

## Clean Hands, Pure Heart – Psalm 24:1-6

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Fellowship Bible Church – July 24, 2022

The God Who holds the galaxy in His hands, also knows the precise number of hairs on your head, He knows the intricate details of your life. His eyes are on **you** right now. He knows what you need to hear and apply to your heart and life from His Word to you this morning. What I say is not as important as what He wants to say to you through His Word. He loves you! Open your heart to Him. Take a minute just now in prayer to do that. Tell the Lord you want to hear from Him. If you hesitate to pray that way, ask yourself why.

(Time for individual prayer.)

Psalm 33:4-9 - The Word of God by the hand of David.

For the word of the Lord is right,  
and all his work is trustworthy.  
He loves righteousness and justice;  
the earth is full of the Lord's unfailing love.  
The heavens were made by the word of the Lord,  
and all the stars, by the breath of his mouth.  
He gathers the water of the sea into a heap;<sup>[a]</sup>  
he puts the depths into storehouses.  
Let the whole earth fear the Lord;  
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.  
For he spoke, and it came into being;  
Our he commanded, and it came into existence.

Turn with me to our Scripture passage for this morning...Psalm 24:1-6

Follow as I read.

Psalm 24:1-2

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This is a very broad statement. Basically, it's saying that **God is Sovereign over everything!**

The atheist doesn't see it that way. His idea is expressed in Psalm 10:4 – “[In all his scheming, the wicked person arrogantly thinks, “There's no accountability since there's no God.”](#)”

The believer sees God as sovereign over everything. His idea is expressed in Psalm 5:11 - [But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.](#)

Our significance, identity, worth, and role all find their foundation in who God is and what He has done for us, not on account of who we are or what we've done for Him.

Verse 1 states that all those who dwell in the world belong to God. So, in that sense, when you were born, you belonged to God.

Then John 1:12 says we become **children** of God when we receive Christ as Savior and Lord.

In both Galatians and Ephesians, we see that those who have put their trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are **adopted** as children of God.

In Roman culture, the adopted person lost all rights in his old family and gained all the rights of a legitimate child in his new family. Likewise, when a person becomes a Christian, he gains all the privileges and responsibilities of a child in God's family.

By Jesus' living and dying and being raised from the dead, God could accomplish two purposes:

1. to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law (*redeem*)
2. to allow those "freed" to be adopted as His very own children.

In any human family a son or daughter is either born to or adopted by the parents. By definition, a child can't be both. But with God we're both born of Him and adopted by Him.

In 1 John he uses the phrase **born of God** a number of times.

Just as parents pass on certain physical and personality traits to their natural-born children, so traits of divine life are passed on to those born of God. In other words, those born of God do what is right, love others, believe in Jesus, and cease to practice sin.

1. So, when you were born into the world you **belonged to God** as do all other humans. But you were born a sinner because of Adam's initial sin in the garden of Eden. You were a slave to the law.
2. If you have trusted Christ as Savior and Lord, you became a **child of God**. You were redeemed by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross and His resurrection for you.
3. In trusting in Christ, you were **adopted into the family of God** by the Holy Spirit.
4. You were also **born of God**.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - [Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought at a price. So, glorify God with your body.](#)

Psalm 24:3

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If you could ask God for one thing, what would it be?

Here's what the psalmist David asked for: Psalm 27:4 - [I have asked one thing from the Lord; it is what I desire: to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, gazing on the beauty of the Lord and seeking him in his temple.](#)

David's desire was to live in God's presence.

Verse 3 asks the question, "Who can go into the presence of the Lord to worship Him? Who qualifies? None of us in our own strength. It must be the Lord working in us.

#### Psalm 24:4a

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David answers the question: **Clean hands:** Our actions and words; **Pure heart:** what drives our actions and words. Heart tells hands what to do.

If we are what we should be, then we will do what we should do. Psalm 112

Let's think of the seriousness of sin.

