

# Grace and Jay Ministry

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### Blessed Are the Pure in Heart

Jay Christian Huynh

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

With each year, God brings blessings to those who love Him and observe His Word. The blessings of God, such as salvation, can be only obtained through faith in God and the obedience of His Word.

*"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." (Proverbs 9:10).*

Although faith and obedience to God is important and necessary, God rewards those who work towards their goals. God would not bless the lazy when they are not willing to do anything. Those who invest their time and effort into what they do, along with their investment of time into God, will be rewarded by God with success. During my sophomore year, I was able to enter the top ten percent of my class with a 4.0 average and honor roll. Although studying helped me make good grades, I would not have done as well as I did without the help of God. God certainly does help those who study and follow His Word, invest time into their work, and seek God for help.

*"He will bless them that fear the Lord, both small and great." (Psalm 115:13).*

There are certain limits to what we can or cannot do, such as how Adam and Eve had access to the whole Garden of Eden, but were not permitted to eat fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. While we can do many things, not all things are permitted or even useful. That is why we must be aware of what God wants us to do. He always knows what is best, even when we cannot see why what looks safe could actually be dangerous to us.

*"All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any." (I Corinthians 6:12).*

*"All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not." (I Corinthians 10:23).*

While God gives us freedom on how our time is spent, we should always remember that getting our priorities straight is important. God, as always, should be the top priority and we can fulfill our duty to Him daily whether it is by reading His Word or praying. Otherwise, how can God bless those who put other things above Him? Everything else should follow after God when making priorities. Friends and family should be a high priority, too. If a friend or family is in need, all other things should be dropped. Nothing, except God, could be more important than family or friends. Family and friends are the people who support you and love

you no matter what. Family and friends are also the people who watch and protect you.

Studies are also important since it should help you in the future when looking for a college or a job. Entertainment is something to be considered when it comes down to time management. If you have homework, it is common sense to finish your homework before doing any fun activities. If the fun activities consume all of your time, you won't be able to do your homework which would lead to bad grades. Entertainment and studying for school are not as important as your spiritual health and time that is dedicated to God.

*"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."* (Joshua 1:8).

Another issue that should be addressed concerns the kinds of entertainment that Christians can enjoy. As our bodies are the temples of God, we should try to keep it safe and pure from any harm. While God permits many things, God doesn't support anything detrimental to a person's health. We may eat many things on earth, but we obviously should not eat anything that is unholy, such as food dedicated to idols, or even eat too much food in an unhealthy manner.

*"Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded."* (Titus 2:6).

*"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."* (1 Peter 1:15-16).

Another example would be drinking alcohol, (if you are legally able to do so). While drinking alcohol isn't a sin, drinking too much of it in a drunken manner is sinful and bad for health. In addition to that example, smoking, no matter the amount, is harmful to your health. If you know something is sinful or bad for your health, then don't do it.

*"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit."* (Ephesians 5:18).

*"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are."* (I Corinthians 3:16-17).

In regard to some other forms of entertainment like music, movies, and video games, there are genres to avoid, such as rock music that is dedicated to Satan. Sometimes, what is good or bad is not so obvious. For these cases, praying and reading the Bible is an excellent way to learn what is good or bad. God will guide His children away from evil if they seriously seek His counsel. The Holy Spirit will also help you sense whether something is righteous or sinful. If you have to question whether or not what you are listening to or watching is unholy, you better avoid it until you can be sure it is holy.

*"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."* (Romans 12:1-2).

Life of a Christian in a world of evil requires constant vigilance in avoiding sin. This may not always be easy, but God will help His children when they are in need of assistance. Friends

and family, who also believe in God, will also be able to help you if you ever need it. An example from my life would be how my mother constantly watches me in order to help me avoid sin. Satan, being a powerful enemy, can sometimes be quite overwhelming, but remember that God is the supreme power and that He will help those who call on His name. While God is able to help you, you must also do your part to be cautious and avoid sin.

*“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22).

*“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”* (1 Peter 5:8).

I would like to thank my family for their overall support of me, and to specifically thank my mother for her vigilance in ensuring my sister and I avoid any opportunities for sin. Lastly, I would also like to thank the people who support my parents' ministry. I wish everyone a happy New Year in God's Grace!

*“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

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