

Daily Devotional by Dr. Gloria P. Holmes

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"Gateway to God's Glory in the Midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic"

"CLEAN HEARTS"

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Psalm 51:10

This prayer is one of the beautiful and important prayers of King David. I am sure that many of us have prayed his prayer asking God to create in us a clean heart. I know I have, because clean hearts matter! A clean heart is a pure heart. One of the beatitudes Jesus taught His disciples in Matthew 5:8 states: **"Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God."** While we have seen so many sad situations and heard so much bad news and distressing comments during this coronavirus pandemic, we have also witnessed so many people who apparently have clean hearts. Of course, we cannot say for certain, but there are many examples of individuals who are putting the health and welfare of others before themselves. They are showing *agape* love in action. The super sacrifices made by so many frontline workers and first responders have been heartwarming, uplifting and encouraging. I know that we all are praying for these sisters and brothers all over the world who exemplify clean hearts by the love they are showing to their fellow man. In Psalm 51:2, David says: **"Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin."** Yes, washing and cleanliness are especially important concepts for Christians, especially as it relates to having a clean heart.

Do you remember ever hearing this saying? "Cleanliness is next to Godliness." Of course, this frequently quoted comment was used to stress the importance of Godliness and maintaining cleanliness of both our physical bodies and our surroundings. God is first and cleanliness is a close companion. One church marquee makes the point: "As you sanitize your hands, be sure to sanitize your hearts." I agree. As Christians, we have a responsibility to provide as much light as we can shine during this challenging time. Therefore, let's resolve to think clean thoughts; think positive rather than negative thoughts. Let's resolve to speak clean words, words that edify and lift, not tear down. One hymnist recorded these words: **"Give me a clean heart, so I may serve Thee. Lord, fix my heart so that I may be used by Thee. For I'm not worthy of all these blessings! Give me a clean heart, and I'll follow Thee."**

Prayer

Dear Lord,
We ask You to create within us clean hearts. In a world filled with much misery and strife, we want to model love, kindness and goodness for Your glory. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

How will you respond to today's message?
