

Virgo: Purity

"Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." Mrs. Nelson read the passage to her Sunday School class and put down the Bible. "You've all heard this quoted many times," she said, "but I wonder if you can tell me what it really means. What does being 'pure in heart' signify to you?"

After a pause, Ron spoke up. "I suppose it means thinking only thoughts that are good — that aren't against anybody or anything."

"And it means not letting yourself get contaminated by things around you that are evil or bad," added Mimi. "Like, if somebody says something mean against another person, you should close your mind to that and right away think of something good about that person."

"It really means being clean inside, doesn't it?" asked Terry. "I mean, like Mimi said, not to get contaminated by bad things around you. So many people think it's 'in' to do things like read off-color books or see off-color movies, when really all that does is to gratify lower desires, even if you think you would never *do* things like that yourself. If you get such thoughts and pictures in your mind, even just a little bit, you're already not nearly as pure as you should be."

"Doesn't it also mean to work *consciously* at being pure?" Dave chimed in. "Ron said we have to think thoughts that are good, but we won't unless we work at it. I mean, lots of times I think our minds are sort of blank, and pick up anything that happens to come along, or don't think much of anything, and the thought forms aren't really good or bad — they're just blah. That's not really being *pure* in heart, either. I think when you're really pure in heart you have to make a point of keeping your thoughts on good, pure things

all the time. After you keep this up consciously for a long time, maybe it begins to come about unconsciously and you don't have to try so hard, but at first I think you do have to work at it."

"Do you think we are really pure in heart if we have still to work at it?" asked Mrs. Nelson.

Dave looked a little startled as he considered the question. "No — no, I guess not," he said thoughtfully. "I think I see what you mean. It's only when the good thoughts and good feelings come about naturally and continually, by themselves, that we are really pure inside. I guess as long as we work at them consciously, we are heading in the right direction, but real *purity* is spontaneous. Is that it?"

"Well, what do the rest of you think?" Mrs. Nelson smiled.

"I think that if you are really pure and clean inside, you shouldn't have to stop and decide whether what you are saying or thinking or doing or experiencing is worthy and good or not. You sort of know it automatically, and there's never a question in your mind about whether you ought to engage in some particular act or thought or not. You just *feel* the answer without having to ask the question," Jean contributed.

"It seems to me," mused Dennis, "that the person who is really pure in heart would also automatically be very compassionate and understanding of other people. He couldn't be selfish, or jealous, or angry, or anything like that, because those feelings are corrupt. I think the only pure emotion must be those which are spiritual or — what is that word? — altruistic. And if he has only feelings like that, then he couldn't help always being kind and humane."

"In other words," prompted Mrs. Nelson, "you think purity is an active state of being, rather than just a passive one."

“Yes,” Dennis brightened, “I guess that’s what I’m trying to say. If you’re really pure in heart you wouldn’t be able to stand by and see other people suffer — and I guess you’d be pretty miserable watching other people being *impure*, too, and see what they’re doing to themselves. You’d probably be awfully busy trying to help people, and getting them to help themselves.

“I guess a really pure person is surrounded with a beautiful aura all the time,” ventured Anne. “His Golden Wedding Garment must be well developed, and even though most people can’t see the light, I’m



sure anyone who’s at all sensitive would be able to feel some wonderful vibrations coming from such a person. I think just the presence of such a person would somehow influence other people to think better thoughts and do better deeds, even if just for a little while.”

“Yes, Anne, I think you’re quite right,” Mrs. Nelson broke in. “Such a person could certainly not be overlooked, no matter where he might be. Well, I’m sorry to end this very fruitful discussion, but time is getting short. You’ve mentioned many facets of the concept of purity, and I’m sure others will occur to you as you think about it, which I hope you will. Purity is applicable in all phases of life, and only when we have learned to live continually within its context will we have become truly ‘pure in heart.’”