The Face of God - Peniel

Yesterday I talked to you about Jacob and His experience at the place He called Bethel, which means, the House of God. It was there while he was sleeping with a rock for a pillow that he had a dream of a ladder reaching to heaven with angels ascending and descending on it.

Today I want to call your attention to the second revelation of God which came to Jacob at Peniel, Gen. 32:30 reads, And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel; for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved," This second revelation of God came to Jacob some twenty years after that remarkable experience at Bethel. The Lord had greatly blessed Jacob during his sojourn at Padan-aram, in spite of Laban' intolerant methods. He had passed over the Jordan with only a staff; now he returned with two bands, and a large family, destined to play an important part in the history of the race.

God's dealings with Jacob correspond with two experiences of grace. At Bethel he saw the ladder of Salvation, at Peniel his name was changed from Jacob to Israel. Bethel means the House of God, Peniel means the Face of God. Many earnest souls have had their Bethel experience, but not so many have had their Peniel. It takes heart purity to see the face of God. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."

There are some striking lessons in connection with this Peniel experience which will greatly assist us to understand the way of Holiness. We must ever keep in mind that the things which happened to those Old Testament saints were ensamples, or figures of truth.

First, We see Jacob's dilemma. He was coming back to the old country to meet his brother whom he had wronged; no wonder there was fear in his heart, for the news had reached him that Esau was coming to meet him with a band of four hundred men. God will permit us to get into a strait and a hard place in order that some crooked thing can be straightened out, some misunderstanding cleared up.

The only thing that Jacob could do in his dilemma was to pray. "I am not worthy of the least of the mercies which thou hast shown to thy servant ...Deliver me, I pray thee." Then he relied on the promise of Almighty God, "Thou saidst, I will surely do thee good." We are encouraged to pray in the day of trouble, when there is a problem which we cannot solve, when there is a dread and apprenhensimon regarding the future. If there should arise the memory of some sin committed years ago, some restitution to be made, or perhaps some dark deed that has been carried on the conscience for years, the omly way of deliverance is to call upon God, and the God who delivered Jacob in his distress will deliver you.

Next, we see Jacob's Consecration. Whenever there is sincerity in prayer, and honesty of purpose in our approach to God, there will always come light on our pathway. We see Jacob preparing a substantiol gift for his brother, and he decided to hand over all that he had. There must be a settlement with our relations before our consecration will be acceptable to God. We must be right with our fellow man before we can be fight with God. Some fail because of an imperfect consecration. They hand over many things, but fail to give their ALL.

Jacob realised he had to have the help of almighty God. All of his plans and schems were not good enough. No one else could help him either. He found a place where he could be alone with God. It is a good thing to be alone with God, to shut the door to the outside world, to the people, the cares of business and church activities. It was in that solitary place, when all had been sent over the ford, that there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. After a night, or even a half night of prayer, there always follows untold blessing. At first Jacob thought he was wrestling with a man, but as the night wore on, he found that the Mighty one wrestling with him was none other than God Himself.

This place seemed to Jacob to be a place of defeat. "And when he saw that he prevailed

not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh." God touched him at the very place where naturally he was strongest. Often our self-sufficiency proves to be a hindrance to the Spirit's working through us. The Apostle Paul could say, "When I am weak, then am I strong." Thus God had now conquered Jacob. Are we willing to be conquered in order that Jesus mught have the preeminence, to have no confidence in the flesh, to count all things but refuse to win Christ? "The hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint." There is no longer the glory of the human.

Now this place became a place of desperation. Although Jacob was now rendered helpless, his natural strength gone, yet he held on tenaciously. "Let me go, for the day breaketh," and he said, "I will not let thee go except thou bless me." Jacob was now desperate. It is true that God will test our faith. Jacob refused to be denied, "I will not let thee go." This was the spirit of Elisha who refused to be put off at any stopping place, because he was determined to receive the double portion of his master's spirit, and his desire was granted. There is a faith that will not be denied, and when a soul gets this far, the promised blessing is surely at hand.

In His desperation, this place became a place of honest confession. "And he said unto him, What is thy name? and he said, Jacob." The name of a man meant something in those days. It was a picture of his character, his pisposition, his nature. "My name is Jacob" a supplanter, of in everyday speech, "I am a thief." Under the Divine scrutiny, as we are searched by the Holy Spirit, we get a vision of our own hearts.

