

HAPPY ARE THE PURE IN HEART

“Happy are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” Matthew 5:8

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“Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)

INTEGRITY:

wholeness

authenticity

unmixed motivation

BLESSINGS BROUGHT BY INTEGRITY

1. Personal confidence

“People with integrity have a firm footing, but those who follow crooked paths will slip and fall.” Proverbs 10:9 (NLT)

“The integrity of the honest keeps them on track.” Proverbs 11:3 (Msg.)

2. A lasting legacy

“A righteous person lives on the basis of his integrity. Blessed are his children after he is gone.” Proverbs 20:7 (GW)

“If you pray to God and seek the favor of the Almighty, if you are pure and live with complete integrity, God will rise up and restore your happy home. And though you started with little, you will end with much.” Job 8:5-7 (NLT)

3. Rewards in eternity

(God will say) “Well done! You are a good and trusted servant! Because you were faithful with small things, I’ll now put you in charge of much greater things. Come and share your Master’s happiness!” Matthew 25:21 (NCV)

“Lord, who may stay in your sanctuary and live on your holy mountain? The one who WALKS WITH INTEGRITY - he speaks the truth from his heart. He refuses to slander others with his tongue, won’t listen to gossip, and will not cast a slur on his fellowman . . . (instead) he honors those who fear the Lord, and keeps his promises even when it hurts. He lends his money freely without charging interest and cannot be bribed by money. Whoever does these things will never be shaken!” Psalm 15:1-5 (NIV/GW/TEV)

WAYS TO DEVELOP INTEGRITY

1. Keeping your promises

“People who promise things they never give are like clouds and wind that bring no rain.”
Proverbs 25:14 (TEV)

2. Paying your bills

“The wicked man borrows and never pays back . . .” Psalm 37:21 (TEV)
“. . . the authorities are working for God . . . Pay what you owe them; pay your personal and property taxes . . .” Romans 13:6-7 (TEV)

3. Refusing to gossip

“A gossip can’t be trusted with a secret, but someone of integrity won’t violate a confidence.” Proverbs 11:13 (Msg.)

4. Paying your tithe

“Is it right for a person to cheat God? Of course not! Yet you are robbing me, says the Lord. How?’ you ask. By withholding your full tithe and offerings . . . Bring to me the full amount of your tithe to my House . . . Put me to the test and you’ll see that I will open the windows of heaven and pour out so much blessing on you that you won’t have enough room to receive it all!” Malachi 3:8-10 (TEV)

5. By doing your best at work

“Work hard and cheerfully at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.” Colossians 3:23 (NLT)

6. By being real with others

“We refuse to wear masks and play games. We don’t maneuver and manipulate behind the scenes. And we don’t twist God’s Word to suit ourselves. Rather, we keep everything we do and say out in the open . . .” 2 Corinthians 4:2 (Msg.)

“How can I keep my way pure? By living according to your Word.” Psalms 119:9 (NIV)

The indications of a pure heart:

- *Integrity
- *A hunger for greater purity
- *A hatred of sin
- *A love for other believers
- *A preoccupation with God's glory and God's honor
- *Living in awe of God, living a worshiping life, longing for His will to be fulfilled and for His glory to come.