

# Pure Revelation Part 6

*"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God"*

Matthew 5:8

Everything you have is a gift from God: Children, Wife, Home, Job, Money, even your health and your body. But other things as well, your salvation, your relationship with God, your involvement in His Kingdom.

God expects you to make the most of everything He gives you. There is a word in the Bible for that and it is called STEWARDSHIP.

- Many people believe that stewardship means money, but it doesn't. Stewardship is an old English word that means "management." Our managers today used to be called "stewards."

God has called upon us to manage things well, your opportunities, your jobs, your relationships, your resources, and your **INFLUENCE**.

- **Influence is not:**
  - **Fame-** A lot of people are famous but not influential
  - **Wealth-** Affluence is not Influence, money doesn't buy everything
- Websters: Influence- An emanation of spiritual or moral force
- Cambridge Dictionary- The power to affect how someone develops, acts or thinks.
- You might say, "I really don't care to influence anyone else around me." You should. It's very selfish for you to say, "All I care about is me and I don't care about making a difference in the world."
- Do you know that God commands you to make a difference in the world? Jesus commanded that you use your influence for good rather than for selfish gain.

*"...let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."*

Matthew 5:16

- Don't waste your influence or hide it, let it out. We are all an influence, but what kind? The Bible warns us of what kind of influence we should have.

*"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."*

Ephesians 5:15-16

**Key Point #1: Your Greatest Influence Before God and Man is Purity!**

**We Must Ask Ourselves Two Questions:** (In response to this scripture)

- **"Is it possible for us to manage a pure life in an impure world?"**
  - II Chronicles 26:3,5, 16 Uzziah was accountable, submissive and dedicated as long as Zechariah was around, but he had never personalized his commitment with God. He had never internalized his relationship with God, he had always depended on another's influence to guide him and instruct him. When Zechariah died, so did Godly influence.

Some would say that we live in a tolerant society, but we actually live in a society without great influence.

***"You must influence them; do not let them influence you!"***

**Jeremiah 15:19 (NLT)**

- Too often we get this in reverse. We reflect the world instead of set the agenda.
- **As a pastor, I want you to become an influential person and I want you to know how you might have influence in the world you and I live in.**
- **DIVINE Purity** – There is a holiness belonging solely to God and is intrinsic in His nature.

*"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty."*

Isaiah 6:3

- **CREATED Purity**- When God first created the world.

*"...everything was pure and good. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good."*

Genesis 1:31

- **ACCREDITED Purity**. Once a person is saved, the purity of Jesus is accredited to him, and God sees him as robed w/ the righteousness of Christ.

*"If any man is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old is gone, behold, all things become new."*

2 Cr. 5:17

*"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*

2 Cr. 5:21

- **PRACTICAL Purity**- This is the point that we practice a life of purity. We live responsibly and obediently before God.

*"Since we have these promises, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God."*

2 Corinthians 7:1

- According to Schopenhauer's Law of Entropy – If you put a **spoonful of wine** in a **barrel full of sewage** you get sewage. If you put a spoonful of sewage in a barrel of wine, you still get sewage. 1000 Humorous Illustrations - #756
- Why does God deal with an impure heart so hard? Because it is the devil's most devastating weapon. In fact, sin first entered our world through accepting an impure thought-"Surely you will not die." **All sin is based upon falsehood, lies and impurities.**
  - Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "**Sin has many tools, but a lie is the handle which fits them all.**" Sin erodes and

ousts truth and, thus, causes character disintegration.

- **FINAL Purity-** A day is coming when Christians will be totally cleansed and purified – standing holy before God.

*“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”*

1 John 3:2

- (developed from thoughts from John MacArthur Com.)

