

## On Target Faith, part 1

1 Timothy 1:5, 18-19

### Partial Targets of our Faith:

- We just want to get to **heaven**—have eternal life.
- We want to be **happier**—better adjusted persons.
- We want to be **forgiven**—get over our pasts.

### More on target goals:

Learning the Bible to **live** the Bible's message.

Living God's **love**:

*The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.* —1 Timothy 1:5

### Living God-like love:

- **Caring** for others.
- **Preference** for others.
- Sacrificial service for **benefit** others.

**Prayer:** Lord, give me a heart for others. Make me useful and a blessing to others.  
Help me to put the needs of others before my selfish desires.

### 1. **Pure** Heart

Pure: καθαρος *kath-ar-os'*

Pure means free from every mixture of what is **false** and insincere.

**Heart**—denotes the center of all physical and spiritual life, the soul or mind, as it is the fountain and seat of the thoughts, passions, desires, appetites, affections, purposes, endeavors.

### John Wesley spoke of Christian perfection:

- Perfected in **Love**.
- Perfect in desire and **motive**.
- **Not** always perfect in **performance**.

**Prayer:** O Lord, forgive me of my sins, my sinful ways, and cleanse me.  
Give me a heart for you and for others that I might be a blessing.

## 2. **Good** Conscience

**Good:** ἀγαθος *ag-ath-os'*

Simply means pleasant, agreeable, joyful, and happy.

In a better sense means excellent, distinguished, upright, and honorable.

**Conscience:** συνειδησις *soon-i'-day-sis*

- with insight, perception, with the mind, understanding.

Part of the soul, mind, person that **distinguishes** between good and bad.

Conscience must be trained, **converted** by the Holy Spirit.

Daily repentance requires:

- Daily immersion in the **scriptures**.
- A continual life of **prayer**.
- **Conferencing** with other Christians.

Includes worshipping together, receiving sacraments, and hearing instruction.

**Prayer:** Lord convert my understanding of good and bad, right and wrong.  
Show me my prejudices.

Questions to ponder:

Have you hit the target of your faith?

Are you aiming high enough?

Are you more loving, more giving, and more like Christ?

Memory Verse:

*The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.*

—1 Timothy 1:5