

# ***A PURE HEART, A SINGLE EYE***



***One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after;  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,  
to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to enquire in his temple.***

***Psalm 27***

When Jacob wrestled with the Lord at the ford of the Jabbok his eyes were probably shut half the time with pain. Yet he describes that night as the place and time where he saw God face to face.

Seeing God is not a matter of curiosity, like seeing a flying saucer or seeing somebody from outer space.

## **When we see God, we change.**

Every time, during this age of grace, when see God in any way, we absorb his nature, we are formed into his likeness.

***And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord,  
are being changed into his likeness from one degree of glory to another...***

***2 Corinthians 3:18***

In this matter of seeing God, we have all settled for far, far less than we should. And for this reason our lives are much duller and much weaker than they ought to be.

Every Spirit born follower of Jesus ought to be ....a seer, a prophet, a person who sees God, and in seeing God sees everything else in terms of God.

***O God, you are my God, I seek you,  
my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.  
So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
beholding your power and glory.***

***Psalm 63:1-4***

This is not some idle prayer; this is the doorway to life.

For it is only when we in some way really begin to see God ... that our bodies, as Jesus says, fill up with God's life and become lamps that radiate that light to the needy world around us. There is nothing that we have to offer the world, nothing that we can give in word or deed to the world, redemptively, unless we are walking in the light of a vision of God.

***Your eye is the lamp of your body; when your eye is sound (single), your whole body is full of light; but when it is not sound (single), your body is full of darkness. Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light."***

**Luke 11:34-36**



So when is the eye single so that it can do this?

It's when the eye of the heart, and of the will, and of the mind is so fixed on God, that we begin to absorb God's light ... and drink in and soak up God's mercy and God's nature.

It's the people who see God in that way...

Who have a word in season for him who is weary...

Who have a prayer that brings healing into a broken heart...

Who have a touch that that brings life to a sick body...

Who have wisdom that comes from heaven...

Who have the power to endure when everybody else misunderstands what they're doing, and keep right on going without getting bitter.

One of the reasons why we're afraid of this, and most of us, if not all of us, are afraid, is that we've seen so many sick minds that claim to have seen God, so many false prophets who claim to have seen God, and so many swollen egos who claim that they see God... that we say to ourselves if I get into this thing too deep, I'll get like that too.

But the truth is when we really see God, we will never make a production out of it, we'll never stand up before the assembly and make some big thing out of our vision and we will only share our vision, if we ever do, when God gives us leave to do so.

It's not important to advertise that we have seen God. Once we begin to live before the face of God, we no longer are so worried about the eye of man.

**Our fulfillment, our satisfaction, our joy, our life is God.**

We don't measure our work in terms of whether people admire us or approve of us.

There is only one reason why Jesus died on that cross and rose from the grave to wash away our sins, and there's only one reason why he comes into every assembly of believers on earth...in order that we might open our eyes to God; As he opened Peter's eyes, Martha's eyes, Mary's eyes and John's eyes.

***I am the light of the world  
he who follows me will not walk in darkness,  
but will have the light of life.***

**John 8:12**



**And the light of life is a vision of God.**

Jesus also makes very clear that to have this vision of God we have to pursue it, we have to seek it.

The vision doesn't just come and hit us on the head. Someone might say the Apostle Paul wasn't looking for it and it came. But it's obvious that the apostle Paul was following the light he had.

He was a seeker, don't ever fool yourself, this man was a seeker long before he met Jesus on the Damascus road.

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

**Matthew 5:8**

In order for us to see God there has to be evidence that we're pure in heart, that we're seeking.

***Ask and it shall given to you, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you.***

***O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee.***

***"Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, Lord, do I seek.***

**Matthew 7:7, Psalm 63:1, Psalm 27:8**

We have to seek the face of God in at least three ways.

**We have to seek the face of God by purifying our own hearts.**

***Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.***

**1 John 3:1-3**



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

What does it mean to purify our hearts? It means to unclutter them, get rid of the distractions. Another word is repentance, to turn away from those things which we already know are death to us. God will make clear to us what's cluttering our hearts, he already has.

Praise his name, he doesn't show it all to us at once, but already at this moment there are specific things in each of our lives, that he is putting his finger on as clutter.

Now the clutter in my heart may be different from the clutter in yours. One thing may be permissible for you that isn't for me or vice versa. But he will make it clear exactly what that is.

