The sedimentary filter we got was for particles that were 5 microns or bigger. I was told that this would take care of the problem.

Guess what? It did not solve our problem in the storms. Our water was still murky. I called the filter company and they recommended a different filter. Supposedly, it is the best available and filters down to 1 micron. They said this is smaller than anything visible to the eye. Well, our water still is murky after the storms. We are still dealing with them about it. We might get some reimbursement from the company because the filter is not working according to the specifications it advertises.

Sometimes in the storms of life, our hearts get a little murky. We need additional filtering to clear up our water. When this happens, let me encourage you to get a third filter to keep your heart pure. Run the things that you are experiencing through another brother or sister in the church. They may be able to filter out some of the impurities and help you maintain a clean heart.

If the water in your life is still murky, let me encourage you to go through a stronger filter. Let me encourage you to use the LW Filter given in Hebrews 13:17. It says that leaders have been given the responsibility to watch over your souls. They have to give account to the Lord for your life. Whether you ask them or not, they must filter things in your life to keep you pure. Just we are all commanded to watch over our hearts, they are commanded to watch over you.

(Heb 13:17) "Obey your leaders, and submit to them; for they keep watch over your souls, as those who will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you."

When things are getting murky, they can really help you sort through things. I take advantage of the same principle with David Hawkes. I run lots of things through him. I run all major decisions through him. I probably border on the side that shares too much with him. I like all my water filtered. I like clean water. I like a clean heart. I like a clean church. I want to present the bride of Christ in all her glory, to present her pure and blameless, without spot or wrinkle.

When the word of God says to obey your leaders, the Greek word is peitho. Peitho means to convince, pacify, to rely upon, agree, assure, believe, have confidence, make friend, obey or trust. All these things require relationship. You can not convince me with talking to me. You can not agree with me without relationship. You cannot make friends with me without relationship. You cannot trust someone that you do not know. You can not yield to someone you don't have confidence in. Confidence comes through successfully walking through some situations. I have more confidence in David Hawkes than I did a year ago, because I have walked through some things with him. I work hard at my relationship with David Hawkes. I believe that I have a responsibility to do that.

G3982. peitho, pi'-tho; a prim. verb; to convince (by argument, true or false); by anal. to pacify or conciliate (by other fair means); reflex. or pass. to assent (to evidence or authority), to rely (by inward certainty):--agree, assure, believe, have confidence, be (wax) content, make friend, obey, persuade, trust, yield.

## CONCLUSION

Tonight, the Lord may have revealed some things to you about why you have not seen some breakthroughs in situations. There may be some impurities in your heart that have not been cleared up. You may have some murky water springing up from the well of your heart.

If you have never received Christ's word in you, if you have never received Christ into your life, then you need your heart purified by faith. You need to receive Christ into your life today.

Some of you have received that initial cleansing and you find your water still murky. You need to be cleansed again. You need to get before the Lord and do business. You need to confess to the Lord and to others your sins. You need to repent and forsake your sins. You need to install some filters in your life so that the water springing up out of your heart is pure, refined seven times in the RO7W filter. It is going to be expensive. You are going to have to invest some time and effort to install His word upon your heart and mind. You are going to have to monitor this filter continually.

Some of you need to install a HP filter. You have found yourself getting provoked, being critical or judgmental or harsh. You need to really focus on humility. It would do you well to memorize and meditate on verses about humility. You need to make a commitment to humble yourself regularly with fasting and prayer. Humble yourself before others by going and confessing your sins, instead of covering them up. The HP filter will keep you out of lots of hot spots.

Some of you need to install the LWH1317 filter. If you have installed the other filters and in the midst of a storm, you need some extra help, please give a call. I will be glad to meet with you and help you. That is part of my responsibility and I take it serious. I want to help you. Let's pray.

