

Purifying Our Hearts

Acts 15:7-11

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- 7 And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men *and* brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.
- 8 And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as *he did* unto us;
- 9 And put no difference between us and them, ***purifying their hearts by faith.***
- 10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?
- 11 But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ ***we shall be saved, even as they.***

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- Ps. 24:3-4 → Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? 4 He that hath clean hands, and *a pure heart*; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. (cf. Matt. 12:33-34)

The Heart That Must Be Purified...

- **Intellect:** with it we think, reason, understand, draw conclusions about what is real and true. (Matt. 9:4; Matt. 13:15; Mk. 2:8)
- **Emotions:** our feelings → gladness, sadness, anger, fear, disgust, surprise, love, hate, etc. (Acts 21:13; Eph. 4:26; Acts 14:17)
- **Will:** that which intends, determines, purposes and plans. (Acts 5:4; 7:23; 11:23)
- **Conscience:** because it can be pricked, inward faculty that approve or accuse us. (Acts 2:37; I Jn. 3:20-21)

How Is The Intellect Purified?

- **The intellect (understanding, reasoning) is contaminated by...**
 - Philosophies of men. (Col. 2:8; Rom. 1:21-23)
 - The doctrines of men. (Matt. 15:9)
 - Doctrines of demons. (I Tim. 4:1-2)
 - The work of the Devil. (Acts 5:4; Lk. 22:3; II Cor. 11:13-15)
- **The intellect is purified by emptying it of error and filling it with truth.** (Eph. 6:12, 17; II Cor. 10:4-5; Acts 17:2-3; Jn. 8:32; 17:17)

How Are The Emotions Purified?

- **Refuse to be guided by our feelings or emotions.** (Prov. 14:12; Jer. 10:23; Gen. 37:35)
- **Emotions and feelings must be properly directed and controlled. If not, sin results.** (Gen. 4:4-8; II Sam. 11; Num. 20:9-10; I Kings 18:20-29; Rom. 10:1-2)
- **The feelings and emotions must be guided by knowledge of the word of God to be purified.** (II Pet. 1:6; Eph. 4:26; Acts 8:38-39)

How Is The Will Purified?

- **The world has many “plans, purposes” that are contrary to God’s will.**
 - (Lk. 12:19; Js. 4:13-17; Acts 26:9; Titus 3:3)
- **Our will must be subject to God’s will.**
 - (Js. 4:15; Matt. 26:39; I Thess. 4:1-3; Dan. 1:8; I Cor. 2:2; Rom. 1:13; Phil. 3:13-14)
- **The will is purified when it is turned (repents) from evil purposes and obeys God.**
 - (Lk. 15:18; Matt. 7:21)

How Is The Conscience Purified?

- ***The conscience...***
 - That part of the mind that accuses or excuses our deeds. (Rom. 2:15)
 - We should seek to have a pure conscience before God. (II Tim. 1:3)
- ***The conscience is purified by...***
 - By avoiding offending it. (Acts 24:16; Rom. 3:23)
 - It is cleansed when our sins are forgiven. (Heb. 9:13-14; 10:1-2; 10:21-22)
- ***You have purified your souls in obeying the truth.***
 - (I Pet. 1:22-25)
- ***Baptism is the appeal to God for a good conscience.***
 - (I Pet. 3:21)