

The Blessed Life
Pure in Heart
Matthew 5:8

Are You Pure?

Are You Pure?



- Pixar Movie: UP!
- Talking Dog... easily distracted (A.D.D.)
- Many of us live our lives distracted by the world, motion around us, what needs immediate attention.
- Many of us live our lives attempting to multi-task everything: parenting, career, spouse, God, church



Miss Congeniality: "Because I am the job" (Gracie Hart)

Fully devoted to the job, single minded, single purpose. No life outside the job.

A "pure" FBI agent?

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



Pure in heart

"blessed"

> Happy

= Approved by God



Much deeper meaning: approved by God and therefore favored by God; we are to be congratulated. Applause of heaven (Lucado)

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



Pure in heart

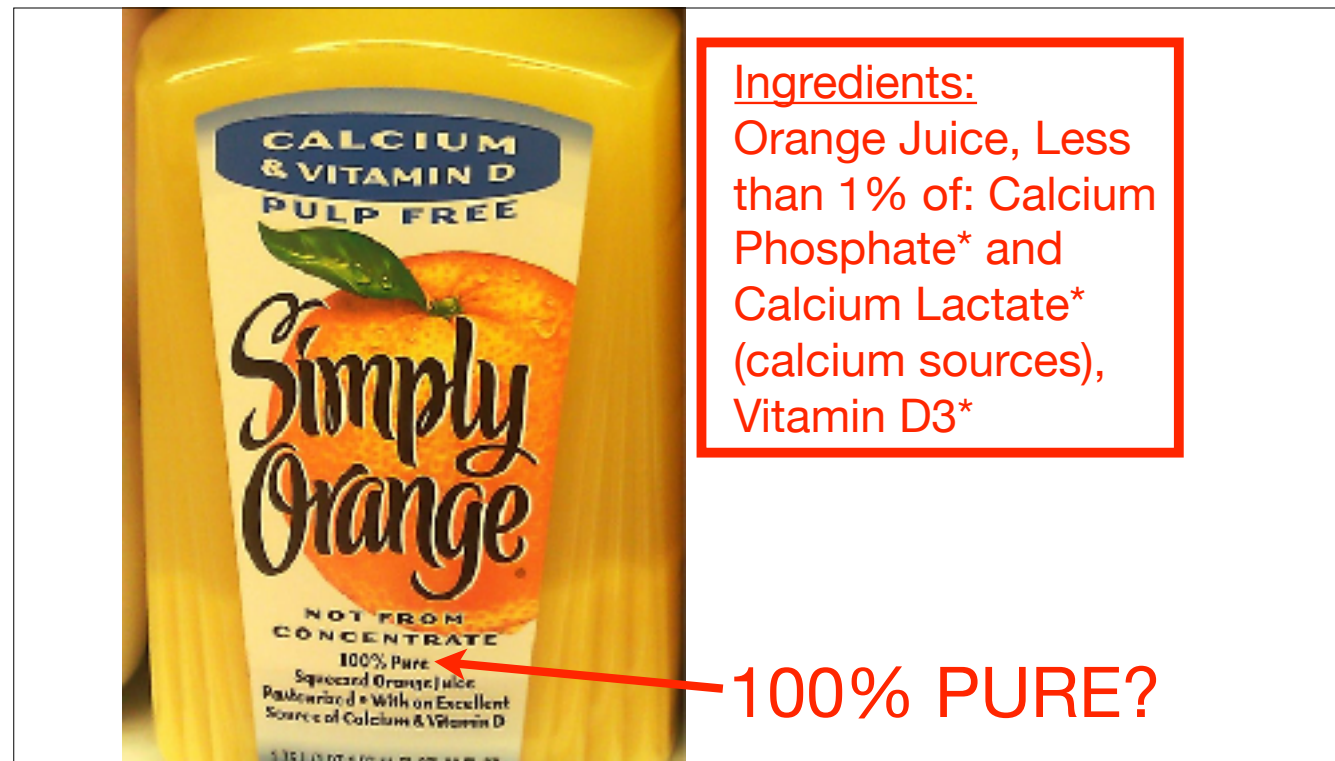
Utterly sincere

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



Pure in heart

utterly sincere



100% Pure

Ingredients: Less than 1% of: Calcium Phosphate and Calcium Lactate, Vitamin D3

Often think of pure mainly as unadulterated, not contaminated.

True, but more.

Utterly sincere

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



Pure in heart: "utterly sincere." It's focus may be single-minded devotion.

When we are devoted to our Father, we strive to be morally pure too. Focus on Him, not self, self-pleasure.

“Jehovah has sought out a man after his own heart”

— 1 Samuel 13:14

David

- David
 - 1 Samuel 13:14: But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought out a man after his own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.”

