

# Daily Prayer

SUNDAY, JULY 5

Today's prayer is based on I Timothy 1.5, ESV.

*The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.*

Heavenly Father,

What an incredible goal you have in mind for me!

You want me to love!

That is the end game you have for me - to bring me out of myself  
to a point where I naturally and habitually act for others before myself.

And it is not just my outward, observable behavior you want to affect -  
you want that love to flow from *a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith.*

Lord, there is so much emphasis in your Word  
on the un-trustworthiness of my heart,  
how do I *purify* my heart?

Another point amply attested to by your Word is, *I can't.*

I have to accept by faith that you are at work in me purifying my heart.

That seems to be as close to purity as I am going to get in this life -  
an HONEST heart, that sees the problem clearly,  
does not dodge it,  
and yet still trusts your declaration that *you* will handle it.

*A good conscience?* Really? How on earth am I going to achieve that?

My conscience is already seared.

My memory needs to be wiped.

And yet you, Lord, have promised  
that you yourself will not remember my sins.

This is another faith function, isn't it?

You are asking me to trust that,  
so long as I am as honest as I can be with you,  
you will forgive - and forget - and supply anything lacking.

Lord, almost everyone I know considers their faith to be sincere.

As a matter of fact, our country seems to believe  
that sincerity matters more than content.

Somehow that does not seem right to me.

I think you want me to believe something specific - your truth,  
*and* to hold it sincerely.

And I already know I am not a completely reliable judge  
of my own sincerity.

Trust again. Believe again. Rely on you - again.

Father, if my heart is to be pure,  
my conscience good,  
my faith sincere -  
and then from that base I am to *love*,  
it will have to be by you working in me.  
I will have to trust that *you* can make me good, pure, sincere,  
and that *you* can love through me,  
for Jesus and His kingdom's sake. Amen.

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The believing person has the Holy Spirit; and where the Holy Spirit lives, He will not allow us to be idle, but the Spirit inspires and motivates us, lifts us up to all exercises of piety and godliness, and of true religion, to the love of God, to the patient suffering of afflictions, to prayer, to thanksgiving, and the exercise of charity - love - towards all.

- Martin Luther