"Search all my thoughts, the secret things,
The motives that control;
The chanbers where poluted things
Hold empire o'er the soul"

Let us be as honest in our confession as Jacob was. "What is thy name?" My name is selfishness; my name is worldliness; my name is pride; my name is covetousness - whatever it is, let the Holy Spirit show us the deep-seated roots of carnality.

This place Jacob found to be a place of Transformation. "Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel." No more a supplanter, but a prince of God because he had prevailed with God, his desire had been granted. No man will prevail with men for God until he has learned the secret of prevailing with God for men. Jacob as ked, "Tell me, I pray thee, thy name." What is thy character? What is thy disposition? "And he blessed him there."

"And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved." It is highly important that we, like Jacob, should know the place where He sanctified us. You can know not only the time of your conversion, but also the time and place when the Holy Comforter came in to abide. Have you come to your Peniel? The su sun rose upon him that morning, and the Sun of Righteousness rose with his heart; and later w when he met his brother they embraced, Esau fell on his neck, and they kissed each other.

I would ask you that are listening today a very important question, have you faced God honestly and yeilded yourself completely to Him. If not, He is waiting for you to make a complete consecration to Him. Nothing else will bringt the blessing that you so much desire.

Let us pray, Dear Lord, ther are those today that have problems to hard for them to face. they have tried in their own strenght and knowledge to handle them but have failed. We pray that you will keep talking to them as you did to Jacob until they commit every ting to you. In Jesus nome we pray, Amen.

WLBQ Jan. 11,1982 Morning devotions

The steps we take

This is pastor Ransom Gibbs of the Morgantown Wesleyan Church speaking to you this week through the curtesy of this station and the Butler county Ministerial association.
The new year has begun and we are steping into the unknown. we know the past but the future is kept a secret. This may be a good thing; there maybe some good things that are going to come and again their maybe some very unpleasant things that will happen. One thing we do know that God knows the future as well as the past and for the Christian, He will see to it that all things will turn out alright.

The scripture lesson this morning is found in Psalms 37:23-37

Let us notice the 23rd verse: "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord".

It is hard to take a journey and not know where you are going. How can you find the way if you have no place in mind. Many people drift through life in such a manner. Just whatever suits their fancy for the moment. Then when they come to the end of life's road they realize they have never done anything worth while, just drifted along with the tide with no hope for the future. This is not God's way. The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord.
There may be times in our lives when we cannot see the way but we know that God is leading us and we are sure He knows the way. I am thinking of the great patriarc Abraham, when God called him to leave the Ur of the Chaldees, The call of God was to leave his fathers house and his kinfolks and start out. He evedently had never been to the land of cannon, it says he went out not knowing whether he went. The important thing for Abraham to do was to take one step at a time just trusting his life and future into the hand of almighty God. Steps of faith and trust are always honored by God.

Christopher Clombus had a faith like that whem he sailed out into the unknown. His men doubted and feared and know doubt he was tempted to turn back but he sailed on untill he knelt on the shored of a new world and dedicated it to the Saviour. In His steps followed the Pilgrims to establish a colomy in this new country. Hardships and suffering were their lot but they stayed and had faith to believe in the goodness of God.

The apostle Paul was ordered by the Lord from the time he met Jesus out on the demascus road through his many missionary journeys, through days in prision, through many a beaating, ship wreck, and his final execution in Rome. He could ~~say then~~ then say, the time of my departure is at hand I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord the righteous judge shall give me at that day and not for me only but for all those that love his appearing.

In World Book of William use Story of Booth

A life worthwhile is ordered by the Lord. I heard the story of a man who worked in the mines in the west in the early days of our country. He had worked there for many years when he developed a bad cough. The doctor said that he would have to get out of the mines and that he could not cure him that he had consumption and that he didn't have long to live. He advised him to go up into the mountains of california and see if the high altitude and clean air would help him. this advise he followed but as he thought about death he said to himself. I have never done anything worthwhile in life and now I am about to die / To make a long story short, he lived and was able to help save the giant redwoods from being cut down and made into lumber, so then he felt he had accomplished something worth while before he died

God wants to order our lives for our own good and the good of others. There are 2 kinds of orders God has, General orders that necessary for all christians and Specific orders that He has for each individual. Ist lets look at Gods general orders.

1st there are

The ten commandments. no one can please God and break the ten commandments. They were written on tables of stone on mt. sinia with the finger of God.