“Jehovah has sought out a man after his own heart”

— 1 Samuel 13:14

David

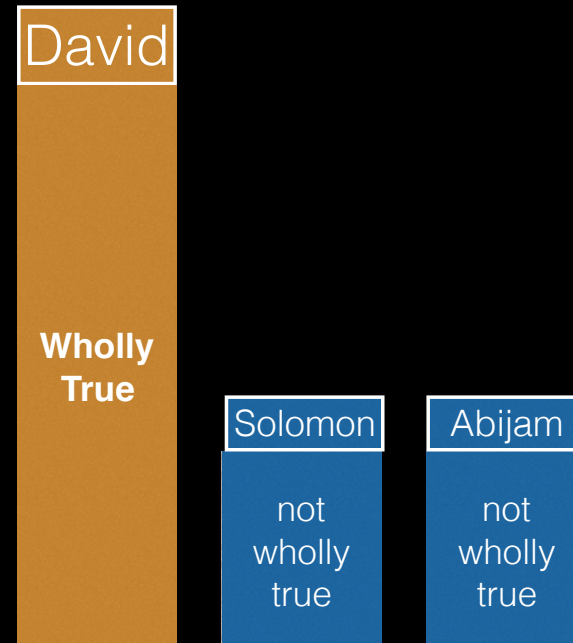
Wholly
True

Solomon

not
wholly
true

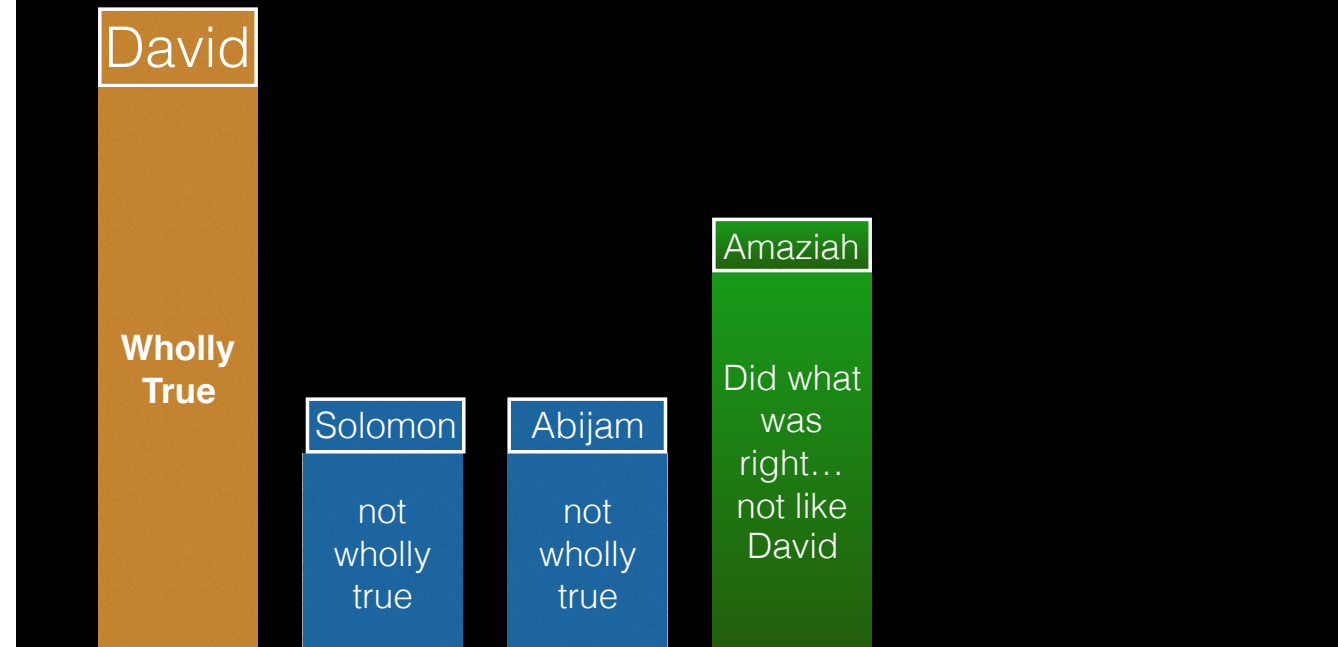
- Solomon
 - 1 Kings 11:4: For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.
 - 1 Kings 11:6: So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and did not wholly follow the Lord, as David his father had done.

“Jehovah has sought out a man after his own heart”
— 1 Samuel 13:14



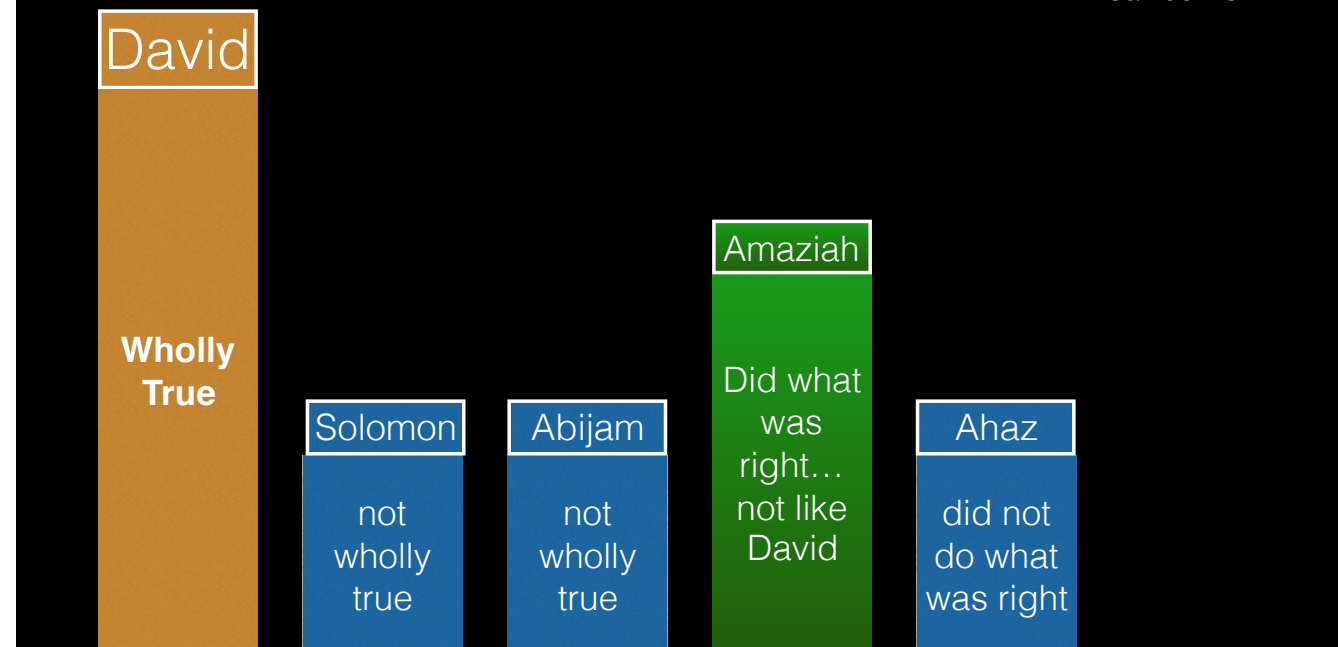
- Abijam
 - 1 Kings 15:3: And he walked in all the sins that his father did before him, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father.

