The Ultimate Question

SCRIPTURE

"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Matthew 5:8 (KJV)

DEVOTIONAL

"Have you seen God with your own eyes?" It’s a trick question, isn't it? If an atheist challenged you to prove God's existence by showing Him, you couldn't do it. We cannot pull God down from heaven and say, "Here He is." And yet, the deepest longing of the human heart is to see its Creator.

Jesus addresses this longing in the Beatitudes with a profound promise: "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Notice the condition. He doesn't say "blessed are the intellectuals," or "blessed are the theologians." He says blessed are the pure in heart. Seeing God is not a matter of optics; it is a matter of the heart.

We often think of "seeing" as a physical or intellectual act—seeing Him with our physical eyes. But in the Bible, seeing is often synonymous with understanding or perceiving. To see God means to perceive His character, to understand His nature, and to recognize His hand in the world.

As you start this week, ask yourself: Is my vision of God clouded by the impurities of my own heart? Just as a dirty window obscures the view of a beautiful landscape, a heart cluttered with resentment, pride, or selfishness obscures the view of God. The promise stands firm: if our hearts are purified through Christ, we shall see Him—not just in the future glory, but here and now, in the daily walk of faith.

PRAYER

Lord, I want to see You. I confess that my heart is often cluttered with things that block my view. Cleanse me today. Give me a pure heart so that I may see You in my life. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY / ADDITIONAL BIBLE READING

- Psalm 24:3–6
- Hebrews 12:14
- Exodus 33:18–23
- Exodus 34:5–7
- 1 Timothy 6:15–16

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why does purity of heart matter in the promise of seeing God?

2. Read Psalm 24:3–6. How does this passage deepen today's understanding of God's work in our lives?

3. What would it look like for you to ask God to purify a motive that is not fully surrendered?

No Man Can See My Face

SCRIPTURE

"And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live." Exodus 33:20 (KJV)

DEVOTIONAL

There seems to be a contradiction in Scripture. Jesus says the pure in heart shall see God, yet God tells Moses, "Thou canst not see my face... and live." How do we reconcile this? Is God visible or invisible?

The reality is that God dwells in unapproachable light (1 Timothy 6:16). His glory is a consuming fire. For a sinful human being to stand in the direct, unfiltered presence of the Father would be instant destruction—not because God is angry, but because holiness and sin cannot coexist. It would be like a dry leaf trying to survive inside a blast furnace.

Moses, the meekest man on earth, pleaded, "Show me thy glory." God granted his request but with a protective limitation. He hid Moses in the cleft of the rock and covered him with His hand while His glory passed by. Moses saw the "back parts"—the afterglow of God’s presence—but not His face.

This teaches us a vital lesson about reverence. We must never treat God as common. He is not our "buddy"; He is the Almighty. Yet, in His mercy, He shades our eyes. He reveals as much of Himself as we can bear. He hides us in the "cleft of the rock," His Son Jesus Christ, so that we can see His goodness without being consumed by His majesty.

PRAYER

Almighty God, I tremble at Your greatness. Thank You for hiding me in the Rock, Jesus Christ, so that I can approach You. Help me to never lose my awe of who You are. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY / ADDITIONAL BIBLE READING

- Exodus 33:18–23
- Exodus 34:5–7
- 1 Timothy 6:15–16
- 1 Timothy 6:16
- Matthew 5:8

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What does Moses' encounter reveal about God's holiness and mercy?

2. Consider Exodus 33:18–23. What does this passage add to the main lesson of today's devotional?

3. What would it look like for you to reflect on one aspect of God's character revealed in Scripture?

The Only Begotten Son

SCRIPTURE

"No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." John 1:18 (KJV)

DEVOTIONAL

If no man can see God's face and live, are we doomed to never know Him? No. God solved this problem by sending His Son. John 1:18 tells us that while no man has seen God (the Father) at any time, the only begotten Son has "declared him."