Then

Jesus interpretation ~~of them~~ to keep them not only to the letter of the Law but in the spirit of love for it. He that hateth his brother is a murder

When Jesus was asked what was the greatest commandment. He said it was love for God with all hear your mind soul and streagth and your neighbor as yourself

Another general order is to be faithful. "It is required by God that we be faithful. Be thou faithful until death and I will give thee a crown of life. Many a man has worked on a job faithfully for a while always getting their pay check at the end of the week and feeling very secure have gotten careless and fallen down on the job doing poor work waisting time and critising the company. only to find out the boss had knowledge of what was going on so that when payday came he found a notice with his check that he was no longer needed. Too late now to do better and make amends.

When we stand before God we will be rewarded according to our faithfulness. you may not accomplish much in this life according to the evaluation of human reasoning but if you are faithful to use the abilities that God has given you He will say well done thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joys of thy Lord.

God tells us serveal ways we should be faithful: 1. Prayer. Watch and pray always. Witnessing, "Ye are my witnesses saith the Lord". Attending Church,"Not forsaking ourselves togeth but so much the more as ye see the day approaching". Paying our tithe."The tithe is the Lords" Will a man rob God. Ye have robbed me in tithes and offerings.

The second kind of orders are the specific ones. some special work God wants you to do. Some are called to be preachers, some are called to be teachers, some god has given talent to be administrators, some are craftsmen, Homemakers, helpers whereever they are needed.
I heard a bacolaurate sermon once where the mininter said the janitor of his church impressed him as being the best Christian in his whole church. In the building of the temple the Bible makes mention of a craftsman named Bezalel, a skillful artificer raised up of God and appointed to work in gold, silver, copper, and the setting of precious stines, amd the carving of word; the chief architect of the tabernacle.
Many a young mother is doing a great work for God by staying at home and shaping the lives of their children. Sometimes they are tempted to think their work around the house, washing dishes, cleaning the floors , making beds, and a thousand meanial tasks about the house and for the childr as very insignificant. But the saying, the hand that rocks the cradel rules the world is very true and childrens lives are most often shaped by their mother for good or for ill while they are undre her feet.

Whatever specific orders God has for you just remember that they are important and no one can fill your place and always remember to whether it be in word or deed to do all for the glory of God. Your may not preach like peter or pray like Paul but you can so live and work so that others will see Christ in you.

As you started this new year you may be fearful but just remember that the Lord is still our shepherd, and as our good shepherd He always goes before

Poem "~~## ##gay#gi##s#bu#s#eom#~~
As thou goest by step, I will open up the way before thee." Pro. 4:12

Now I want you to listen to this beatiful song I believe

Rejoice

Pg 1

On Radio W L B Q March 15,1981
aug 10, 1982

This is Pastor Ransom Gibbs of the Morgantown Wesleyan Church coming to you again on this 3rd Sunday in March. This is a beautiful day and Spring siggs are very evident. I even saw a Robin gathering dry grass in its bill to make a nest. This is such a happy season of the year, this afternoon I would like to tell of some of the joys of the Christian life. First lets look at the word found in Phil. 1:18. I therein do rejoice, Yea, and will rejoice." the apostle Paul used the word joy or rejoice 17 times in this short letter to the early christians at Philippi.

In England a century and a half ago lived a man whose business was cobbling shoes, He was an earnest Christian and, though he was poor, Christ filled his life with joy, The cobbler had a beautiful, strong voice which from morning till night was raised in cheerful song. His little shop was the last one of a row in the little village, and just beyond there was a mansion surrounded by spacious lawns where lived the richest man of the community. One morning the rich master stepped into the cobbler's shop and complained about the singing. He told the cobbler that if he would cease his singing he would give him twenty pounds. This was more than the cobbler could earn at his trade in several months, and so he closed with the man, and ceased his singing.
At times during the day he would forget and start singing when the overflow of joy in his heart would be strong. but then he remembered the bag where those gold pieces rested. Strangely enough, when he went home there was gloom in his heart, and he did not feel like singing. In the morning he woke with a sense of oppression - he could not sing that day. Through the day the gloom mounted till late in the afternoon he could stand it no longer. He locked up his shop, went to the rich man's home, and handed to him the sack of gold pieces. "Here," said the cobbler, "take this money. I dare not lose the benefit I get from singing about my Saviour. When I sing, my joy seems to grow." He had hardly got back to his little shop till his song of joy and praise arose again. This story makes me think of the words of the song. "Oh the joy of sins forgiven, Oh, the bliss the blood washed know, Oh, the peace akin to heaven where the healing waters flow." Then too I am reminded of 1 Pet. 1:8) Ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:" These men did not have it easy in life, persecutions and hardship were with them every where they went but through it all they had found the secret of joy and happiness which can only be found in Christ Jesus our Lord.
The flock of sheep cared for by the boy David must have heard many of the songs he sang out on the hillsides of Judea. He was one who liked to make a joyful noise unto the Lord and serve the Lord with gladness as we find in the 100th Psalm. He liked to come before God's presence with singing, He liked to be joyful and bless His name.