“Jehovah has sought out a man after his own heart”
— 1 Samuel 13:14



- Amaziah
 - 2 Kings 14:3: And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, yet not like David his father. He did in all things as Joash his father had done.
 - Offerings on high places

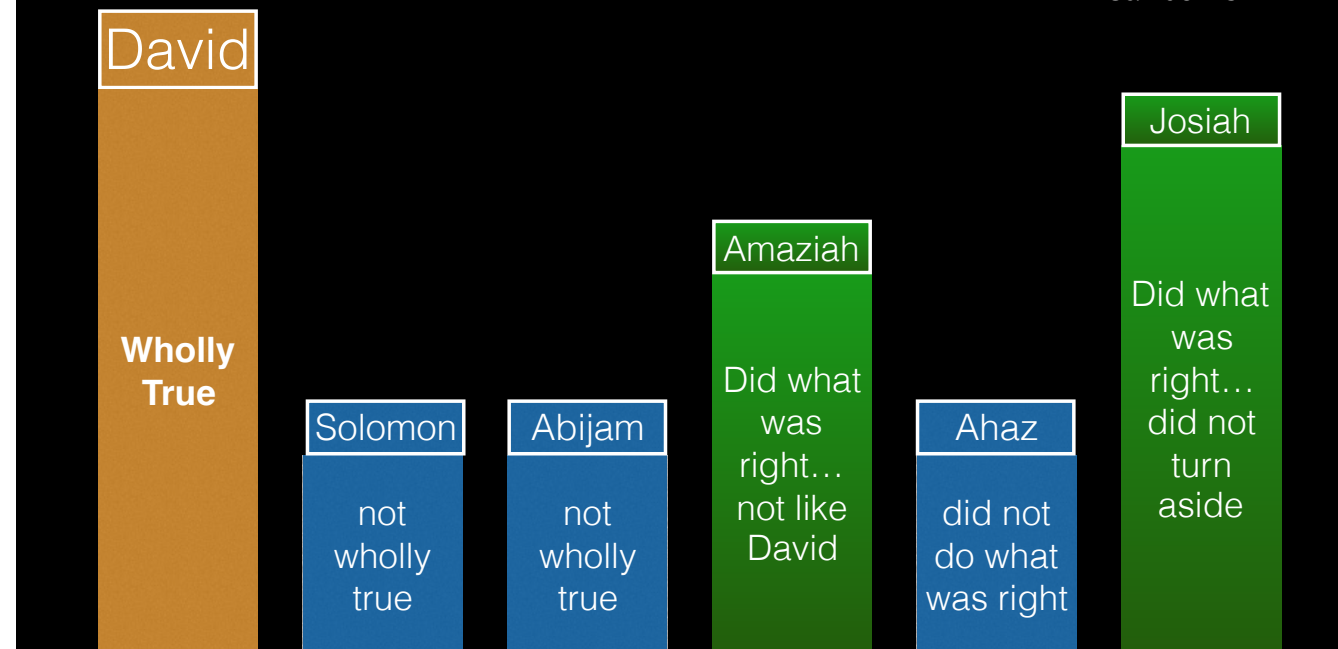
“Jehovah has sought out a man after his own heart”
— 1 Samuel 13:14



- Ahaz - 2 Kings 16:2-4
 - And he did not do what was right in the eyes of the Lord his God, as his father David had done, 3 but he walked in the way of the kings of Israel. He even **burned his son as an offering**, according to the despicable practices of the nations whom the Lord drove out before the people of Israel. 4 And he **sacrificed and made offerings on the high places and on the hills and under every green tree**.

“Jehovah has sought out a man after his own heart”

— 1 Samuel 13:14



- Josiah
 - 2 Kings 22:2: And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and walked in all the way of David his father, and he did not turn aside to the right or to the left.

Utterly sincere

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



Pure in heart: "utterly sincere." It's focus may be single-minded devotion.

David was "wholly true" to God... heart was pointed toward obedience, walking with God.



