

Becoming a Useful TOOL in God's Hand

Growing into a vessel of honor / A useable instrument; 2 Timothy 2:22, part 2

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Introduction:

#1 A sharp tool will have a CLEANSED life ^{21a}

21a Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor

#2 A sharp tool will desire a SANCTIFIED heart ^{21b}

21b sanctified

#3 A sharp tool will pursue becoming USEFUL to God ^{21c}

21c useful to the Master

#4 A sharp tool will choose to do WORKS for God ^{21d}

21d prepared for every good work.

#5 A sharp tool will develop a _____ heart ²²

22 Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

1st Believers develop purity by _____

22 Now flee from youthful lusts

What are a few methods of FLEEING?

PREPARE in advance for tempting situations

PLAN your environment

Romans 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provisions for the flesh in regard to its lust.

Proverbs 27:12 A prudent man sees evil and hides himself, The naive proceed and pay the penalty.

PICK your people carefully

1 Corinthians 15:33 Do not be deceived, bad company corrupts good morals.

PONDER your appearance

POUNCE on your thoughts

Philippians 4:8 whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.

PARALYZE your glances

Job 31:1 I have made a covenant with my eyes; How then could I gaze at a virgin?

Psalms 101:3 I will set no vile thing before my eyes.

1 Corinthians 6:18 Flee immorality

The fruitful believer will make difficult choices to become useful.

2nd Believers develop purity by _____

22 Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Four positive attributes

<i>righteousness</i>	doing what is right	<u>man-ward</u>
<i>faith</i>	depending on the Lord	<u>Godward</u>
<i>love</i>	devotion to the Lord	<u>outward</u>
<i>peace</i>	delighting in the Lord	<u>inward</u>

Psalm 119:9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy word.

RIGHTEOUSNESS

FAITH

LOVE

PEACE

Romans 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

THOSE WHO CALL ON THE LORD

Romans 10:13 for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

1 Corinthians 1:1-2 saints by calling, with all who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

FROM A PURE HEART

Take home:

A. Seek _____ first

1 John 3:2 We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. *3* And every one who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

B. Purity starts _____

Mark 7:20 That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man *21* For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries *23* All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man.

Matthew 5:27-28 You have heard it said, "You shall not commit adultery"; but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Proverbs 28:13 He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.

C. Purity is _____

QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH IN CHRIST

1. How do you see Christians struggling with LUST other than sexual lust?
2. Why do so few believers give focused attention to FLEEING and FOLLOWING?
3. What practical steps do you need to take to FLEE your particular strong desires?
4. What practical steps do you need to take to FOLLOW AFTER Christlike attributes to develop a pure heart?
5. What does a Christian look and act like who is truly PURE IN HEART?
6. What part of the sermon and passage was MOST impactful to you and why?
7. How badly do you desire to be a useful TOOL (an honorable vessel) in God's hands for His glory?

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