

# Table of Contents

Acknowledgments . . . . .	7
Foreword . . . . .	9
Introductory Story . . . . .	11
Chapter One: Purity 101. . . . .	15
Chapter Two: All of Me for All of Him. . . . .	27
Chapter Three: Looking Back and Moving Forward. . . . .	37
Chapter Four: Heart Start . . . . .	45
Chapter Five: Pure Vision . . . . .	69
Chapter Six: Pure Soul . . . . .	85
Chapter Seven: Pure Mind . . . . .	93
Chapter Eight: Physical Purity . . . . .	109
Chapter Nine: Purity Plans . . . . .	133
Chapter Ten: Waiting (It's Worth It!) . . . . .	153
Chapter Eleven: Restoration . . . . .	163
Parting Words . . . . .	179
Endnotes. . . . .	185





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*“Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart” (II Timothy 2:22).*

# Foreword

Now is the time for a movement of reformation and revival in the hearts and homes of women and girls around the world. It is time to go against the flow. We believe God has brought us to the kingdom for such a time as this.

For teens, that means the willingness to follow the teachings in the Word of God when it seems all the other girls your age are consumed with beauty, guys, self, sex, and just having a good time. It also means setting your affection on Christ, guarding your heart, choosing the path of purity, and becoming more like Christ when all your peers seem to be going in an opposite direction.

For young women, it means being willing to be married or single, whichever God has for you, for His glory. It means serving the Lord without distraction and being willing to keep yourself pure as a member of the family of God. It's a call to be faithful in a world of broken promises and standing strong in the good times and the bad times.

For mothers, it means allowing God to give you a vision that the generation to come might know truth and have a pure heart for the work of His kingdom. Join in teaching and prayer for the souls of your children and your grandchildren.



Welcome to the fourth book of *The Pure Path Series*. We began with *The Girl in the Dress*, followed by *Covered by Love*, and then *Unmasked*. These books deliver a message of consecration and dedication. Purity is at the core of each of the books in *The Pure Path Series*. They have to do with outward expressions of our inner relationship with God. The things we do, both private and in public, like dressing and behaving modestly, are ways that we present ourselves in public that honor God. If you have not read those books, we encourage you to get them.

On behalf of Ladies Ministries of the United Pentecostal Church International and the contributors to this series, thank you for allowing us to share with you the precious truths of God's Word. We pray you will be blessed and encouraged as you read *The Pure Life*.

**“Only as high as I reach can I grow,  
only as far as I seek can I go,  
only as deep as I look can I see,  
only as much as I dream can I be.”**

**~ Karen Ravn**



## Introductory Story

“Jackie, what’s going on with your tablet?” Katelyn stared at the screen in her hands, a puzzled look in her bright eyes.

“That’s the new whole-house Internet filter doing its job.” Jackie leaned over the tablet and punched in her passcode.

“When did you get that?”

“Last week,” said Jackie. “It’s inconvenient at times, but to tell you the truth, I really didn’t like some of the things that popped up on my screen.”

“I know what you mean,” said Katelyn. “Did your parents get the one our pastor recommended?”

“I’m not sure,” said Jackie. She drew in a deep breath and then released a sigh. “It’s sad how people can get sucked into watching things they shouldn’t.”

Katelyn nodded. Neither girl spoke a name, but both knew the young man in their youth group who had inspired their pastor’s recommendation.

“You know, I guess I don’t like to think about how easy it is to take a step in the wrong direction,” said Jackie. “I mean, we all have temptations to deal with, but shouldn’t we be stronger? We grew up in church. It’s all we’ve ever known.”

“That’s true, but we’re all just people,” said Katelyn. “We’re all just made out of dust, you know.”

Jackie shook her head and chuckled. “That’s true, but we’re supposed to be *holy* dust, right?”



“Holy,” Katelyn turned in her chair to look at her friend. “Now that’s a word that’s about as easy to nail down as a piece of Jell-O. It seems to mean different things to different people.”

“Holy is what God is,” said Jackie, “and what we are supposed to be.”

“God is lots of things.”

“That’s true.” Jackie twisted a loose strand of hair between her fingers. “He’s lots of things I’m not.”

“Don’t be so hard on yourself,” said Katelyn. “You are one of the sweetest girls I know, and you have a real love for God.”

“I do love Him, but don’t you ever wonder if you love Him enough?”

“What do you mean?”

Jackie plopped down on the couch next to the computer desk and looked up at her friend. “I mean I wonder if I love Him enough to keep myself . . . well, you know . . . .”

“Um,” Katelyn searched for the right word. “Pure?”

“Yeah,” said Jackie. “I’ve never had a real boyfriend, but I wonder what it will be like when I do and what it will feel like to be kissed.”

“Well, maybe you shouldn’t be thinking about that right now,” said Katelyn. “It’s almost like looking at things on the Internet.”

“What do you mean?” Jackie pulled back, confusion written on her features.

“I mean it’s best not to let your mind wonder about those things right now. You know what my mom always says, ‘what you feed will grow.’”





“Yeah. She does say that quite a bit,” Jackie agreed. “To tell you the truth, I have a lot of questions, but I don’t really want to talk to anybody about them. It’s, well, it’s awkward.”

“You mean like ‘how far is too far?’”

“Exactly.” Jackie gave a firm nod. “Do you really think it’s possible in today’s world to stay pure until your wedding night?”

“Hey,” said Katelyn, “we’re supposed to be in the world, not of it. I know everywhere you look things are out of control, but that’s not for us. We belong to God, remember?”

Jackie smiled. “Of course.”

“The girls at school, well, so many of them seem to just hand their hearts over to any boy who looks their way, but that doesn’t seem right to me. My heart isn’t cheap, and neither is my body. Jesus paid a big price for me, and I’m not just going to give myself away.”

“I never really thought about it like that,” said Jackie. “Some girls aren’t even waiting for boys to look their way. They practically shove their bodies in their faces trying to get their attention.”

“I don’t get it,” said Katelyn. “It seems like some girls don’t put a lot of value in themselves.”

“True.”

“Do you remember the Bible verse we learned last week in Sunday school?”

“The one about God having plans for our lives?” asked Jackie.