Example of Jesus

Luke 4:43



“I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.”
Luke 4:43

Luke 4:43: but he said to them, “I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.



For I have come down from heaven, not to do
my own will but the will of Him who sent me.
John 6:38

John 6:38: For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.



I glorified you on earth, having accomplished
the work that you gave me to do.

John 17:4

John 17:4: I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do.

Look back on your life as nearing death:

Read obituary, what is focused on? education, career, family, hobbies, a few mention church

Jesus' accomplishment was the will of His father: Pure in heart, singleminded purpose.

Who shall ascend the hill of Jehovah?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear
deceitfully.



Psalms 24:3-4

Psalms 24: David

Exalt the King of Glory.... Jehovah

Who can approach such a glorious king?

Who shall ascend the hill of Jehovah?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear
deceitfully.



Psalms 24:3-4

Psalms 24:3-4: Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

Who shall ascend the hill of Jehovah?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
He who has **clean hands** and a **pure heart**,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear
deceitfully.

Psalms 24:3-4



Clean (not common; devoted to God)

Pure: God only

Who shall ascend the hill of Jehovah?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who **does not lift up his soul to what is false**
and does not swear
deceitfully.



Psalms 24:3-4

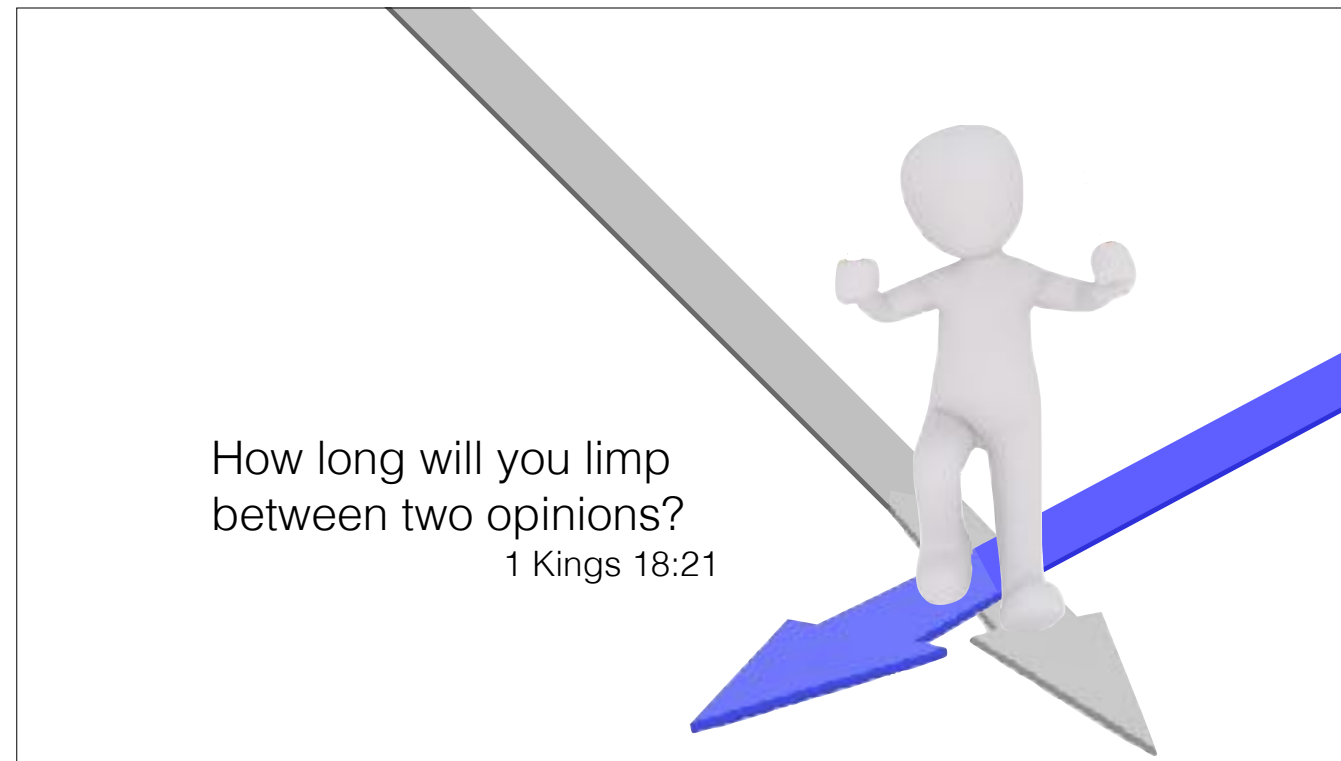
who does not lift up his soul to what is false

Not idolatry (following after false gods)



Consider Elijah's challenge to Israel: "How long will you limp between two opinions?" (1 Kings 18:21)

Not that they were trying to decide between two or three options...



Rather they were trying to have **BOTH**.

How do we “limp between two opinions” in our lives?

Not “idolatry” as such.

God’s way & My way?

“Best of both worlds”?

Not a conscience choice... Think we follow God, but live by our own desires.

God’s way often ends up being “following my heart” (justified)

Multitasking religion, lives, God (often God is minimized).

Who shall ascend the hill of Jehovah?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and **does not swear
deceitfully.**




Psalms 24:3-4

does not swear deceitfully.

