



Devotional - 1

Who may climb the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? Only those whose hands and hearts are pure, who do not worship idols and never tell lies. They will receive the Lord's blessing and have a right relationship with God their Savior. Psalm 24:3-5

There is an equity maxim that states, "He that comes into equity must come with clean hands". This requires the court to deny equitable relief to anyone who has violated good faith with respect to the matter they have brought to court. In one very old case, a robber filed a suit in court against his business partner whom he claimed had not accounted for money within the business. In truth he was claiming that his fellow robber had not accounted for their stolen money. The judges refused to hear the case when the facts were discovered, and all persons involved were penalized including the lawyers.

Similarly, God being a righteous judge cannot listen to anyone whose hands and hearts are impure. He has laid down certain principles regarding obtaining blessings and having a right relationship with Him. The first principle is found in who may climb the mountain of the Lord meaning who may be granted access to the presence of God. The second is who may stand in His holy place which refers to being given audience before God. Access and audience are denied to those whose hands and hearts are impure Whose hands and hearts have been defiled by worshipping of idols and telling lies.

An idol is anything that takes the worship of God in one's life. When we exalt anything in the place of God we make that object our god. A friend or spouse whose wisdom you constantly seek before God can be an idol; the inability to let go of food in a season of fasting may indicate idolatry. Perhaps it may be a job, or a car, or even ministry where if taken away one would utterly lose themselves. When we place our trust, hope and stability in such things, they become idols.

Just as worshipping idols defiles one, so does telling lies, even small white ones. The scripture tells us that one of the seven things the Lord detests is a lying tongue. Worshipping idols and lying defiles a person and denies them access and audience with God.

An indicator that both access and audience has been denied is sometimes unanswered prayer, resistance to worship being offered to God and closed doors in one's life. But for those who purify their hands and hearts a blessing and a right relationship with God awaits them.

Reflection Questions

1. What/Who have you idolized in your life?
2. Which lies are you continuously holding onto despite knowing that God detests them?
3. How can you cleanse yourself from impure hands and a defiled heart?