

The Path to Holiness

April 22, 2018

“Strive...for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.”

Hebrews 12:14

Psalm 15:1-2 ESV A Psalm of David.

1 O LORD, who shall sojourn in your tent? Who shall dwell on your holy hill?

2 He who walks blamelessly and does what is right and speaks truth in his heart.

The Path to Holiness:

1. **Right Motive** - *the religious use their spirituality to draw attention to themselves and vaunt themselves over others.*

Matthew 23:5-7 ESV

5 They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long,

6 and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues

7 and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others.

- a. **To please Him** - *is God's pleasure and presence of greater value than this world, greater than even our very life?*

2 Corinthians 6:16-18 ESV

16 What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you,

18 and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."

- b. **To know and see Him clearly** - *entertaining the thoughts, lies and lusts of the world vex and corrupt our minds obscuring our spiritual vision and hearing.*

Matthew 5:8 ESV

8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

2 Corinthians 11:3 KJV

3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted (phtheirō - corrupt, defile, destroy, in the opinion of the Jews the temple was corrupted or "destroyed" when anyone defiled anything in it) from the simplicity that is in Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:17 ESV

17 If anyone destroys (phtheiro) God's temple, God will destroy (phtheiro) him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Ephesians 4:17-18 ESV

17 Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds.

18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart.

1 Timothy 6:5 ESV

5 ...among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth...

2 Corinthians 4:4 ESV

4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

1 Corinthians 15:33 NASB

33 Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

2. **Daily Decision** - because of the continual battles against the flesh, this world and the kingdom of darkness, our pursuit and dedication to holiness must be continually reaffirmed.

Luke 9:23 ESV

23 And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

- a. **To crucify the flesh** - we must constantly guard against giving up and giving in to the relentless striving of the flesh.

Galatians 5:17 NASB

17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

Colossians 3:5-10 ESV

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.

8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices

1 Corinthians 9:27 ESV

27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control [Gk: "I pummel my body and make it a slave."], lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

- b. **To wholly and absolutely surrender to His wisdom, purposes and plan** - *many times it's not the commandments that cause us to rebel, but God's sovereign ordering of our life circumstances.*

1 Corinthians 15:30-31 ESV

30 Why are we in danger every hour?

31 I protest, brothers, by my pride in you, which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die every day!

3. Relentless Reliance

- a. **No separation, no hindrance, no interruption in communion.**

Psalm 63:8 ESV

8 My soul clings (dabaq - cleave, follow hard after, joined together, pursue closely) to you; your right hand upholds me.

Isaiah 26:9 ESV

9 My soul yearns for you in the night; my spirit within me earnestly seeks you.

Psalm 143:6-7 ESV

6 I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. Selah

7 Answer me quickly, O LORD! My spirit fails! Hide not your face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the pit.

- b. **Continual drawing upon His life, power and grace.**

Galatians 5:25 ESV

25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Ephesians 3:16-19 ESV

16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being,

17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith--that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

4. Continuous Infusion

- a. **God's Word** - *you are only as holy as the Word of God you are meditating on, digesting and living from this very, present moment.*

John 15:3 KJV

3 Now (ede - already) ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

John 17:15-17 ESV

15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.

16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

2 Peter 1:3-4 ESV

3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence,

4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.

Proverbs 6:20-24 ESV

20 My son, keep your father's commandment, and forsake not your mother's teaching.

21 Bind them on your heart always; tie them around your neck.

22 When you walk, they will lead you; when you lie down, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk with you.

23 For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light, and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life,

24 to preserve you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.

- b. **Prayer without ceasing** - *surrender of life and will is only possible in the direct and intimate encounter of God's presence - encountering God's Spirit and presence in prayer keeps the heart tender and submissive.*

Matthew 26:39-44 ESV

39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

40 And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour?"

41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

42 Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done."

43 And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy.

44 So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again.

- c. **His Body the Church** - *when you leave the fellowship and the relationship with other saints, you are leaving the pathway of holiness.*

Hebrews 3:12-14 ESV

12 Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.