

*"You're blessed when you get your inside world- your mind and heart- put right.
Then you can see God in the outside world." The Message.*

Growth is generally a pretty gradual thing. It often happens quietly in the background over a long period of time, and usually doesn't cause us to think about it too much, or even at all. We just don't notice it happening. You'll know that growth is dramatic and fast when you actually notice it and realise it is happening at the time.

Have you experienced a period of quick, dramatic growth like this in your Christian life? Have a think about when that was, what you were doing and what is was about that situation that resulted in such a dramatic change in your life, and then share that with each other.

So, what do you suppose being pure in heart is? When you read or hear these three words what sort of things immediately spring to mind?

Let's look at what the book says; take time to chat about the following passages and see if they can shed any light on what the bible says true purity of heart is. If it helps split up into four groups and then report back, but if you've got the time look at each (plus they're not too long). **How does each passage help you understand purity of spirit? What do these passages tell us purity of spirit is NOT like?**

James 4:8

Psalm 24:3- 5

Matthew 23:25-26

Hebrews 12:14

So it turns out there's a lot more to being pure in heart than what we might have first thought. Plus there's not really any handy, memorable one line definition, but the Bible shows us that purity of heart is like a collage that is made up of loads of different pictures. It makes us a pretty messy collage of what purity of heart doesn't look like, and that collage can act disturbingly like a mirror of our own lives.

**In what ways do we display our double-mindedness?
What masks do we use to try and cover that up?**

Purity of heart isn't about being completely sinless. It's about being dedicated to following God. Let's face it, we're not just going to stop messing up as if by magic, but when we do mess up we have to react to that with a pure heart, which is dedicated to following God.

How are we going to do that?

How would having a pure heart change our attitude towards sin?

Cast your minds back a few minutes to when we all shared about the times we witnessed miracle growth in ourselves. Weren't those the times that we saw God moving dramatically in our lives? Weren't those times when we were completely focused on serving God? Would you go as far as saying that for that time you were focused on God with a single mind and a pure heart?

Why did that have to stop?! Share with each other your experiences after your growth spurt. What put an end to that exciting period?

What's stopping us from living with that purity of heart and seeing God everyday?

How does this beatitude and its promise fit with the rest of the beatitudes?

REFLECT

What things in your life are blinding you from seeing God?

In what ways are we still suffering from a spiritual schizophrenia?

How are we to change our attitudes towards how we live our lives?

Check out Psalm 51:10 and Romans 12:2