I heard a minister recently say that he saw so many people in his congregation that seemed to have no joy. This is not a healthy state as a Christian. Paul said, "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice." He was emphasizing the fact that praise is a healthy way for a Christian to live. He gives his secret for joy in this 4th ch. of Phil. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoeverthings are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things . . . . and the God of peace shall be with you.

There is a saying, "You are what you eat." If you eat the right kinds of food your body will most likely be strong and healthy, but if you just eat junk foods you will be sick and weak. This same Idea can apply to our spiritual health,"You are what you fill your mind with. If you read good books of strengh, courage and faith you will be like that but if you read books full of fear and dreadfull things you will be full of worry fear and dread.

The world today is so full of unhappiness and dread that many people have lost hope.

The Bible is the greatest book of hope.

Jesus came to the World saying Come unto me all ye that a re weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest, take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall rest to your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light. He came as the the prance of peace to all that call upon Him in truth.

Many years ago the noted Hindu Christian, Sadhu Sundar Singh, was arrested and sentenced to torture. The local prison was full of criminals, so Sundar was taken to a vile-smelling cowhouse. His clothes were taken from him, and dozens of jungle leeches were thrown on his naked body. Singh prayed and a great peace came upon him. He no longer felt the pain and began to sing hymns of praise. As a crowd gathered around him, he began to witness and speak of Christ. in the crowd was the man who had caused his arrest. He turned to the jailer and asked, "What do you think of this man who is so happy although he is suffering?" "He must be mad," replied the jailer. But he who had instigated the persecution said "If by becoming insane one could get such wonderful peace as this, then I also should like to become crazy. And not only myself, but I should like to see the whole world insane, for this kind of insanity would change the world into Paradise." When torture did not silence Singh, he was released and went through the town preaching Christ.

In Sunday School we often sing the song Heavenly Sunshine. This is surely what the World needs today. ##### In the biography of old "Uncle Johnson." a black man from Virginia, who died in Michigan at the almost incredible age of one hundred and twenty! He never would have lasted so long if he had not carried about with him that cheerful heart that doeth good like a medicine. One day, when he was at work in his garden, singing and shouting, his pastor looked over the fence and said: "Uncle, you seem very happy to-day." "Yes, I was just h thinging." "What are you thinking about." "Oh! I was just thinking" (and the tears rolled down his face) - "I was thinking that if the crumbs of joy that fall from the Master's table in the world is so good, what will the great loaf in glory be! I tell you, sir, there will be enough and to spare up there."

One said to him: "Uncle Johnson, why don't you get into our meetings once in a while.?" He answered; "Sir, I want to be there but I can't behave myself." "You can't behave?" "Well, Sir, of late years the flesh is getting weak; and when they go to talk and sing about Jesus, I begin to fill up, and prety soon I have to holler, and then some one'll sau, Carry that man out the door, he disturbs the meeting." "But you should hold in till you get home. "Oh, I can't hold in! I bust if I don't holler." This jubulant old negro lived in literal dependence ond God. When a gift was made to him, he received it as if sent to him by Elijah's ravens. "When I want anything, I just ask the Lord, and He is sure to send it, sometimes before I'm done asking, and then sometimes He holds back, just to see if I trust Him."
One of the last things remembered of him was the message he gave to a minister who came to see him, when he was "Waitin' for the charoit of the Lord." "Oh, Sir," said he, "if you gets home before I do, tell them to keep the table standing for old Johnson is holdin' on on his way. I'm bound to be there."

The Bible says, "The joy of the Lord is our strenght." This is certainly true. This joy comes by simple trust and obedience to the saviour. As the song says "Trust and obey, for theres no other way, to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey.

May God grant you joy and peace as you yeild your lives to His wonderous care.

WLBQ
7-2-81
5-31-85

God's Greatest Gifts

Sunday
6-11-80

1

I am Pastor R. V. Gibbs of the Morgantown Wesleyan Church. Thanks to station WLBQ for this time for the Ministerial asso.

Let us look ~~at~~ this morning at a scripture found in Luke 11: 9-13.

V. 13 is what I want to speak to you about this morning.

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him."