Genesis 6:5-6 tells us, "[The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved Him to His heart.](#)" Your sin and my sin are not only acts of rebellion; they are acts that grieve God.

Hebrews 10:22 - [Since we have a great high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water.](#)

The Pharisees strained their water so they wouldn't accidentally swallow a gnat—an unclean insect according to the law. Meticulous about the details of ceremonial cleanliness, they nevertheless had lost their perspective on inner purity. Ceremonially clean on the outside, they had a corrupt heart. Living our Christianity merely as a show for others is like washing a cup on the outside only. When we are clean on the inside, our cleanliness on the outside won't be a sham. (*Handbook of Bible Application, Purity, p. 492*)

Daily application of God's Word has a purifying effect on our mind and heart. Scripture points out sin, motivates us to confess, renews our relationship with Christ, and guides us back to the right path. (*Handbook of Bible Application, Purity, p. 492*)

Who's ruling your life? You? or God?

Clean hands, Pure heart – name sins

- Anger
- Envy
- Resentment
- Discontentment
- Pride

- Anxiety

### **Habits that keep raising their head**

Dr. Tony Evans – “The primary way to gauge your spiritual growth is in what you say. Your mouth reveals your heart.”

- Pessimistic mind and heart; Philippians 4:8 – [Finally, believers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable and worthy of respect, whatever is right and confirmed by God’s word, whatever is pure and wholesome, whatever is lovely and brings peace, whatever is admirable and of good repute; if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think continually on these things \[center your mind on them, and implant them in your heart\].](#)  
I see no room there for pessimism!

We could name many more, but let me add this one...

- Prayerlessness – It has been said that prayerlessness is a declaration of independence from God. Let me repeat that...

No Christian is greater than his prayer life.

The greatest of faults is to be conscious of none.

Jerry Bridges shares that “although we often hear that pride is the root cause of sin, he maintains that there’s another sin even more basic, more widespread, and more apt to be the root cause of other sins is ungodliness. Ungodliness may be defined as living one’s everyday life with little or no thought of God, God’s will, God’s glory, or our dependence of God. You can readily see that someone can lead a respectable life and still be ungodly in the sense that God is essentially irrelevant in his or her life. We might go for hours with no thought of God at all.

“Pray that God will make you more conscious of the fact that you live every moment of every day under His all-seeing eye, knowing that he sees your every deed, hears your every word, and knows your every thought.” (*Jerry Bridges, Respectable Sins*)

English bishop J.C. Ryle wrote, “True holiness...does not consist merely of inward sensations and impressions...It is something of ‘the image of Christ’ which can be seen and observed by others in our private life, and habits, and character, and doings.”

Psalm 19:12-14 - [Who perceives his unintentional sins? Cleanse me from my hidden faults. Moreover, keep your servant from willful sins; do not let them rule me. Then I will be blameless and cleansed from blatant rebellion. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, Lord, my rock, and my Redeemer.](#)

Psalm 7:9 - [The one who examines the thoughts and emotions is a righteous God.](#)

Psalm 26:2 - [Test me, Lord, and try me, examine my heart and mind.](#)

It's even more difficult for us to learn our dependence on God in the spiritual realm. We can exist for months—going through the motions, even teaching Sunday school, or serving as an elder or deacon—depending on nothing more than mere natural human resources. *(Jerry Bridges)*

We can pray, "Loving God, I don't know myself as well as I should, and I fall short of what I know is right and good. Please help me trust in Your power in my battle with sin." *(ODB 7/18/22, Marvin Williams)*

Romans 5:20 - [The Ten Commandments were given so that all could see the extent of their failure to obey God's laws. But the more we see our sinfulness, the more we see God's abounding grace forgiving us.](#)

We hear it said, "Better to ask for forgiveness than permission."

We would never ask God's permission to sin. We would laugh at such a ridiculous thought.

But do you ever choose to sin, knowing you can ask God for forgiveness later?

