



The desire to have a clean heart with God should be our foremost daily prayer as we wake up.

Why? As the prophet Jeremiah said, "The heart *is* deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked." (Jer 17:9) One has only to look around in this world to see and recognize the deceptions that prevails in about every aspects of life.

Jesus said in Luke 6:45, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."

Paul followed in Gal 5:17, "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish." In truth, only a clean heart submitted to the Spirit of God can enlighten us to walk the righteous path of Christ.

In 1Cor 2:14 Paul explained, "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned."

In truth, every thought, every action, every word we speak has its source in the heart. The reason Jesus said in Mat 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Where is our treasure right now?

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Psalms 51:10(b) gives us the reason we must desire to have a clean heart with God in saying, “And renew a steadfast spirit within me.” So, the desire for a clean heart brings a renewal of our spirit to live in accordance with God’s will for our lives.

What is the purpose to be renewed day by day in our spirit? The apostle Paul in 1Tim 1:5 said this: “Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, *from* a good conscience, and *from* sincere faith.” In other words, we’re to live each day to love God, “With all our hearts, souls, minds and strength,” as Jesus said in Luke 10:27.

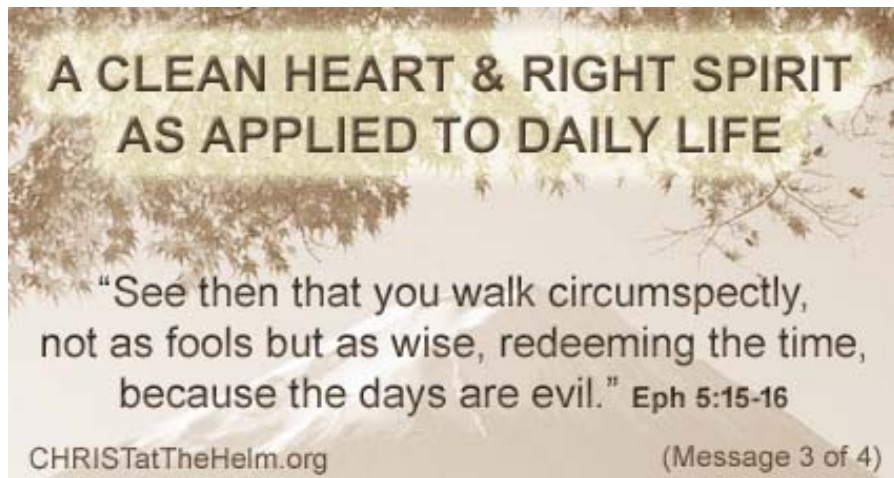
The apostle Paul in Titus 3:5 also gave this insight on the renewing of the spirit, “According to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.”

Living each day in the world, while not being of the world, still exposes us to the evil seductions of the enemy, the reason we need a daily renewal of our spirit in Christ, which when we do, produces a clean heart, and honors God.

As a result, as the apostle Paul said in Philippians 4:7, “The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

Is Christ Jesus at the forefront of our lives and hearts right now?

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How should having a clean heart for the Lord affect how we must live our lives?

Eph 5:8,10,11: “For you were once darkness, but now *you are* light in the Lord. Walk as children of light; ¹⁰ finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. ¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”

In all truth, we either live for God in Christ, or we live for the world. The very reason Jesus said in Mat 6:21 that “Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Paul enjoined us in Rom 12:2, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” As the expression goes, “The proof is in the pudding”, meaning our thoughts, actions and words better describe who we really are than whatever we can say or think about ourselves.

In Eph 5:1-2, he showed us how: “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

Then in 2Cor 7:1 he added, “Therefore, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

Will we walk as true children of light?

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What does it mean to be a new creation?

The apostle Paul in Eph 2:4-7 gave us this joyful picture of the new life: “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ, and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

Can we picture, even for a moment, the extent of God’s love for us through Christ?

1Peter 1:7-8 adds, “That the genuineness of your faith, *being* much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see *Him*, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.”

The prophet Isaiah painted this beautiful image of believers who put their trust in God: “But those who wait on the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” (Is 40:31)

Do we have genuine faith and live this new life created in us through Christ Jesus?

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