Nor Lying (Hiding things from others)

Consider Jesus' warning to Pharisees

Matthew 23:16-18

A close-up photograph of a person's hand with white nail polish resting on a grey skirt. The hand is positioned with fingers slightly curled. A semi-transparent dark grey box is overlaid on the top half of the image, containing white text.

If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing,
but if anyone swears by the gold of the
temple, he is bound by his oath. '

Matthew 23:16

Matthew 23:16-18: "Woe to you, blind guides, who say, 'If anyone swears by the temple, it is nothing, but if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he is bound by his oath. ' 17 You blind fools! For which is greater, the gold or the temple that has made the gold sacred?

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



Being fully-devoted to God,

single minded in our service and

sincere in our hearts

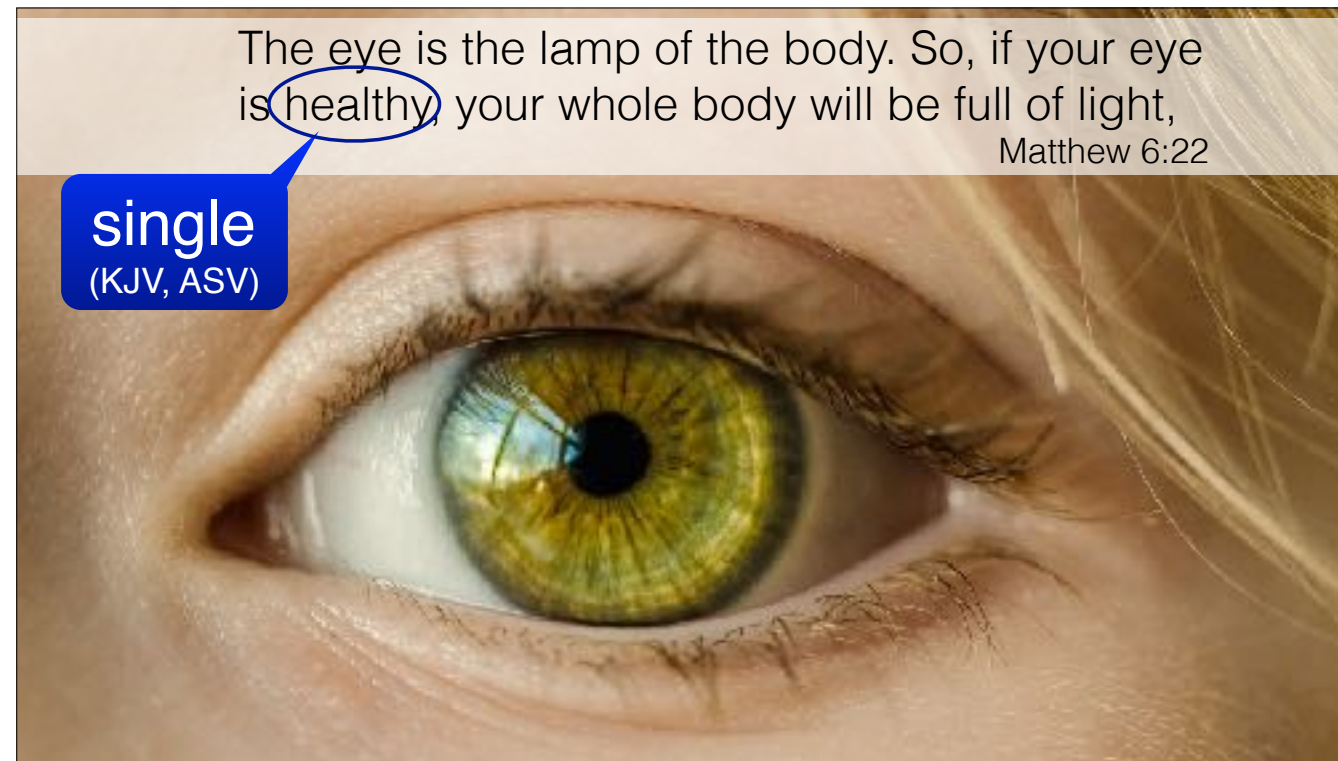
certainly would include the importance of being morally pure also:

not just outward righteousness, but in our heart.

The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye
is healthy, your whole body will be full of light,
Matthew 6:22



