



GOING DEEPER, PART 1

A pure and perfect heart, is that possible?

Ps 101:1,2

Matt 5:48

Col 4:12

- 1
- 2
- 3

The lessons about who we are in Christ have taught us that we are sanctified in Christ, made holy and righteous. In other words, you cannot become more holy or righteous than you already are. Jesus' sacrifice was a perfect one. This sacrifice was enough for eternity. And yet we read the command to be perfect. How can that be?

Can we be pure and perfect?

Heb 7:18,19

Heb 9:9,10

- 1
- 2

These two texts tell us that the law and carrying out sacrifices for reconciliation from our sins do not make us pure and perfect. It is apparent that keeping God's law is not actually attainable for us humans. That is why the priests in the temple had to bring sacrifices each time to cleanse and purify.

What is the solution then to being able to become pure and perfect?

Heb 7:28

Heb 10:14

Col 1:28

- 1
- 2
- 3

Jesus did something which no other man has ever done. He lived perfectly and completely according to God's law. But not only that. He lived in relationship with God, heard what the Father told Him to do and did what the Father asked of Him. Jesus even went as far as to bring the perfect sacrifice in order to overcome sin, satan and death.

That sacrifice would never have to be made again.

Jesus was without sin and paid the perfect sacrifice. He did this once and for all.

What does this mean to us now?

Col 2:8,9,10

Heb 10:14

- 1
- 2

Jesus went ahead of us in becoming perfect. He now lives in us and so does His perfection. We have not achieved this ourselves, but Him in us. In Him is all wisdom and knowledge. By living in Him that wisdom and knowledge will develop in us. A Jesus culture takes place inside us.





EXAMPLE

The world in which I lived was very small. I knew the Netherlands and every now and then I would go to another country by car and see another culture. But most of them were similar to the Netherlands. God had another plan with my life, namely travelling to other continents and very different cultures. Through books and a few films I had gathered some information. The only way I could get there was if I dare set foot on an airplane. I had to do something which for me was very difficult, namely to put my life in the hands of the pilot and technicians. People had discovered that you could fly. People with a lot of wisdom to be able to get such a machine up into the sky, were able to fly to the correct destination and then land safely. What knowledge and wisdom to be able to develop such a thing as an airplane. But what about the sacrifices some of the pioneers had made? People were killed during the first attempts to fly. My wife was a lot more courageous than me. But eventually I chose to go. My choice led me to Africa. What a culture shock, what a different world. The plane brought me to my destination without me having any technical understanding or being able to fly such a plane. It brought me riches I had never previously experienced. The riches of other cultures and people groups we in the West do not know.

That is exactly how it is with Jesus. Being in Him means learning to trust in Him. Letting Him sit in the driver's seat of your life. His perfect sacrifice means we are perfect in God's eyes. This is how we can enter God's Kingdom, a world in which we can only enter by trusting in Jesus and His sacrifice.

GOING DEEPER, PART 2

In Matt 5:8,48 Jesus plants an important seed for the Kingdom of God culture. He tells His disciples that they must be pure and perfect just as their heavenly Father is. This is the culture within which the Kingdom bears fruit.

The big question is: Can you be perfect? What is actually meant by this?

Col 1:28, 3:14
and 4:12

1
2

Here we see that Paul is talking about attaining perfection. Here we are confronted with one of the many seemingly contradictions in the Kingdom of God. We have been made perfect in Christ and yet we are encouraged to be perfect.

In the life of David we see that he was chosen because of the condition of his heart. We know from the study that David was not perfect nor completely pure. And yet we read time and again that God chose David. We learn from the life of David that God loves three certain qualities. These are values in life which help us to live in perfection.

Three Qualities of a Pure Heart

A) Transparent

What does the word say about David's heart?

Ps 139:23,24
1 Chron 28:9

1
2

What does Paul say about the role of the Holy Spirit?

1 Cor 2:10

1

In these three texts we see something of God's character. God knows us through and through. He especially knows our heart from where our deepest desires and thoughts stem. We see in the life of David that despite his shortcomings, he invites the Spirit to search the depths of his heart and see if there is any way in him which is not of God. He asks this because he desires to do God's will.