The Greek word for "declared" gives us our English word exegesis—to explain or interpret. Jesus is the exegesis of the Father. He is the explanation of God. The Bible also says that He is the "image" of God. If you want to know what the invisible God looks like, you look at the visible Jesus.

Jesus said to Philip, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9). This doesn't mean Jesus is the Father (they are distinct persons), but that Jesus perfectly reflects the Father's character. When you see Jesus healing the leper, you are seeing the Father's compassion. When you see Jesus forgiving the sinner, you are seeing the Father's mercy. When you see Jesus weeping at Lazarus' tomb, you are seeing the Father's heart.

We don't have to guess what God is like. We don't have to be afraid of a distant, mysterious Deity. We simply have to look at Jesus. He came to bridge the gap between the unapproachable light of heaven and the dusty roads of earth. Through Him, the invisible God became visible.

PRAYER

Father, thank You for sending Jesus to show us Your face. When I look at Him, I see You. Help me to study the life of Christ so that I may know Your heart. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY / ADDITIONAL BIBLE READING

- John 1:14–18
- John 14:7–11
- Hebrews 1:1–3
- John 14:9
- Exodus 33:18–23

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does Jesus make the invisible Father known to us?

2. How does John 1:14–18 help clarify the spiritual principle in today's reading?

3. What would it look like for you to study one action of Jesus as a revelation of the Father?

Seeing Him by Faith

SCRIPTURE

"Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory." 1 Peter 1:8 (KJV)

DEVOTIONAL

Most of us will never see a vision of God like Isaiah or Ezekiel. We won't see the burning bush like Moses. We live in the time of "not seeing." Peter writes to believers who had never physically laid eyes on Jesus, yet he says, "Ye love him."

How can you love someone you have never seen? You love them by knowing them through their word, their actions, and their spirit. We see God today through the eye of faith. Faith is the "evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). It is a spiritual vision that is more reliable than physical sight.

There is a blessing pronounced on those who believe without seeing. Jesus told Thomas, "Because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" (John 20:29). That blessing is for you.

When you open your Bible, you are seeing Him. When you see a prayer answered, you are seeing Him. When you look at the beauty of creation, you are seeing His handiwork. Don't crave a supernatural manifestation; crave a deeper faith. The day is coming when faith will turn to sight, but for now, we walk by faith, rejoicing with joy unspeakable.

PRAYER

Dear Father, I have not seen You, but I love You. I trust You. Strengthen my eyes of faith so that I can see You working in my life even when my physical eyes see nothing. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY / ADDITIONAL BIBLE READING

- 1 Peter 1:3–9
- Hebrews 11:1–6
- 2 Corinthians 5:7
- Hebrews 11:1
- John 20:29

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How can we love and trust Christ even though we do not see Him physically?

2. Read 1 Peter 1:3–9. What connection do you see between this passage and today's Scripture?

3. What would it look like for you to act on a promise of God despite uncertainty?

The Image of God

SCRIPTURE

"In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." 2 Corinthians 4:4 (KJV)

DEVOTIONAL

The enemy of our souls has a specific strategy: blindness. Paul tells us that the "god of this world" (Satan) works to blind the minds of unbelievers. Why? To stop the light of the gospel from shining on them. And what is that light? It is the glory of Christ, who is the "image of God".

Adam was created in the image of God, but that image was marred by sin. Jesus came as the second Adam—the express image of the Father—to restore that image in us. Satan hates this. He hates the image of God. He wants to deface it, distort it, and hide it.

He blinds people with distractions, with false doctrines, with the cares of this life, and with the "winds of strife." He doesn't mind if you are religious, as long as you don't see the true character of God in Christ. Because if you see Him, you will be changed.

We must fight for our sight. We must ask God for the "eye salve" of the Holy Spirit (Revelation 3:18) to heal our blindness. We need to look away from the distractions of the devil and fix our gaze on the Image of God. As we behold Him, the blindness lifts, and the light of the gospel shines into our hearts.