*“Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.”*

Revelation 21:27

- **“Is it possible for us to manage a pure life in an impure world?”**

- White lies have become an integral part of our social society. They are the "in" things. Jerald Jellison, professor of psychology at the University of Southern California, in his book *I'm Sorry I Didn't Mean to And Other Lies We Love to Tell*, pointed out that cheating and dishonesty are quickly becoming the new thing, as evidenced by tax evasion, shoplifting, falsification of resumes, selling of term papers and reports, government grafts, cheating by welfare recipients, marital infidelity, and crooked business deals.
- Story: A couple from Bakersfield, CA purchased a new boat, but they were having serious problems. No matter how hard they tried, they couldn't get the boat going. It was sluggish no matter which way they turned or how much power was applied. After an hour of trying to make it go, they putted to a nearby marina, hoping someone could tell them what was wrong. A thorough check on the topside of the boat revealed everything was in perfect working condition. The engine ran fine, the out drive went up and down, and the propeller was the correct size and pitch. Then, one of the marina guys jumped in the water to check underneath. He came up choking w/ laughter. Under the boat, still strapped securely in place, was the trailer!

Note: Ridiculous! But not more ridiculous than the many believers are puttering around wondering why their Christian life isn't working – it's simple, they have sin attached beneath the surface of their lives that needs to be removed.

- The U.S. Commerce Department has estimated that **30 percent of business failures result from employee theft**. The government agency also estimates that **American companies lose \$20 billion to \$40 billion annually from employee theft**. To pay for it, every man and woman working in America today contributes more than \$400 per year. Less than 10% of the employee population is responsible for more than 95% of the total losses from employee theft. Nearly one-third of all bankruptcies is caused by employee theft. Just think of it! 20-40 billion dollars annually were stolen from employers by employees and that is just cash and merchandise. But additional billions, (not in cash or merchandise-that would equal additional billions) but in long lunch hours, unauthorized breaks, visiting personnel during work hours, reading magazines, personal phone calls

on company time, half-producing, writing personal letters on company time, and coming to work late and leaving work early. In fact, estimated time theft per week averages three hours and forty-five minutes per employee, this study said. Could any of us who are reading this be contributing to that 100 billion dollar annual theft? God is keeping record. (Inc.com, *Employee Theft Still Costing Business*- From: Human Resource Management News | May 1999)

**Key Statement:** Until you learn what Jesus is saying in this scripture you will be defeated as a Christian, you will eek by and continue to struggle with your basket of mister potato heads. You will continue to struggle because there are issues of the heart that have to be dealt with.

**Key Point #1: Your Greatest Influence Before God and Man is Purity!**

**Key Point #2: Based upon your PURITY, you seeing God will be a positive or a negative experience. (Seeing God is not an option!)**

*“But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.”*

Matthew 12:36

**Key Point #3: Purity is not works but worship!**

*“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God- this is your spiritual act of worship”*

Romans 12:1

- **When we are focused on works we are focused on us**
  - **When we are focused on worship we are focused on Him!**
- When you start living a pure life, you exchange a life that was rightfully accused to one that is distinctly refused and possibly abused. Living a pure life will look arrogant and prideful to some people while weak, sheltered and innocent to others.
  - As God walks your through the personal development of His power and Spirit and develops you, you will walk through the passage of
    1. Becoming totally bankrupt and **POOR** in Spirit receiving a pre-entry into the heavenly realm
    2. You deal with life's issues that scream and **MOURN** to be satisfied by all the avenues the world has to offer, but you take each one to the cross and scream and **MOURN** for God to be your source and He sends down His Holy Spirit and comforts you.
    3. You are no longer trying to live under the discipline of self-control, but you are developing into a **MEEK** individual. You are no longer being manipulated by the demands of your flesh but you are taking on the Character of Christ. And you have learned that:
      - Meek is not weak, geek or freak
      - Meek is power under control
      - Meek is being confidently humble
      - Meek is a mighty warrior in a servants role
    4. Then God invites you to turn you appetite toward **RIGHTEOUSNESS**. He calls you out of the shadows and into action to become the

**RIGHTEOUSNESS** of God in the world. He wants you to place the helmet of salvation on your head, put the breastplate of righteousness on your chest and put on the belt of truth, Isaiah calls it a belt of righteousness and a sash of faithfulness. But you must hunger for it!