Search my heart Holy Spirit is a prayer which fits in with the Kingdom. Being honest with yourself, honest with God and the people around you, comes from daring to allow your own heart to be searched. David admitted his sins; he responded immediately to the prophet when he spoke to him.

1 John 1:5-9

A perfect heart does not mean that you live as a Christian 100% free from sin. It means that you bring it to light directly once you have sinned. This is a choice of heart.

During the discipleship training we have encounter weekends with God. During these weekends there is always a moment in which people are given the opportunity to come to the cross with their pain and sorrow but also their sin. Each time I am amazed at how openly men and women confess their sins. Sometimes it is even sin from 10 or 20 years ago. But as soon as these things are brought to light you see the grace of God fall on these people. A miracle takes place as forgiveness and grace enters their hearts. Often they cry, sometimes they laugh, but you see these invisible yet heavy burdens lift from them, through their being honest and transparent with God and people. Once sinners, now forgiven.





B) Trust

What does David do in difficult situations?

Ps 25:2

2 Sam 5:17-

19,22-23

John 14:1

Gal 3:6

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

Jesus shows the disciples time and again that He, just like David, has a firm trust in God the Father. Jesus chooses to trust God in each and every situation, however difficult. For example, when Jesus sees a sick man lying before Him He speaks out with complete confidence that God the Father has the power to heal.

At the end of His life He also tells the disciples that the time has come for him to die. Jesus knows what awaits Him in Jerusalem. He does not run away but faces His suffering face on. He keeps trusting God in each situation.

What do the disciples do with Jesus' example?

Acts 4:13-31

- 1

Jesus lived out a culture of trusting in God. He keeps going until His death. You see the exact same trust in God in the disciples.

Years ago I started travelling to Russia and mainly a place called Kazakhstan. There I met a young man named Baikal. He immediately reminded me of the first disciples with his boldness. The police were very active in arresting Christians in those days. Yet Baikal and his team of young people went out to the streets full of confidence to make the gospel known. On various occasions he had to go to the police station yet he just carried on doing what the Spirit of God showed him to do.

C) Brokenness

What is more important to God than sacrifice?

Ps 51:17

- 1

David had sinned; adultery and murder. Shortly following the birth of the child born as a result of adultery, David writes this Psalm. He is full of remorse. He realizes that he has caused God great sadness by committing sin. David cries about this sin but does not leave it at that. A broken heart recognizes the damage caused but also sees the God of hope, healing and restoration. It is the complete brokenness of one's own powers and ability to restore things. It is trusting in the grace of God and taking on the responsibility of one's own failures.

A few years ago I met a man who had lived in adultery. The Spirit of God gripped him and led him to forgiveness and restoration. When he first shared what had happened, I saw a broken man before me. It seemed as though his world had fallen apart. But then I also saw the hope in the eyes when we talked about forgiveness and grace.

I saw the man doubting whether he should be completely honest with his wife but the Spirit of God kept urging him to confess everything. This was a process which lasted for weeks. This man had a young trust in God. He didn't want his wife to leave him. If he were to tell his story she would most definitely leave him. She had once said this to him. And yet he trusted in God and the prompting he had received. Now, years later, they are still together and love each other very much.

EXERCISE:



Ask the Holy Spirit, having done this lesson, what he wants to tell you. Are there any specific thoughts which come to you?



Take time to write down any thoughts which come to you regarding being pure and perfect. Being perfect is not something you can achieve, but it is trusting in the fact that you have been made perfect in Christ. Life with God and with Him in you, help you to live in that perfection. Ask the Holy Spirit to help with this.



Discuss the first part of this lesson with your mentor. Review the questions about the four stories. Take a look together at what you wrote down from Matt 5:48 and what you have decided to do about this.



While reading about the life of David, study the attitude of his heart. Are there any moments in which the Holy Spirit has taught you something about your own heart? Discuss this with your mentor.

PRINCIPLE 36

Jesus went ahead of us in becoming perfect. He now lives in us and so does His perfection. We have not achieved this ourselves, but Him in us. A perfect heart can trust, is transparent and broken for God.