**Mountain Of The Lord Church & Ministries**  
**The Goal Is Love # 6**  
**Love Springs From A Pure Heart (1 Tim 1:5)**

April 1, 2000

**I. THE CONTEXT OF THE PASSAGE** 1 Tim 1:3-16, Acts 13:1-3, Psa 75:4-7

**II. THE DEFINITION OF HEART** The word for heart in the O.T is \_\_\_\_\_ and in the N.T. it is \_\_\_\_\_.

**1. It Represents The Seat Of Our** \_\_\_\_\_ . Psalms 62:10

**2. It Represents The Seat Of The** \_\_\_\_\_ . Genesis 6:5

- ponders in the heart Luke 2:19
- imaginations originate Pro 6:18
- considerations are made Jer 12:11
- beliefs are made Rom 10:10, Luke 24:25
- understanding comes from 1 Ki 3:9, Job 38:36

**3. It Represents The Seat Of The** \_\_\_\_\_ . Psalms 119:2

- intentions are made Heb 4:12
- purposes are formed Pr 20:5, Ac 11:23
- will is exercised Eph 6:6

**4. It Represents The Seat Of** \_\_\_\_\_ . Genesis 6:6

- astonished Deut 28:28
- broken Ps 34:18; 69:20; 147:3; Is 61:1
- bitter Ezek 27:31
- discouraged Num 32:7-9
- failing 1 Sam 17:32
- fainting Gen 45:26
- fearful Is 21:4; Is 35:4
- glad Deut 28:47; Ps 104:15; Pr 24:17; Pr 27:11
- grieved 1 Sam 25:31; Ps 73:21
- heavy Pr 12:25; Pr 25:20; Pr 31:6; Matt 26:37
- joy Job 29:13; Ec 2:10
- merry 1 Sam 25:36; 1 Ki 21:7, Esther 1:10; Pr 15:13; Pr 15:15; Pr 17:22
- trembling Deut 28:65

**5. It Refers To The** \_\_\_\_\_ **Of A Person.**

- honest and good Luke 8:15
- pure Ps 24:4, Pr 22:11, Matt 5:8, 1 Tim 1:5; 2 Tim 2:22; 1 Pet 2:22
- true Heb 10:22
- understanding Job 38:36
- wise Job 9:4
- deceitful & desperately wicked Pr 12:20; Is 44:20; Jer 17:9
- froward and proud Ps 101:4-5
- stubborn and rebellious Jer 5:23
- wicked Ps 58:2

**6. It Represents The** \_\_\_\_\_ **or** \_\_\_\_\_ **Of An Object.** Psalm 46:2

### III. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF A PURE HEART

1. To \_\_\_\_\_ . Mat 5:8, Psa 24:3-4, 2 Tim 2:22
2. To Bring \_\_\_\_\_ . 1 Tim 1:5, Psa 51:13
3. For A \_\_\_\_\_ **Of The Brethren.** 1 Pet 1:22, 1 Cor 13:4-7
4. For \_\_\_\_\_ **In Life.** James 1:5-8, James 4:8
5. For An Effective \_\_\_\_\_ . James 1:7-8, Mark 11:23-24, 1 Chr 12:33, 1 Chr 12:38, Psa 78:8
6. To Keep From \_\_\_\_\_ **Yourself.** Mat 15:11-20, Eph 4:29, Mat 12:34

### IV. PURIFYING OUR HEARTS Psa 51:10, Gen 1:1, Jer 17:9-10 The Hebrew word \_\_\_\_\_ means to create something from something which does not exist.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Of All Known Sins.** Psa 51:1-13, 1 John 1:9

EXPRESSING SINCERE REPENTANCE	
1. Speak privately. Matt 18:15	5. Speak soberly.
2. Speak visibly.	6. Speak responsibly. Luke 18:10-14, Gen 3:12
3. Speak clearly.	7. Speak singularly. Pr 25:9, Luke 18:10-14
4. Speak slowly.	8. Speak lovingly. Ja 5:20, 1 Pet 4:8, Pr 10:12, Pr 17:9

2. \_\_\_\_\_ **The Lord For A Clean Heart.**
3. Receive His Cleansing By \_\_\_\_\_ . Acts 15:9, Isa 8:18

### V. MAINTAINING A PURE HEART? Prov 4:23

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ **Water Softening System.** Prov 15:1, 1 Pet 2:23, Mat 5:38-41, Eph 6:13  
The word for \_\_\_\_\_ is anthistemi (Strongs G436), which means to stand against, oppose, resist or withstand.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ **Filter** Psa 12:6; Psa 119:9, 11; John 15:3; Josh 1:8; Prov 4:20-23, Eph 5:25-27
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ **Filter.** Heb 13:17  
The word for obey is \_\_\_\_\_ (Strongs G3982), which means to convince, pacify, to rely upon, agree, assure, believe, have confidence, make friend, obey or trust.

### APPLICATIONS FOR MY LIFE:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.