

LIFE. DIFFERENT.

WHAT IF **GOD** TOOK OVER?

Seeing The Unseen God

MAN'S DESIRE

"I am innocent, LORD, and I will see your face! When I awake, all I want is to see you as you are."

~Psalm 17:15 (CEV)

And Moses said, *"Please, show me Your glory."*

~Exodus 33:18 (NKJV)

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GOD'S DECREE

“You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.”

~Exodus 33:20 (NKJV)

“No one has seen God at any time.”

~John 1:18 (NKJV)

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JESUS' DECLARATION

*“Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they shall see God.”*

~Matthew 5:8 (NKJV)

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UNPACKING PURITY

The New Testament word for “pure” is *katharos* (καθαρός), as in “catharsis”, a cleansing or purging.

- Physical: Clean clothes, sifted wheat, undiluted liquid.
- Social: A battle-ready army, a pure bloodline, debt-free.
- Ethical: free of moral pollution, ceremonial defilement or ethical guilt.

IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

In the Septuagint, *katharos* is used over 150 times:

1. It was used mostly to describe ceremonial purity (37 times in Exodus; 34 times in Leviticus).
2. Less frequently it described moral and spiritual purity: integrity (Gen. 20:5-6); innocence (Job 4:7); an acceptable worshipper (Ps. 24:4) and Divine cleansing (Isa. 1:16).

IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES

In Jesus' day, *katharos* meant one of two things:

- Ceremonial Purity—what we might call *rule righteousness*.
- Inner Purity—what we might call *heart righteousness*.

JESUS AND PURITY

Jesus did not call just for purity, but for purity of heart.

- The Greek word for “heart” is *kardia* (καρδία)— not the physical heart, but the core of a person’s being.
- A Pure Heart: The core values, inner motives and driving forces of our lives offered unadulterated, unmixed and unpolluted before God.

IMPOSSIBLE PURITY

*The heart is deceitful above all things,
And desperately wicked;
Who can know it?*

~Jeremiah 17:9 (NKJV)

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“THEY SHALL SEE GOD”

Grammatically, this clause is in the future indicative tense and the middle voice, which literally reads, *“They shall be continuously seeing God for themselves.”*

- It is to enter into a growing, discovering, intimate knowledge of God.
- It is to enter into a deepening, satisfying, passionate fellowship of God’s love.

“I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. ... you will be my people, and I will be your God. I will save you from all your uncleanness.”

~Ezekiel 36:25-29 (NKJV)

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“THEY SHALL SEE GOD”

When our hearts are purified at salvation, we began to live in intimate fellowship with God. Through brand new spiritual eyes, we begin to know him, comprehend his ways, delight in his presence and desire to please his heart.

It is this implanted purity of heart that cleanses the eye of the soul so that God becomes increasingly visible.

“Redouble your efforts. Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is God’s energy, an energy deep within you, God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure.”

~Philippians 2:12-13 (Message)

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INCREASING VISIBILITY

Step One: I must stay connected to God's grace.

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven."*

~Matthew 5:3 (NKJV)

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Step Two: I must stay connected to God's Word.

*"You are already clean because of the word
which I have spoken to you."*

~John 15:3 (NKJV)

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INCREASING VISIBILITY

Step Three: I must stay connected to God in prayer.

*“Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew
a steadfast spirit within me.”*

~Psalm 51:10 (NKJV)

INCREASING VISIBILITY

Step Four: I must stay connected to other believers.

“Work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord. Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God.”

~Hebrews 12:14-15 (NLT)

INCREASING VISIBILITY

Step Five: I must practice exerting my will.

“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.”

~Titus 2:11-14 (NIV)

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Step Six: I must stay focused on the finish.

“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.”

~1 John 3:1-3 (NLT)

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Step Seven: I must stay filled with the Holy Spirit.

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.”

~Galatians 5:16-17 (NIV)