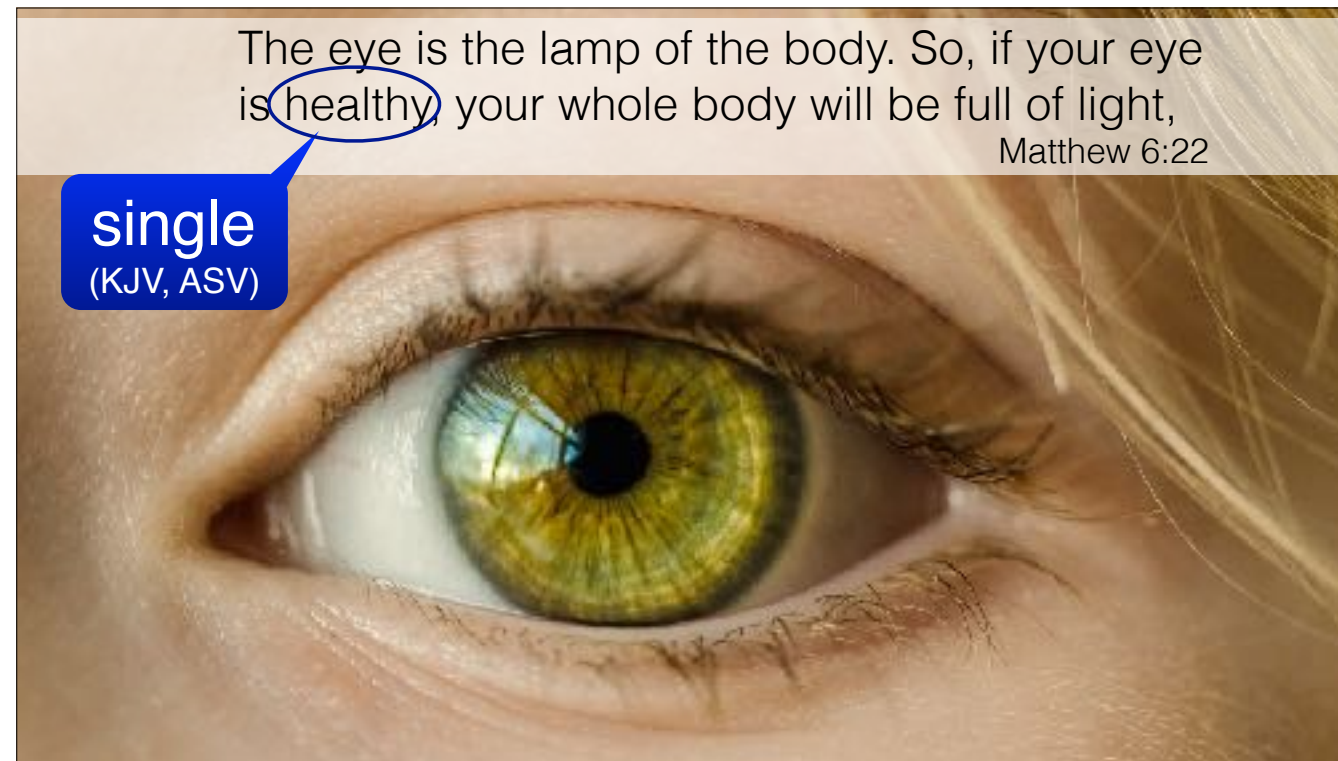
Matthew 6:22-24: "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light,



Matthew 6:22-24: "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light,

Healthy, single, clear: open, nothing hidden

Sincerity, single-minded



Driving or bike riding: look where you are going, not at where you don't want to go.

Eye on road, not on pretty girl on sidewalk, or on cell phone

Cowboy riding two horses, tree, choose your horse.

The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye
is healthy, your whole body will be full of light,

Matthew 6:22



but if your eye
is bad, your
whole body will
be full of
darkness. If
then the light in
you is darkness,
how great is the
darkness!

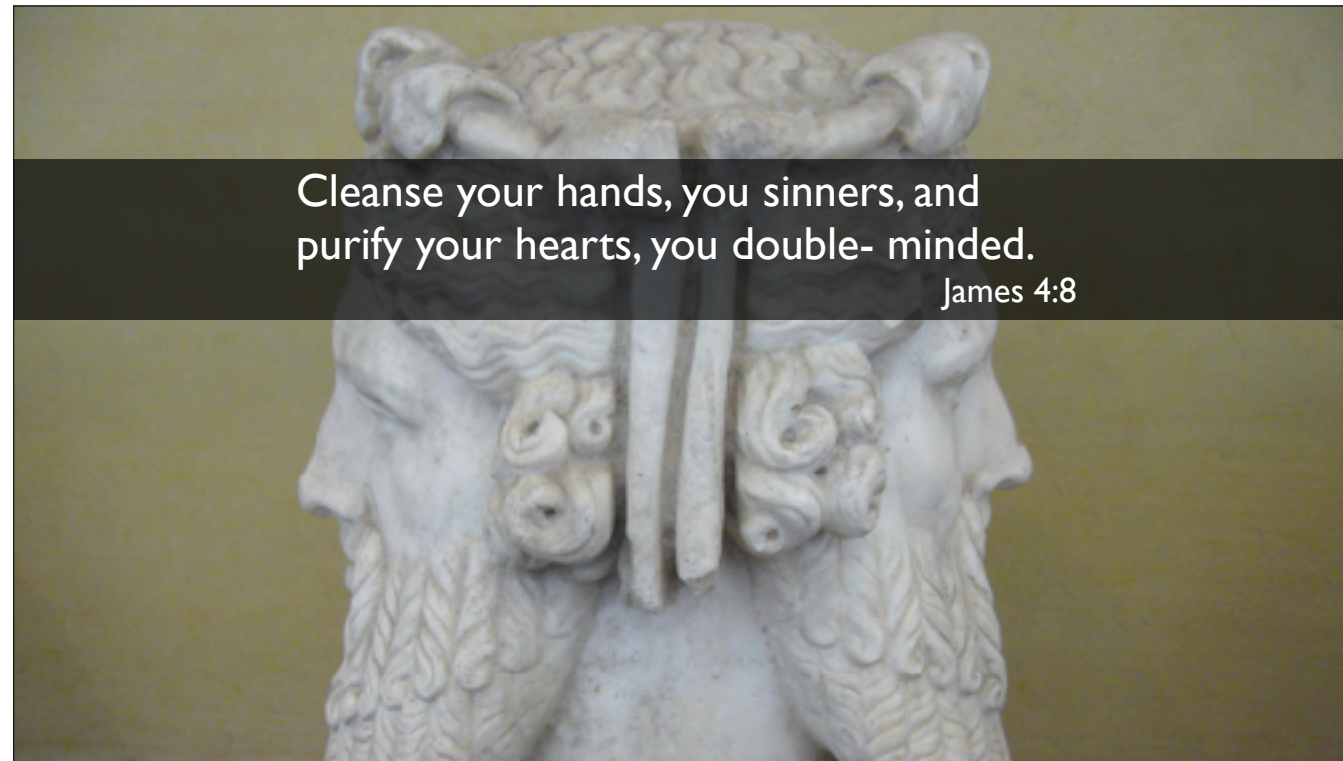
Matthew 6:23

23 but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!