PRAYER

Lord, remove the scales from my eyes. I don't want to be blinded by the god of this world. Let the light of Your gospel shine into my mind. Reveal Your image to me. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY / ADDITIONAL BIBLE READING

- 2 Corinthians 4:4–6
- Colossians 1:15
- 2 Corinthians 3:18
- Revelation 3:18
- 1 Peter 1:3–9

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does beholding Christ help restore the image of God in us?

2. What encouragement or instruction does 2 Corinthians 4:4–6 offer in light of today's devotional?

3. What would it look like for you to meditate on a quality of Christ you want reflected in your life?

We Shall Be Like Him

SCRIPTURE

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is." 1 John 3:2 (KJV)

DEVOTIONAL

This is the ultimate goal of the Christian life. We are not just saved to escape hell; we are saved to be restored. John tells us that when Jesus appears, we shall be "like Him". Why? "For we shall see him as he is."

There is a transforming power in seeing God. Moses' face shone after seeing God's glory. We, too, are changed into the same image from glory to glory as we behold Him (2 Corinthians 3:18). This transformation is not instant; it is a process. But the promise is that on that final day, the restoration will be complete.

We will see Him face to face. Revelation 22:4 says, "They shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads." The name represents the character. So, to see His face is to have His character fully reproduced in us.

Imagine a world where everyone reflects the character of Jesus. No selfishness, no pride, no hate. Just perfect love. That is heaven. And it begins now. When you turn your eyes upon Jesus, you become more like Him. You are preparing for the day when you will see Him as He is.

PRAYER

Father, I long for the day when I will see You face to face. Until then, help me to become like You. Write Your name on my forehead—imprint Your character on my mind. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY / ADDITIONAL BIBLE READING

- 1 John 3:1–3
- Philippians 3:20–21
- Romans 8:29
- 2 Corinthians 3:18
- Revelation 22:4

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How should the promise of becoming like Christ shape our present choices?

2. How does 1 John 3:1–3 support or expand the lesson we have considered today?

3. What would it look like for you to surrender one habit inconsistent with that hope?

Sabbath Summary & Reflection

SCRIPTURE

"And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads." — Revelation 22:4 (KJV)

SABBATH REFLECTION

This week, we have explored the profound theme of "Seeing God." We learned that seeing God requires a "pure heart". We discovered that while God's essential glory is unapproachable, He has revealed Himself fully in "Jesus Christ", the express image of the Father. We saw that we walk by "faith", not by sight, and that by "beholding" Him, we are changed into His likeness.

On this Sabbath, let us rest in the beautiful promise of Revelation 22. The story of the Bible ends with face-to-face communion restored. What was lost in Eden is found in the New Jerusalem.

Reflect: Have you "seen" God this week? In His Word? In nature? In the kindness of others?

Evaluate: Is there any "blindness" in your life—distractions or sins that are blocking your view of Christ?

The Invitation: As you enter a new week, the call is to "Keep Looking."

Practical Application: Next week, make it a practice to look for God's "fingerprints" in your day. When something good happens, say, "I see You, Lord." When you face a trial, ask Him to help you behold His character and trust His presence even when you cannot see what He is doing.

PRAYER

Father, thank You for revealing Yourself to me. I don't want to walk in darkness. I want to walk in the light of Your countenance. Keep my eyes fixed on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of my faith, until the day I see Him face to face. Amen.

FURTHER STUDY / ADDITIONAL BIBLE READING

- Revelation 22:1–5
- Matthew 5:8
- 1 John 3:2–3
- 1 John 3:1–3
- Philippians 3:20–21

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does the hope of seeing God's face connect with the restoration of character?

2. How does Revelation 22:1–5 bring together the spiritual lessons of this week?

3. What would it look like for you to express gratitude for God's promise and pursue one act of Christlikeness?