And if we take that one thing that we become aware of, and decide that we're going to do something about today, we begin to move today.

***Create in me a clean heart on God.***

How can we pray this prayer, unless we're willing that our hearts should no longer go in five directions at once, but our hearts remain fixed on God .... resting in him, at peace in him, inwardly settled on him.

**We need to seek the face of God by drawing near to Jesus as we have never drawn near to him before.**



***Philip said to him, Lord, show us the father and we shall be satisfied.  
Jesus said to him, have I been with you so long and yet you do not know me Philip?***

***He who has seen me, has seen the Father.***

***John 14:8-9***

Jesus is the brightness of God's glory, the expressed image of his person and we can know him far, far better than we know him now.

One of the most deadly things that happens to us is that we begin to think

*I really know Jesus.*

*I'm not like those other dummies, I know him.*

And we stop at that.

When we read the Gospels there ought to be this prayer in our hearts every time ...

*Lord, I want to know you better, help me.*

And he does help us.

When we pray, there needs to be confirmation of the presence of Jesus in that room where we are praying...

*Lord, help me to discern your presence with me right now.*

So that it's not just repeating words, but that at that moment, in that place, we are having fellowship with Jesus and that fellowship increases all the time.

And when we gather, especially as we come to the place where we break bread.. we need with our minds and wills to discern the presence of the Lord among us.

We need to commune with him, worship him, praise him, adore him, love him.

**This is where our life is... it's in the person of Jesus.**

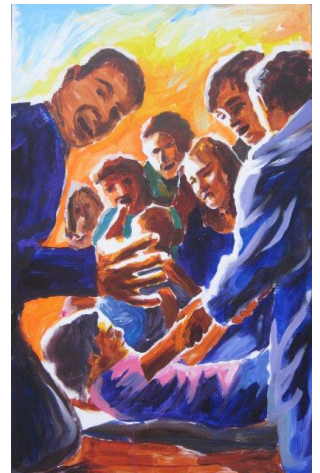
**Jesus is the face of God, when we see him, we see God.**

### **We need to seek the face of God by drawing near to the needy**

And this is the place where the body of Christ on Earth has made the biggest failure of it, in all of us.

***Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'***

***Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'***



***Matthew 25:34-40***

Now these people were perhaps not conscious as they were feeding the hungry, and clothing the naked, and visiting the sick that they were seeing God. But they were for sure answering a thirst in their hearts for God that was driving them out among the people in need. It was as if they knew that they would have no peace unless they were out there. And it's true that it's so much easier to see God when we're among the people in need than anywhere else, because the people in need are God's special friends. For instance, if the rich man had spent some time with Lazarus at his gate begging, if he had taken time with this man and just talked to him, given him some food, surely, the rich man would have thus brought some light into his own dark soul.

So it adds up to this, if we're having trouble seeing the face of God and as far as we can tell we've done everything in our power to unclutter our hearts and we still can't see the face of God... and as far as we know we've used all the strength we have to draw near to Jesus and we still can't see the face of God... then we need to go out to the streets and lanes of a poor city and draw near to the poor, the maim, the halt, and the blind... and get near to them.



We need to go out into the highways and hedges of the suburbs and go out among the people who are being forgotten out there too ... and get near to them.

And in Jesus name that very, very soon our vision of Jesus will become clear, our hearts will become uncluttered, and we will see God.

Everybody has some vision that lights up her or his life. Maybe it's a vision of money, or a vision of what we're going to make out of our children, or perhaps it's a vision of some great success that we hope to bring about, or maybe it's some ultimate pleasure that just holds us like a magnet, like an obsession.

But there is only one vision that can really move us and forever will renew our youth ....and that's the vision of God. When we begin to see the goodness of God shining from the face of his son Jesus, when we see that...we will live as his sons and daughters and we will do his will.

**God help us to pursue that vision.**

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



*Prayer- Lord, we confess that so much running around that we do in the name of religion is completely void of light because we don't even know which way we're going. And we confess to you, Father, that so many of the things that aggravate us and get us mad our because we don't see you. And we pray that this day You just help us to respond to your invitation to see... and give us encouragement, Heavenly Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to turn away from the idle distractions that have divided our hearts and see. That seeing you Lord God, we may begin to absorb your mercy and relax in your love, and then become firm and strong in the doing of your goodness. Father, we ask this in Jesus name. Amen*

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## **Maranatha Mirror Messages**

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