5. Then by your hungering and thirsting to be right before God through what Christ has done for you on the cross He says, **“Come sit on my throne of MERCY every day and act in my stead”** Remember, that you represent my position, not yours.
6. Now here is where we are. **PURITY** is the issue that Jesus wants to address next. He wants to establish in us a platform for His glory to appear. He wants to climb behind the furniture and look under the rug to find the dust and trash that has been placed out of sight because He wants us to stand face to face with Him now, not just later. Like Moses saw God, God wants to show up in our life as well.

#### **Key Point #4: There is a difference between PURITY and PERFECTION**

When we excuse ourselves in areas of PURITY, we miss great opportunity for revelation of God in our lives!

- Perfection and Purity are alike in some ways:
  - They both demand focus and commitment to the task at hand
  - They both demand loyalty and sacrifice
  - They both demand absolutes and accountability
  - Perfection demands excellence on our part
- Perfection and Purity are different in other ways
  - Purity demands obedience to God, to please Him
  - Perfection demands obedience to the task, to please it
  - Purity is a commitment of loving
  - Perfection is a commitment of living
- If your life is not lived in reflection of your love toward Christ, you will define your own “perfection”; what is true, what is right and what is well done.

We have to look at this scripture and ask the second question:

1. **“Is it really possible for us to live pure in the world we live in?”**
2. **“Do we have an option?”**

The whole reason of becoming a Christian is that we actually come into a relationship with Him through what Christ had done on the cross and eventually...in time, we will stand face to face with Him! But this scripture almost sounds restrictive and limited.

- If you are starting your walk in Christ, this whole thought of purity may seem like an unreachable dream, why try?

#### **Key Point #5: Purity Is The Key To Revelation**

Paul prays for the saints at Ephesus to have spiritual revelation...

*“I pray that **the eyes of your heart** (clarity of mind/understanding by which one is able to see all things intelligibly and clearly and proceed w/o mistake) **may be enlightened**, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory*

*of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe."*

Ephesians 1:18-19a

It is not the stiff-necked rebellious heart who will see Jesus, nor the theological sound individual who will glance into the face of God, but the individual who pursues God with all their heart and in essence leaves the extra weight of the world and its enticements behind like scattered clothes on a stairway. The pliable, pleasing, obedient heart will have the best seat in the house to view the face of Christ.

*"He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him."*

John 14:21

### **Key Point #6: Purity Is Always A Heart Problem Not A People Problem**

**Heart** (2588) (**kardia**) is used figuratively most often in Scripture and refers to **the center of each persons thoughts (mind) and will**. The inner person, the center of life, the volitional center of our being.

- The Hebrew **Tahowr** or "Clean" most frequently described the purity maintained by avoiding contact with other human beings, abstaining from eating certain animals, and using things that were declared ceremonially clean.
- **Katharos** is the source of the English word **catharsis**, meaning **purifying or cleansing**. It is akin to the Latin *castus* from which we derive the word pure.
- **katharos** was used in a ritual sense of food that was declared undefiled and thus acceptable (Romans 14:20). In a moral or spiritual sense as used here by Jesus, **katharos** means to be free from corrupt desire or wrongdoing (sin and guilt) and thus pure or good in God's eyes.
- **Pure** (2513) (**katharos**) is to be **free from admixture of what is false** thus conveys the ideas of **genuine, blameless or innocent**. Concepts of pure:
  - **Unsoiled- Physically Clean or unsoiled (free from dirt).**
  - **Metals- Refined until all impurities were removed, leaving only the pure metal is the idea of "pure"**, unalloyed, without blemish, spotless, free from impure admixture or free from adulteration.
  - **Open and Clear Course of a River**, (In classical Greek)
  - **Legally Cleared On Any Charges**. The Greeks used **katharos** to describe one "clear from shame", "clear of guilt", "clear of or from" a charge.
  - **Pure Water- Katharos** was used to describe water which was "clear of admixture" and so "clear" or "pure".
  - **Citizenship**: It was used to describe an individual's birth as "pure" or "genuine" and thus "citizens who were of **pure blood**".
- **The heart is the seat and "master control center" of my life.**
- **The center of your personality or the "real you" makes decisions for life.**
- **To be pure in heart is to be pure in the center of your life.**

