

Knowledge vs Faith!

KNOWledge

noun: **knowledge**; plural noun: **knowledges**

1.

facts, information, and skills acquired by a person through experience or education; the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject.

true, justified belief; certain understanding, as opposed to opinion.

2.

awareness or familiarity gained by experience of a fact or situation.

Faith

noun: **faith**

1.

complete trust or confidence in someone or something.

What is the difference between knowledge and faith? _____

How does knowledge lead to faith? _____

“A man can accept what Christ has done without knowing how it works; indeed, he certainly won’t know how it works until he’s accepted it.”

CS Lewis

“Teach me knowledge and good judgment,
for I believe in your commands.”

Psalm 119:66

Faith surpasses knowledge
because it trusts when
knowledge runs short.

Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego

When knowledge leads to faith

The story of Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego is a wonderful example of how our knowledge of God and his character directs us to faith. Their actions so their pure hearts and the pure and righteous intentions. Please take a few moments to read this story in Daniel 3

How do you think the condition of their heart affected their response to the decree to worship the golden statue?

A pure heart responds to its God above all else. What does these men's answer to King Nebuchadnezzar reveal about their heart?

"Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego replied to the king, 'O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter.'"

Daniel 3:16

"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king."

Daniel 3:17

A pure heart has lots of room for faith. If you were faced with this same challenge, do you think your response would be the same as these three men's? What would your response be?

"But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

Daniel 3:18

A pure heart has a different set of standards and a different concept as to what is truly important. What do these men reveal about what they cherish as important by this statement?

“For God, who said, ‘Let light shine out of darkness,’ made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”

2 Corinthians 4:6

We can only have a pure heart when we have a right relationship with God. Otherwise our sins get in the way.

Please read Psalm 24:3-6.

Who does this verse say may be in God’s presence?

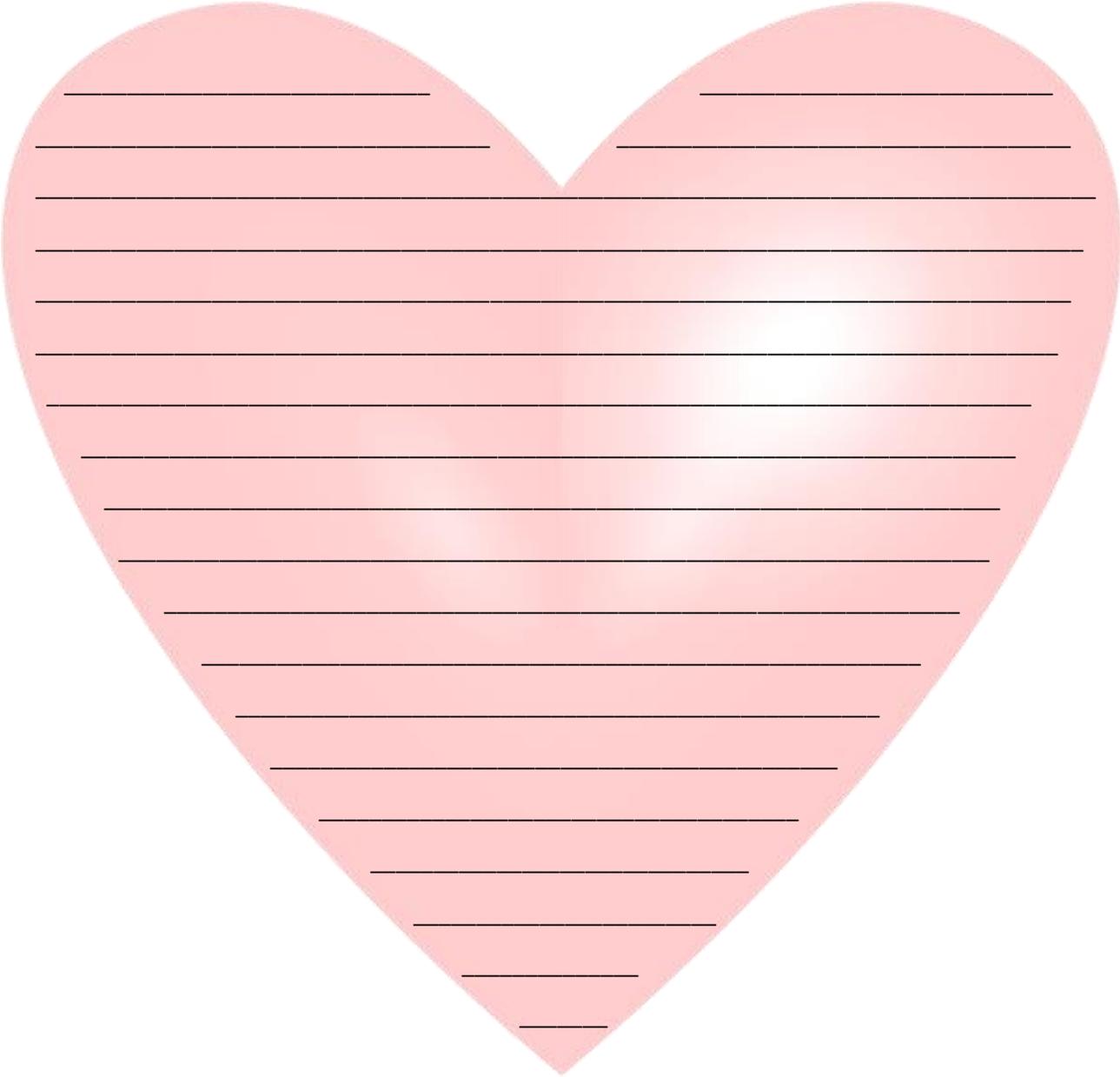
Why would it require a pure heart to have a right relationship with God?

Have you ever noticed a time when anger, jealousy, or evil desires have kept you from drawing close to God? How can giving God your fears and sin help you grow closer to God?

“Does the promise find its fulfilment only in the beatific vision of the saints in glory, seeing God as He is, knowing even as also we are known? Doubtless there, and there only, will be the full fruition which now we wait for; but “purity of heart,” so far as it exists, brings with it the power of seeing more than others see in all through which God reveals Himself—the beauty of nature, the inward light, the moral order of the world, the written word, the life and teaching of Christ. Though we see as yet ‘through a glass,’ as in a mirror that reflects imperfectly, yet in that glass we behold ‘the glory of the Lord’.”

John Ellicott

If there is something in your heart, some worry or temptation or sin, that keeps you from being able to 'see God', take a few minutes to lay it all out before the Lord. He already knows our struggles and failures. Repentance does more for cleaning our hearts than trying to hide our sins or ignore them. Allow to to take them and wash you clean. Then your heart will be pure and you will be blessed.

A large, light pink heart shape is centered on the page. Inside the heart, there are 18 horizontal black lines of varying lengths, arranged to provide space for writing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across most of the width of the heart at each level.