If ye then, being evil.." Evil you won't deny it, will you?

Not altogether evil, of course, not evil in everything, not utterly bad... but evil nevertheless, murky in your motives, stained in your actions, and often acquainted with sin.

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children... know how to give good gifts unto your children? yes, we know that! what a strange, almost fierce thing, is parental love! a normal father or mother would give anything - lifetime

for the good of the child.

How often I have known this to happen. Here is a bright son and he has set his mind on going to College. His parents have very little money laid aside, the only way the boy could go to College was for them to give all they had stored for there future to him. They give it willingly, cheerfully, eagerly. ~~This~~ ~~my wife's parents are~~ When my wife was just a little girl she loved to try to play the piano. Her mother and father noticed this and determined they would see that she had music lessons. times were hard and they had such a small salary, but her mother found a way, she did washings, ironings and sometimes gave board and room for a wonderful ~~the~~ piano teacher. They wanted the best for their child and they were rewarded for she did learn to play and their sacrifice has greatly blessed her life and the lives of others.

It is the nature of parents to give like that to their children.

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?"

"Look into your hearts" Jesus says "you know how you feel toward your children. God feels much much more than that, ever so much more; and therefore, He will give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him."

The Holy Spirit is the greatest Gift that God can give

The sick want health, the poor want money, the lonely want companionship. But none of these comes first. The Holy Spirit is the greatest Gift that God can give. all other gifts that He can give are bound up in this. Not even God can give you more, for when He gives you the Holy Spirit He gives you himself.

Many do not really know what their needs are and cry aloud for things that bring no lasting satisfaction

But the wise person finds that all their desires are met by the Spirit of God.

Someone says I want love, I or love I sigh. He wants love! Listen! "The fruit of the Spirit is love."

Here is someone asking for joy. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy....

another person wants peace. I am restless and troubled within. I don't ~~want~~ ask much of life I just want a bit of peace. Do you want peace, listen, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace...." and not only that but "patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

When you have the Spirit, you have everything worth possessing. The Holy Spirit is the greatest Gift God can give When He gives the Holy Spirit, He gives all Precious things with Him. When He gives the Spirit, He gives himself.

What would a good father most desire to give his child. Surely it would be this - that his child should share his dearest aims and purposes.

He would have his child to grow to love what he has loved: cherish the ideals which have been nearest to his own heart; serve the Cause to which his own life has been given. He would desire to impart something of his own spirit to his child. Now, if that is what we men and women would desire for our children, how much more would our Heavenly Father wish it!

He would have us come into increasing fellowship with His own thoughts and purposes. God would like to make you ~~an~~ the model of His Son. He would love to give you the best Gift of all – the Holy Spirit – and to see the fruit of the Spirit appear in you.

We are often asking God for things things which are only temporary and passing with time. But we should above all ask ~~the~~ for the greatest of all gifts. The Holy Spirit

A beggar once sought an audience of Alexander the Great. Alexander made it a boast that his subjects

could approach him at any time. When the beggar appeared, he was not only beggarly; but seemed demanding. Without fear or apology, he asked for a farm for himself, a dowry for his daughter, and an education for his son. To the surprise of the Court alexander gave him all three, and when his ministers expressed amazement to him afterwards, he said: "Oh, I get weary of these people who come in only asking me for a gold piece. ~~That~~ That saucy beggar treated me like a king. He asked big

Ask big! When you speak to God, ask for the Holy Spirit. This ~~is~~ a gift God won't refuse. Jesus was very plain on this point. "Ask and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

We can pray for things knowing that He wills them, and things we may pray for, but without the same certainty that ~~He means to do this thing~~ it is His will.

We can pray for money. There is no divine law against it. another $100 a week might be God's will for you and it might not be. God will give you what is best. I have known people who have missed their way by getting more money than they could wisely handle.

We can pray for health. It is hard to think that God wills disease for anyone. Don't stop praying for someone's health, Even when the doctor gives him up, you don't have to. There are plenty of people enjoying good health whom the doctors gave up years ago.

Yet, while God does not send disease to the faithful, it cannot be denied that He permits it. The saints have been subject to sickness. Even Paul had his thorn in the flesh.

It is good to pray for health but let us not accuse God of unfaithfulness if it leaves us and say he has forgotten us.

But when we pray for the Holy Spirit we are praying for God's best gift and one He won't refuse. He has pledged this He is even longing to give us the Holy Spirit. He says ask and ye shall

receive that your joy may be full.

