

Men in Valiant Pursuit-

Holiness: God's Transformative Work in Us

Scripture Reading:

Ephesians 1:4

“For He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in His sight.”

1 Peter 1:14-16

“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires of your former ignorance. But as the One who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy.”

Hebrews:12:9-10 and 14 and 28-29

9-10 “Furthermore, we had natural fathers discipline us, and we respected them. Shouldn't we submit even more to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time based on what seemed good to them, but He does it for our benefit, so that we can share His holiness”

14 “Pursue peace with everyone, and holiness—without it no one will see the Lord.”

28-29 “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us hold on to grace. By it, we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.”

Quotes:

“Holiness, as taught in the Scriptures, is not based upon knowledge on our part. Rather, it is based upon the resurrected Christ in-dwelling us and changing us into His likeness.” — A.W. Tozer, Preparing for Jesus' Return: Daily Live the Blessed Hope

“Holiness does not consist in doing extraordinary things. It consists in accepting, with a smile, what Jesus sends us. It consists in accepting and following the will of God.”
— Mother Teresa, Mother Teresa: In My Own Words

Lesson Notes:

Holiness is the fruit of seeds that God plants in our souls by His Word and Spirit. We are the soil. What kind of soil will you choose to become.

Jesus did not die so that you could go to heaven one day. He died so that you could be born again. He died for a change to occur in us.

God's Design for humanity was for us to be holy. To be holy is to be set apart unto God for His purposes.

To be holy means to be in alignment with God's design for us, His will. God reveals His will to us all the time, in creation and in His the scriptures.

Only God can make us holy because only God has the blueprint. Our role is to surrender to the designer.

God has made us in His image, formed us in His likeness. Christ is the mold. He is the example for us. To pursue Christ-likeness is the same as pursuing holiness.

Holiness is the result of God's transformative work in us. We can choose to partner with Him or we can resist His transformative discipline. We have the freedom to choose.

Discussion Questions

- 1.) In your own words, discuss what does it mean to be chosen to be holy and blameless in His sight. (Ephesians 4:1)
- 2.) In your own words, discuss what it mean to be holy because God is holy. (1 Pet. 1:16)
- 3.) What does it mean to submit to a father's discipline?
- 4.) In your own words, what does it mean to share in God's holiness? (Hebrews 12: 10)
- 4.) Why does the writer of Hebrews suggest that without holiness no one will see the Lord? (Hebrews 12:14)
- 5.) Why do we need to hold on to God's grace as we seek to be holy children of a holy God? (Hebrews 12:28-29)
- 6.) How is the fact that God is a "consuming fire" relate to our pursuit of holiness? (Hebrews 12:28-29)
- 7.) What kind of soil will you choose to be for the seeds that God is planting in this season of your life?