**Jeremiah** reminds us that the heart is source of all our troubles for...

*"The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?"*  
Jeremiah 17:9

### SEVEN DEADLY SINS OF THE HEART:

*"For out of the heart come **evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander**. These are what make a man 'unclean'; but eating with unwashed hands does not make him 'unclean'"*

Matthew 15:19-20

1. Evil Thoughts
2. Murder
3. Adultery
4. Sexual Immorality
5. Theft
6. False Testimony
7. Slander

- **Quote:** We're suffering from only one disease in the world. Our basic problem isn't a race problem. Our basic problem isn't a poverty problem. Our basic problem isn't a war problem. Our basic problem is a heart problem. **Graham**

### Why is the state of one's heart so important?

*"For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose **heart** is completely His..."*

II Chronicles 16:9

*"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life."*

Proverbs 4:23

### Key Point #7: Purity Is Not Acting Right But Thinking Right

Your brain makes up only about 2% of your body weight, but it use about 25% of the oxygen within your blood. Why does your brain require one fourth of your body's need for oxygen? Because it is always active. In addition to controlling the function of your body, the brain cells and nerve fibers are continuously interacting with each other. This interaction within your brain is what becomes your mind; you possess conscious and subconscious thought.

**God is far more interested in WHO we ARE than in WHAT we can DO for God. If what we are is not acceptable in His sight, than what we do is virtually worthless. The heart is the center of the inner life of the person where all the spiritual forces and functions have their origin**

**Heart:** Popularly viewed as the **seat of emotions** ("He has a broken heart"), most of the scripture defines it **primarily to the base of the intellect** (e.g., "Out of the **heart** come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders," Matt 15:19). **Secondly the heart relates to the will and emotions because they are influenced by the THOUGHTS OF MAN. BEING PURE IN THOUGHT WILL DIRECT**

## **YOUR WILL AND THEN EMOTIONS INSTEAD OF BEING DRIVEN FROM BOTTOM UP.**

Most ancients—Hebrews, Greeks, and many others—considered the heart to be the center of knowledge, understanding, thinking, and wisdom. The New Testament also uses it in that way. The heart was considered to be the seat of the mind and will, and it could be taught what the brain could never know. Emotions and feelings were associated with the intestines, or bowels." (MacArthur, J: Ephesians. Page 44. Chicago: Moody Press ) (Bolding added)

### **Pharisees**

The Pharisees had created an impossible "Spiritual World" than hardly anyone could live in. Their outward acts were impeccable, but it was always an issue of the heart.

### **Ceremonial Cleansing**

Under the **Levitical laws** heavy emphasis was placed on **ceremonial cleansing**. This forbade contact with **unclean** animals, substances, persons, or places. By the time Christ came, this preoccupation with **ceremonial cleanness** had largely displaced true worship in Spirit and truth. Jesus brought back the focus of a clean heart, rather than on looking good..

Jesus was not quiet at all in his frustration with those who were externally pure on the outside without a heart purity on the inside. He was loud and obviously ticked off...

