

**FELLOWSHIP NOTES ~ Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
2021 Spring Spiritual Growth Emphasis



**Part 1: “What Kind of People Should We Be?”**  
2 Peter 3:10-13; 1 Peter 1:13-15

**For Sunday, April 18<sup>th</sup>:** Read and study pages ix – 23 in the companion book *Return to Holiness*.

**For Further Study – In Fellowship Café**

Book: *We Will Not Be Silenced* by Erwin Lutzer

Book: *How to Develop a Powerful Prayer Life* by Greg Frizzell

Book: *The Pursuit of Holiness* by Jerry Bridges

Book: *Habits for Our Holiness* by Philip Nation

**Articles/Reports in the Tower @ the Welcome Center**

My Heart: Christ’s Home

Olive Tree Ministries News: Anticipating the Antichrist

The Equality Act – Threatens Both Fairness and Freedom

The Ungodly and Divisive Ideology of Critical Race Theory

**Background**

The apostle Peter wrote two books or epistles in the New Testament, 1 Peter, with the theme of helping suffering believers, and 2 Peter with the theme of exposing false teachers. Peter wrote his last epistle while in a Roman prison near the end of his life. Shortly after writing it, he was martyred by being crucified upside down in about 67 A.D.

**HOLY CONDUCT = \_\_\_\_\_ (the way I live – my behavior)**

**GODLINESS = \_\_\_\_\_ (the spirit by which I live – my heart)**



## Engagement in the Road to Holiness Emphasis

1. Corporate Engagement on \_\_\_\_\_
2. Corporate Engagement in \_\_\_\_\_
3. Personal Engagement thru...
  - 1.) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2.) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3.) \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4.) \_\_\_\_\_

## Growth Group Study Guide

### Getting Started

Group Discussion: On Sunday Pastor Rob compared getting sprayed by a skunk to the idea that God wants our lives to be completely permeated with holiness. Share a time in your life when you were sprayed by a skunk or experienced a similar traumatic event in your life.

What did you learn about holiness or were reminded about holiness in the Sunday message from 2 Peter 3 & 1 Peter 1?

### Digging Deeper: What is Fasting?

Fasting is the voluntary and deliberate abstinence from food for the purpose of concentrated prayer. Fasting and prayer are always practiced together.

### What Should We Know About Fasting?

1. The practice of fasting began way back in the Old Testament with people like Hannah (1 Sam. 1), David (2 Sam. 3), and Jehoshaphat (2 Chron. 20).
2. Jesus set the example for us in fasting – Read Luke 4:1-14 and write down what Jesus did (or said) about fasting:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Fasting was used by the early church. Underline the fasting portion in this passage, what was it's purpose?  
Acts 13:1-3 (NIV) *"In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. [2] While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." [3] So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off."*
4. Fasting makes us humble before God - Read Ezra 8:21 and Ps. 35:13 and jot down what they say about fasting:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Read Isaiah 58:1-8.

In the Bible, fasting was used for the following reasons:

- 1.) "To break the chains of injustice" - freeing ourselves and others from the addictions to sin (Is. 58:6; Matt. 17:21).
- 2.) To "untie the ropes of the yoke" - to solve problems, inviting God's aid (Is. 58:6; Ezra 8:23).
- 3.) "To set the oppressed free" - for revival and spiritual awakening in people's lives (Is. 58:6; 1 Sam. 7:6).
- 5.) To "tear off every yoke" - conquering the mental and emotional problems that would control our lives and returning the control to the Lord (Is. 58:6; 1 Kings 19:4,8).
- 6.) "To share our food with the hungry" - caring for the poor and to meet the humanitarian needs of others (Is. 58:7; 1 Kings 17:16).
- 7.) "Then your light will appear" - to bring a clearer perspective and insight as we make crucial decisions (Is. 58:8; Acts 9:9).
- 8.) "Your recovery will come quickly" - to bring healing (Is. 58:8; Daniel 1:8).
- 9.) "Then your righteousness will go before you" - that our testimonies and influence for Jesus will be enhanced before others (Is. 58:8; Luke 1:15).
- 10.) "The Lord's glory will be your rear guard" - to ask for God's glory to protect us (Is. 58:8; Esther 4:16; 5:2).

6. Jesus gave no specific guidelines concerning the frequency of fasting, although it seems he expected us to fast. What did he say in Matt. 6:16? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What does Jesus say is a wrong motive for fasting? Read Matt. 6:16-18. \_\_\_\_\_

8. Religious practices such as fasting are less important than doing God's will.

*Micah 6:8 "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*

9. We should pray and fast with spiritual objectives in mind. We fast and pray for results, but the results are for God's glory and are in His hands.

**During our "Road to Holiness" spring emphasis we have several specific goals and prayer requests we are praying about. These are listed on the back of the reading schedule in your study guide. Let's all include these as we are praying and fasting throughout this emphasis.**

### More on Fasting

1. Caution: If you have any kind of physical problems, you should consult your physician before you consider fasting. If you have diabetes, high blood pressure, or any other physical condition that would be affected by fasting, you should not begin to fast without medical advice.

2. Quote: "We should fast when we are concerned for God's work. I believe the greatest thing a church could have is a staff, deacons and leaders who fast and pray - not when the church burns down, but in order to get the church on fire. A lot of dead churches would catch fire if the people in places of leadership would set aside a period of time for fasting and prayer . . . Fasting brings about a supernatural work in our lives. God will not entrust supernatural power to those whose lives are not under total control . . . The Christian who would have the supernatural power of God must be under the total control of the Holy Spirit." ~ Charles Stanley

### Wrapping Up

How do you believe God wants you to join your church family in fasting during this emphasis?