

*Every word of God is pure.*

Proverbs 30:5a

**T**he Bible says every word God speaks is pure (Proverbs 30:5). I grew up hearing about a certain brand of soap being 99 44/100 percent pure. By biblical standards, that wouldn't be pure at all. Purity isn't the same as being clean; it concerns the actual makeup of a substance rather than how clean it is on the surface. A pure substance is all one thing, down to its smallest part; unadulterated and free of contamination.

God cares about purity. When God revealed His plans for the Tabernacle, His directions were specific, and purity was paramount. The frankincense for incense and the olive oil for the light had to be pure. The priests' clothing was woven of pure linen, even down to the trousers worn under their robes. They were in danger of death if they weren't dressed in those pure linen garments.

The Hebrew word translated "pure" in Proverbs 30:5 is *tsarap*. It means refined, tested, and tried. It carries the sense of smelting metal. A silversmith heats silver until it liquefies and any contaminant (dross) floats to the surface. The smith skims the dross off the molten metal, leaving only silver behind in the crucible. The metals used in making the tabernacle were "very pure" (Psalm 119:140), and the silver was purified not once or twice, but seven times (Psalm 12:6).

Dross left behind and worked into a vessel can leave a visible defect on the surface. Even if the contaminant isn't obvious in the finished work, it still leaves a hidden weak spot that could fail.

The psalmist declares, "Every word of God is pure." It is tested, tried and true. It cannot fail. But me? I have plenty of defects. I fail daily.

When Jesus says, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God," how can I believe He's talking about me? It's because God sees me through the blood of Jesus' perfect sacrifice. Jesus "gave Himself . . . to purify for Himself a people for His own possession" (Titus 2:14). We who believe are purified by faith (Acts 15:9).

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