<sup>25</sup> *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean (verb form katharizo) the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence.*

<sup>26</sup> *"You blind Pharisee, first clean (verb form katharizo) the inside (first believe what your prophets wrote about "inner cleansing" = Ezekiel 36:26-27; 11:19-20, 18:31, cf Deut 30:6, Jeremiah 31:34, 32:39-40, Acts 15:9, 1Peter 1:22-23), of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also.*

<sup>27</sup> *"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. (akathartos - derived from the negative of katharos)*

<sup>28</sup> *"Even so you too outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness."*

Mt 23:25-28

**Note: A Pharisee is nothing more than a religious pretender – someone who outwardly portrays faith but inwardly is far from God. And let me assure you – there are more Pharisees today than there were in Jesus' day.**

***"As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man."***

**Proverbs 27:19**

### **Fighting The Enemy Within**

The deepest desire of those who have become honest before God is that there is no tolerance for the impure but an unmixed, unalloyed, unadulterated heart before God.

- **Being “pure in heart” is more than sincerity of heart.** A sincere heart can lead to worthless and sinful things:
  - Sincere devotees **walk on nails** to prove their spiritual devotion.
  - Others **crawl on their knees** for hundreds of yards, bleeding and grimacing in pain, to show devotion to a saint or a shrine.
- **Being “pure in heart” is more than placing God at the top of the list.** A pure heart relationship with God is **having no other allegiance**.
  - **Matthew 6:24:** Following the Sermon on the Mount Jesus warned against serving **God and mammon**. No one can serve two masters at the same time. You will always love one and hate the other.

### The Enemy of Purity: Double-mindedness

- **James 1:5-8: Double-minded man** is unstable in all his ways.
 

*“If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him. But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.”*

*James 1:5-8*

**“Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”**

**James 4:8**

### The Enemy of Double-mindedness: Faith

- Hebrews 11:6: Describes “faith” as a Pure Focus Of God
 

*“And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.”*

Hebrews 11:6

### Establishing A Faith Based On Purity

1. **Honest To Self**
  2. **Honest To Others**
  3. **Honest To God**
1. **Honest To Self**
    - **“You’re only as sick as your secrets.”** A Common statement among **counselors**. The more you have to hide, the sicker you are. And if you’ve got a lot of secrets, you’re really sick.
    - When I was playing football it was a known strategy that if you hit the other person as hard as you could at least three times, they would think that you were going to do the same the whole game. Two things would happen:

1. **They would start to vary their approach to you.** Instead of hitting you, they would get distracted from their assignments and try to deal with you another way. When we would instill fear or doubt in that other person they would try but fail because they discarded the only assignment that would really work.
2. **They would get hurt.** It was obvious when a person was afraid on the field, they would miss assignments, run in the wrong direction and more than likely, they would get hurt.



In our spiritual warfare there is no way we can vary our assignments if we want the victory. If you follow the game plan and pursue Christ with a devoted, pure heart, you will see God!

1. **Honest To Self**
2. **Honest To Others**

- **Understand David's Concept Of Seeing God**

*"Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false."*

Psalm 24:3-4

- **Questions to ask yourself:**

- Is my life an open book?
- Do I have things that you hide from your best friends and from your loved ones?
- Is there anyone in my life who knows the truth about who I really am?
- **Blessed are the pure in heart, for they have nothing to hide.**  
(Pritchard, R: *The Tragedy of Double Vision*)
- **Story:** A well known Christian in a certain community and his son were driving down a country road and saw a watermelon patch a little way off the highway. The deacon told his son to keep a lookout while he went to get a melon. He sneaked into the patch, took a melon and called to the boy, "Is anyone coming? Look both ways." The boy wisely responded, "But Daddy, shouldn't we look up too?" Our Daily Bread, 6.18.99

1. **Honest To Self**
2. **Honest To Others**
3. **Honest To God**

### **Establishing A Pure Heart**

*"<sup>10</sup>Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. <sup>11</sup>Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy spirit from me. <sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy*