Matthew 6:22-24: 24 “No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

Money, fame, pleasure



James 4:8: Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double- minded.

Single minded!

Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and
purify your hearts, you double- minded.

James 4:8



Trying to blend worldliness and spirituality (kind of).

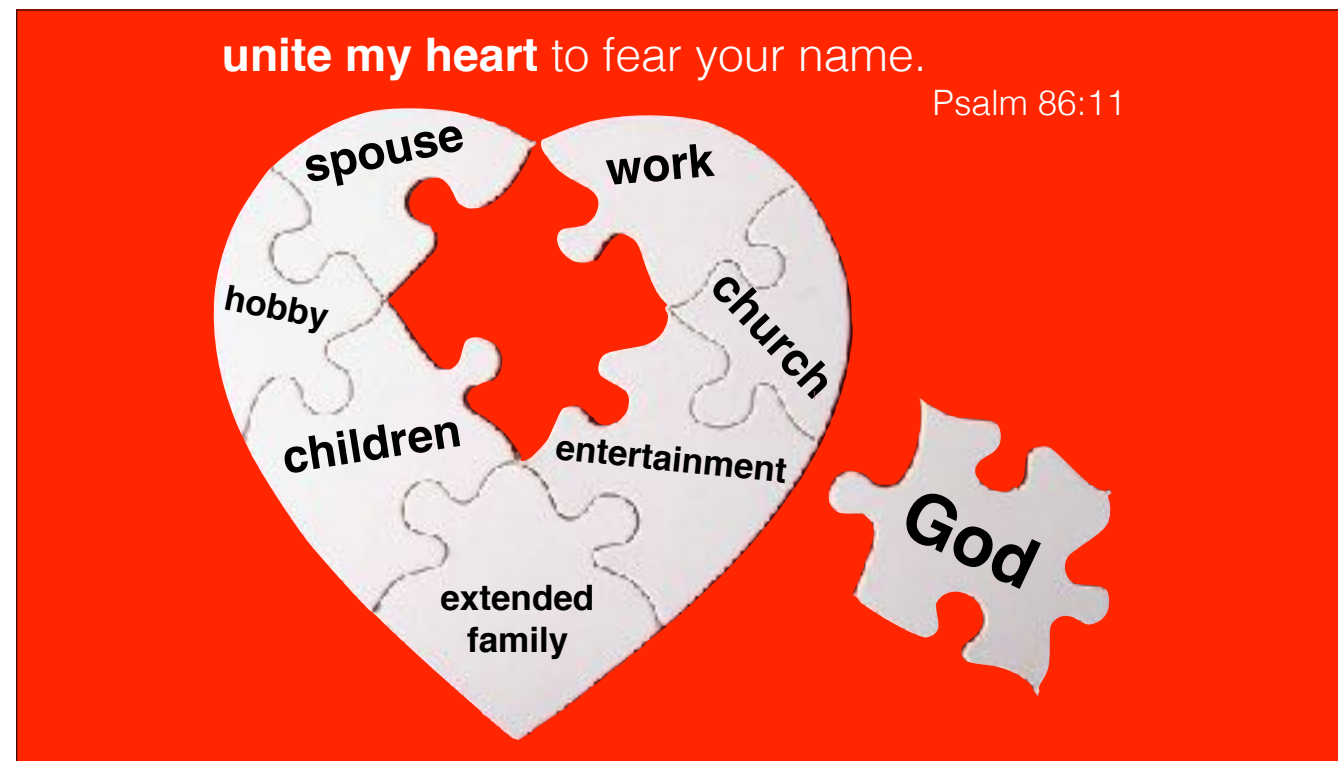
Teach me your way, O Jehovah, that I may
walk in your truth; **unite my heart** to fear
your name.

Psalm 86:11

Psalm 86:11: Teach me your way, O Jehovah, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.

Psalm of David

Our trouble is having divided hearts!



Our trouble is having divided hearts!

Consider all the different ways that you are pulled each day.

Spouse, children, parents

Work, hobby, church, entertainment

God needs to fit somewhere in there!



Where does God fit into the picture?

All of us want to say God is first, the most important.

But often find ourselves having to squeeze Him in where ever He will fit.

But we treat Him as just one more piece of the puzzle.

unite my heart to fear your name.

Psalms 86:11



Instead, we need a united heart, a single heart.