Romans 6:1 – [\(Phillips\) Now what is our response to be? Shall we sin to our heart's content and see how far we can exploit the grace of God? What a ghastly thought! We, who have died to sin—how could we live in sin a moment longer?](#)

There's only one solution. Confession! To confess means to say the same thing about sin that God says. When we agree with the Lord about the sin in our lives, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from **ALL** unrighteousness. That's a pure heart. He restores our fellowship with Him. *(Leroy Eims)*

Mortification involves a struggle between what we know to be right (our convictions) and what we desire to do. This is the struggle depicted by the apostle Paul when he wrote, "[For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the spirit, and the spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want](#)" (Galatians 5:17, NIV).

*(Jerry Bridges)* Our eyes, of course, are often the gateway to our desires. But whether the appeal to our desires comes through the eye or another avenue such as the memory, our desires are never satisfied. But it is these sinful desires that must be mortified, that is, subdued and weakened in their power to entice us into sin. It is always emotionally painful to say no to those desires, especially when they represent recurring sin patterns, because those desires run deep and strong. They cry out for fulfillment. That is why Paul used such strong language: "[Put to death therefore what is earthly in you](#)" (Colossians 3:5). *(Excerpt taken from The Discipline of Grace,)*

No believer, regardless of how spiritually mature he or she may be, ever gets beyond the need to mortify the sinful deeds of the body.

2 Peter 2:9 – The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations. 1 Corinthians 10:13 - There has no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that you may be able to bear it.

In His grace God always provides a way of escape from temptation.

John Blanchard said, "...so he [God] supplies perfectly measured grace to meet the needs of the godly. For daily needs there is daily grace; for sudden needs, sudden grace; for overwhelming need, overwhelming grace. God's grace is given wonderfully, but not wastefully; freely but not foolishly; bountifully but not blindly."

**I discipline my body and keep it under control** 1 Cor. 9:25-27

How do we train? Practice winning! "He's a natural!" So are you if you allow your new nature to win!

"To express resolve to live the Christian life without following up with disciplined action is nonsense." (Alistair Begg)

Where am I, where are you, expressing resolve but not taking action?

Psalm 24:4b

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Job 35:5 Origen quote – "No one who loves the world looks at the heavens, but only he who does not love the world and the things which are in it. If we love the things that are here, we do not look to the heavens."

What satisfies you, lifts up your soul? Satisfied with earthy things?

Where does your loyalty really lie? Not in word but in action?

Loyalty: Faithful

**"Does not lift up his soul to what is false."**

If Jesus Christ is the central theme of the Old and New Testaments, the central figure of the entire Bible, then what place should He have in our lives? If He is the centerpiece of history, the Bible, and the Christian faith, where have we placed Him in our hearts today?

A practical way of looking at what this means is to realize that every decision we make must involve Christ, His Great Commission, and His will for our lives.

Share about having adult SS class at Grace go through hymns to find supporting Scripture. An example: "Take Time to Be Holy."

Each thought and each motive beneath His control.

**"...casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5).**

Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.

“...but as He who called you is holy; you also be holy in all your conduct” (1 Peter 1:15).

"Wherever a person's soul turns itself, unless towards You, it is fixated upon sorrow, even though it may be fixated upon beautiful things. Yet, such things would not exist without coming from You." - Augustine's Confessions 4.15

Psalm 119:37 – “Turn my eyes away from vanity [all those worldly, meaningless things that distract—let Your priorities be mine] and restore me [with renewed energy] in Your ways.”

Psalm 24:5-6

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Psalm 34:15 - Eyes of the Lord are on the righteous.

Psalm 18:20-24 – The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; he repaid me according to the cleanness of my hands. 21 For I have kept the ways of the Lord and have not turned from my God to wickedness. 22 Indeed, I let all his ordinances guide me and have not disregarded his statutes. 23 I was blameless toward him and kept myself from my iniquity. 24 So the Lord repaid me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight.

Psalm 84:11 - For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows grace, favor, and honor; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Matthew 5:8 - Blessed are the pure in heart [those with integrity, moral courage, and godly character], for they will see God.