

Purity

I choose to submit to a life of purity from the inside-out by the power of the Holy Spirit. Purity is ushered into my life through a personal relationship with Jesus; I cannot make myself pure. But as a disciple of Jesus I am called to live a life of purity. My lifestyle and habits do not make me pure, but they are purified through a relationship with Jesus. Through the power of His Word and by the power of His Spirit I am made pure.

It is the purity of Jesus living in me that makes me pure; it isn't something I earn. Though I cannot make myself pure, I can present myself to the purifying process through disciplines of the heart by investing time in: reading the Bible, prayer, confession and obedience. Purity results in living for and obeying Christ, but it is also something I choose by submitting to the Spirit's daily "teaching, rebuking, correcting and training."

I choose to submit to a life of purity from the inside-out by the power of the Holy Spirit. The work of purity happens within my heart. All the things I may do and say to look pure on the outside do not purify my thoughts or intentions; this is only hypocrisy. To give the appearance of being pure on the outside but holding onto secret sin is to live the life of a hypocrite. My heart must be purified for me to live a life of purity. I cannot harbor impure thoughts and motives and claim purity. Purity must happen in my spirit, soul and heart.

Religious acts do not make me pure; I must desire to be pure – godly – and submit to the Spirit's work in my life. I will not become or remain pure by avoiding people living in sin, nor will purity mark my life through meaningless acts of devotion. It is through authentic worship of Jesus – following Him and living in obedience to Him – that my heart is made pure. Other people and messy situations do not remove purity from my life, but sinful thoughts do: looking down on others without grace and love, letting my mind stray and dwell with longing on anything impure, to harbor wrong motives or bitterness.

There is no man-made system for creating a pure heart. God is full of grace and mercy toward me as I grow in purity; He knows there is nothing within me to make me pure, but it is the work of His Spirit. I choose to submit to a life of purity from the inside-out by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Study: Purity

Day 1: Purity in Him - *Hebrews 10:22* (Page 926); *1 John 3:3* (Page 942); *Ezekiel 36:25-27* (Page 655)

Day 2: Purity as an Example - *1 Timothy 4:12* (Page 911); *Titus 1:15-16* (Page 917); *Psalms 24:3-6* (Page 424)

Day 3: Not Being Corrupted - *2 Corinthians 6:6-7* (Page 885); *James 1:27* (Page 930)

Day 4: Treat Others - *Titus 2:14* (Page 918); *1 Peter 2:9* (Page 935)

Day 5: Leadership Quality - *1 Timothy 5:22* (Page 912); *Philippians 4:8* (Page 901)

Day 6: Purity in Wisdom - *James 3:17* (Page 931); *James 4:8* (Page 932)

Day 7: Pure in Heart - *Matthew 5:8* (Page 736); *Mark 7:20-23* (Page 767). Read the *Daily Reading* once again and highlight things that stand out. Answer the three Life Transformation questions for growth in this area. Take time to learn the memory verse.

Memory Verse: *2 Corinthians 6:6* "We prove ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, by the Holy Spirit within us, and by our sincere love"
2 Corinthians 6:6

Life Transformation Questions:

1. As you read the *Daily Reading*, what stood out and why?
2. What action will you take to apply this truth? Be specific.
3. What areas of your life will benefit from this action? How and why?