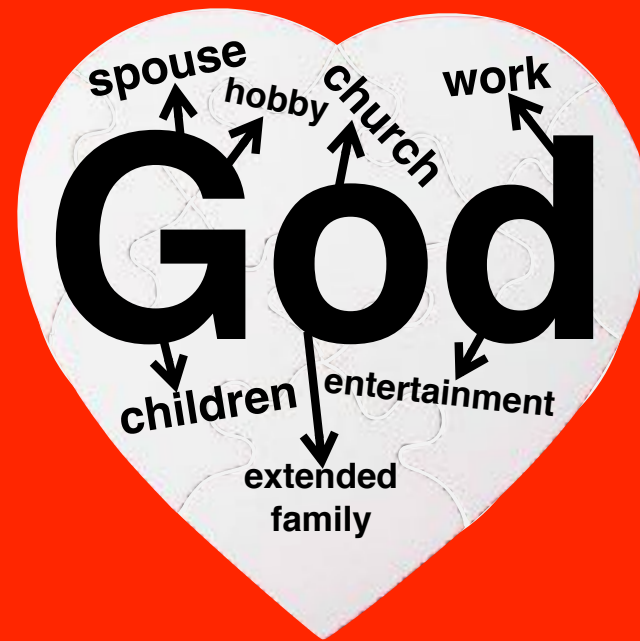
A heart that is wholly devoted to God — LIKE DAVID

It's pure because it's ALL His!

Unite my heart to fear your name!

unite my heart to fear your name.

Psalms 86:11

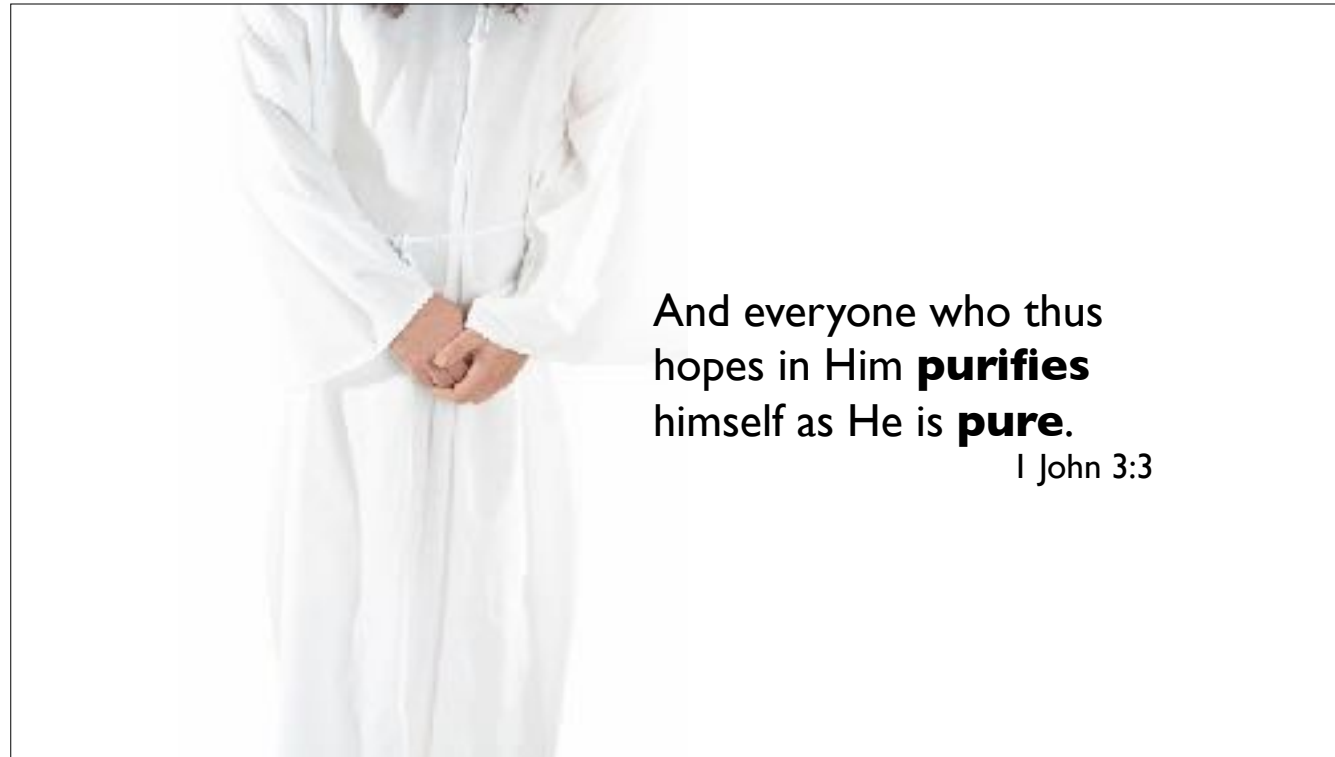


All the other aspects of our lives will flow from our devotion to God.

How I treat my spouse... because of God's instruction.

How I work, entertain myself, etc: all have God as the center.

1 Corinthians 10:31: So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.



And everyone who thus
hopes in Him **purifies**
himself as He is **pure**.
1 John 3:3

1 John 3:2-3: 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.

Utterly sincere

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



Pure in heart, wholly true to God ONLY.

Walk in His Ways, obedient to His Will, Joyful to follow Him.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



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Are You Pure?

Matthew 5:8

Synopsis: God approves of the man who is pure in heart. Men such as David and Jesus remind us that this means we are to be utterly sincere and wholly true to our God. Our prayer, like David, is that He would unite our hearts to fear Him.

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"Let all that you do be done with love."