***of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me."***  
**Psalm 51:10-12**

- Verse 10. **Create in me a clean heart**, is from nothing. David uses the same word of our creation which Moses uses of "the creation of the heaven and the earth." Our creation "in Jesus Christ" is no mere strengthening of our powers, no mere aiding of our natural weakness by the might of the grace of God, it is not a mere amendment, improvement of our moral habits; it is a creation out of nothing, of that which we had not before. There was nothing in us whereof to make it. We were decayed, corrupt, dead in trespasses and sins. What is dead becometh not alive, except by the infusion of what it had not. What is corrupt receiveth not soundness, save by passing away itself and being replaced by a new production. "The old man" passeth not into the new man, but is "put off." It is not the basis of the new life, but a hindrance to it. It must be "put off" and the new man "put on," created in Christ Jesus. (E. B. Pusey, D.D., 1853.)
- Suppose you turn on a faucet at home, and out comes dirty water. You go to the hardware store, buy a brand-new faucet (a more expensive one), install it and turn it on. Out comes dirty water. Obviously, the problem is not the faucet but the water source. So it is with us. Jesus said, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matt. 12:34). The heart is the center of our lives, and sin defiles it. This is why David said that everything around him was defiled: his eyes (Ps. 51:3), his ears (v. 8), his heart (v. 10) and his spirit.

### **How to Quit Faking It**

It's obvious that an impure life is a terrible sin which involves all of us. It must be removed from our lives, because only those without guile, or deceit, will enter heaven.

*<sup>14</sup>"Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. <sup>15</sup>Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood."*

Revelation 22:14-15

So let's quit faking it and get the truth about ourselves out in the open. The Bible provides a five-point solution to the impure life. Review these steps prayerfully:

#### **1. Examine Yourself: Are you passing the test?**

*"Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?"*

2 Corinthians 13:5

If you fail it doesn't mean you are a failure, you may not be good at taking test. You have to learn to take life's test and succeed. It might be good to make a list of the "fruit" in your life that you do not like and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the "roots" of that tree. Take a walk through the orchard of your life and list the "fruit" that does not please God. As the Holy Spirit reveals the "root" you will immediately begin to experience the freedom that Jesus died for you to experience.

*"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

## 2. **Have A Daily Review**

Make part of your daily prayer a reviewing process of the day's conduct and obedience. Ask God to help you become aware of the temptations of impure thoughts or behaviors that you might have tendencies toward.

*"Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. "*

2 Corinthians 4:2

## 3. **Refuse To Compromise The Little Things**

We have a tendency to feel bad based on how bad the act was. We are totally driven by our feelings in measuring sin. Sin is not based upon remorse as a Christian, but upon commitment as a soldier. The small things are as destructive as the large things. Our commitment for purity will be based upon how detailed we choose to be and what we will call sins to us. Also, what may be a conviction to us may not be for someone else. God will discipline you for His services and that is your commitment to Him. If you are not careful you will judge others according to the "revelation" of your life rather than the truth of God's Word.

The Great Wall of China- The Great Wall stretches for 4,160 miles across North China. It is the only man-made structure that can be seen from the moon with the naked eye. Its construction started as far back in Chinese recorded history as the so-called Spring and Autumn periods (770-476 B.c.) and the Warring States period (475-221 B.C.). The Great Wall crosses plateaus, mountains, deserts, rivers and valleys, passing through five provinces and two autonomous regions. It averages about 20 feet wide and 26 feet high. Parts of the wall are so broad that 10 persons can walk across it side by side. It is said that the amount of material used in the present wall alone is enough to circle the world at the equator five times.

History seems to suggest that the wall worked well. **Only when a dynasty had weakened from within, were invaders from the north able to advance and conquer. Both the Mongols (Yuan Dynasty, 1271-1368) and the Manchurians (Qing Dynasty, 1644-1911) were able take power, not because of weakness in the Wall but because of weakness in the government and the poverty of the people.**

One of the breaches took place when a Mongol general ordered one of his lieutenants to attack the wall near Beijing. The lieutenant tried and was repulsed. The young lieutenant reported that that he had failed. The general again ordered him and his troops to breach the Wall. Again, he tried with the same results. The lieutenant returned to the general and announced that the task was impossible. The general replied, "You need to go one step beyond the impossible wall. If you do, success will be yours."