Heavenly Father we thank you for sending Jesus to redeem us from sin. we thank you for the comforter, the Holy Spirit whom Jesus promised would come to guide us into all truth. be with any today who are needing the Holy Spirit and may they receive Him by faith today In Jesus name we pray amen

Song Come Holy Spirit

WI-BQ
June 29 - July 3
5-30-85

Heart Purity

Thursday

1

The Scripture lesson this morning is found in Matt 5:1-12

I would like to speak to you from V 8 "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."

We love to see things that are pure. The clear blue sky is something we all enjoy. When I lived in Calif. the sky was seldom blue but usually a hazy gray. From the bay for ~~Here in R.J.~~ ~~the sky is~~ its a beautiful blue sky.

The pure white daizies are in bloom now. Did you ever wonder how they could be so white coming from the dirty black soil?

Pure clear dew on the grass I saw it this morning glittering like precious jewels in the sun. God knows how to make things pure and clean. The sun can evaporate the ~~the~~ old dirty water from ponds and cesspools and make it ~~pure~~ free from all filthyness as it goes up form the white clouds that

provide us pure rain water.
Then in the winter its the
beautiful snow flakes
yet there is something more pure
than that. What could it be?
David the king said "wash me
and I shall be whiter than snow.
Even snow has little particals
of dust in it. If you have ever
melted snow you have probably noticed
it in the bottom of the kettle.
1John 1:7 says The blood of Jesus Christ
cleanseth us from all sin. Not just
some of our sin but all of our sin.
God loves purity. He desires us to
be pure and Holy.
Psalms 24:3-5 says "Who shall ascend
into the hill of the Lord? or who shall
stand in His holy place, He that hath
clean hands and a pure heart; who hath not
lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn
deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from
the Lord, and righteousness from the God
of his salvation."

In order for us to be accepted of God we must have clean hands and a pure heart.

The first two boys on earth, Cain and abel each brought an offering unto the Lord but abels offering was accepted and Cain's was rejected. He asked God why. God told him it was because sin lay at his door.

It is the giver who determines the worth or worthlessness of the gift. a mother that washes a white piece of linen and while ironing it finds a dirty blotch on it, will not use it but will reject it and wash it again.

Who cares for food if he sees the hands that prepare it are dirty. Some might say, well we are living in a dirty filthy world How then can we be pure. If God can make

the lily white and pure and clean that has come from the dirty black soil. Can't God wash you and make you whiter than snow.

Every gift is welcome to the Lord if offered with clean hands and a pure heart. a penny, or a cup of cold water or our daily labor, or the first fruits of garden or field.

So it is with everything we offer to the Lord. a song of praise makes sweet music in the hearing of our God if it comes from pure lips. Purity, Thomas a Kempis says, gives the wings which carry everything into the Fathers presence.

If God wants a pure people than the question is asked. How can we be pure. We were born in sin. all have sinned. There is none righteous no not one. In order to be pure we must first see our sinfulness and confess it to God.

David said "I acknowledge my transgression; and my sin is ever before me." He had once been a man after Gods own heart. He had played his harp and sang the Songs of Zion. Then he commited the awful sin of adultery then tried to cover up his sin and Commited murder. yet he humbled himself, confessed and repented of his sins and God forgave him. God has promised to you who may be listing this morning. Tho your sins be as scarlet they shall be as white as snow, tho they be red like crimson they shall be as wool. Is 1:18 But you must confess and forsake before purity will come to you.

Sin that is unconfessed shuts out the energies of grace.

When I acknowledge my sin I begin to enter into the knowledge of pardon, joy and peace But if I

hide my sin I also hide myself from the unsearchable riches of Christ.
1 John 1:9 says "If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
Satan strengthens his awful chains when he can induce me to keep silence concerning my sin. But all his plans are thrown into confusion as soon as I pour out my soul before the Lord.
Once we have been cleansed and made pure God wants us to live in holiness and ~~true holiness~~ righteousness before Him all the days of our lives. Luke 1:75
We are kept by the power of God
Jesus said 'all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
He said my grace is sufficient for thee
Let us not excuse ourself for sin but plead the blood of Jesus to keep us by the power of God. and hear Him say to us blessed are you become your heavenly Father
Long to be like this

Let us pray; Heavenly Father We know you want us to be like you in Holiness and Purity. We know we cannot be pure without your Cleasing power so we pray for each and every one listening today that they might have a pure heart. Help them to yeild everything to you and let you have complete charge of their lives through the power of the Holy Spirit In Jesus name we pray amen.