The young lieutenant went back to his tent and thought all night about how he would take "one step beyond the impossible wall."

At first, he was mad at his general, but as the night wore on, he started to think about

new strategies. As the sun rose above the desert, the young lieutenant had an idea. Off he rode to the Great Wall without his troops. After several hours, he returned to his camp. The next day, he told his troops that they were going to take "one step beyond the impossible wall." That day, the young lieutenant breached the Great Wall of China. Proudly, he sent word back to his general with his good news that he had done the impossible. As the entire army followed through the Wall, the general rode up to his lieutenant and inquired, "How did you succeed in doing what had been impossible for you?"

"I took one step beyond the impossible wall. I bribed the gatekeeper," the lieutenant replied.

**We must view a compromise as a breach in the wall, not an excuse of grace!**

#### 4. **Keep a short account with God And Others**

When you fail to act in purity toward anyone you have crossed a line. It's important to go at once to that person and confess it and ask for forgiveness and then fall to your knees and confess it to Jesus. This is the hardest point of all. You will be tempted to bypass it, but don't. It is a major key to becoming totally honest.

#### 5. **Claim the victory!**

*"Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."  
1 Corinthians 15:57.*

Ask God to deliver you from all the impure thoughts, words and actions. He says,

*"Ask, and it shall be given you."  
Matthew 7:7.*

**RESULTS: The Power of Seeing God: FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD** (Genesis 32:30; Job 19:26,27; 1 Corinthians 13:12; Hebrews 12:14; 1 John 3:2,3)

**See** (3708) (**optánomai** from **horao** = to see) means to see with the eyes implying not just the mere act of physically seeing but also **actual perception** (act of coming to comprehend, grasp, attain awareness or understanding of) of what one sees.

**Optanomai** is used repeatedly to refer to **Jesus' Second Coming** as shown in the following verses:

*"And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and **they shall see** the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory"  
Matthew 24:30*

*"...hereafter **you shall see** THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER"  
Matthew 26:64*

*"Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because **we shall see** Him just as He is."  
1John 3:2*

**Moses' Influence Was Motivated By Seeing God:** (He took his sandals off on Holy Ground)

*"By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible."*

Hebrews 11:27

- **Eugene Peterson** expresses it: "You're blessed when you get your inside world--your mind and heart--put right. Then you can see God in the outside world." When we experience God's forgiveness and cleansing, our eyes are opened to see Him in our circumstances in ways we never have before.
- Nineteen-year-old John McNeill was working in a railway office the day he received Christ as his Savior. Years later, this much-loved Scottish evangelist and pastor looked back on that life-changing day.

"It was like the lifting of a curtain for me," he said. "There was no great feeling; it was a case of seeing. I took a walk along the platform. I remember that morning saying to myself: 'Has the station been whitewashed?' The very dingy brick wall all covered with smoke and soot from the engines looked whiter. It was not the walls. It was my mind that was brightened as I took my first walk in the light of salvation." Seeing God is the goal of all religion, the end of all true science, the desire of every nation, and the aim of all philosophy.

- Moses saw "him who is invisible." But according to II Corinthians 3:11-18 we have an even greater privilege than Moses had. When he saw God the glory eventually faded from his face, but in Christ the veil has been taken away and now in Christ we have seen God face to face and his glory has been revealed to us. More than that, by the Holy Spirit we are daily being transformed into his likeness with "ever-increasing glory."

*"<sup>11</sup>And if what was fading away came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts! <sup>12</sup>Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. <sup>13</sup>We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. <sup>14</sup>But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. <sup>15</sup>Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. <sup>16</sup>But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. <sup>17</sup>Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup>And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."*

**II Corinthians 3:11-18**