**“PURSUE … HOLINESS WITHOUT WHICH NO ONE WILL SEE THE LORD” Hebrews 12:14**

Sadly, the Church in North America and Western culture in general has had a very weak and watered down understanding of what holiness and holy living is really all about. Consequently, the LORD is calling pastors and leaders to repent and return to living and teaching a Biblical rather than the anemic North American version of holiness and holy living.

It is a vitally important part of our walk and relationship with the Lord. In fact the Lord revealed in Hebrews 12:14 that we must pursue holiness for without it no one will see the Lord. Hebrews 12:14 MEV ***14****Pursue peace with all men, and the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.*

**What Is Holiness & Holy Living?**

1. Imputed Holiness is received by grace upon our lives through the blood of Jesus. At salvation when we are “Born Again;” by God’s grace we are spiritually clothed in Jesus’ Righteousness and Holiness *“Wherefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify* (make holy) *the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate”* (Hebrews 13:12 KJVER, see also 2 Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 10:10). Sanctification is the process by which someone is made holy. We are sanctified and made holy by the blood of Jesus and receive His imputed Holiness at salvation.
2. Practical Holiness Thankfully, we are made holy through the precious blood of Jesus, but we are also required to pursue practical holiness in our lives by His grace and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit and His Word. This process is referred to as sanctification where we diligently cooperate with God’s Spirit and the sanctifying application of His Word into our lives. Then we daily grow in living a lifestyle of purity and holiness. Sanctification unto holiness is an ongoing process to conform us to progressively become more and more like Jesus each day (Romans 8:29). This process of sanctification to become more holy and Christlike will continue until Jesus takes us Home.

**2Thessalonians 2:13 MEV *13****But we are bound to always give thanks to God for you, beloved brothers of the Lord, because God has from the beginning called you to salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief of the truth* (See also Romans 15:16).

**John 17:17 & 19 MEV** Jesus said: ***17****Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth … 19For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth.* The indwelling supernatural power of the Holy Spirit and His Word in our hearts work hand in hand to enable us to become pure and holy in our walk with Him.

**The Practical Pursuit of Holiness and Sanctification Involves:**

* Separation from sinful habits and attitudes
* Separation from exposure or involvement in this world’s ungodly influences and practices that weaken and defile us.
* Separation from any yoking with people who are unbelievers, due to corrupting influences (I Corinthians 15:33).
* Separation or consecration of our lives daily to do His will not our own

**2 Corinthians 6:14 to 7:1 MEV *14****Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness? What communion has light with darkness?****15****What agreement has Christ with Belial? Or what part has he who believes with an unbeliever?****16****What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will live in them and walk in them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”* ***17****Therefore, “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.”[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+6%3A14-+7%3A1+&version=MEV#fen-MEV-28916b)*]* ***18****“I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons And daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”[*[*c*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Corinthians+6%3A14-+7%3A1+&version=MEV#fen-MEV-28917c)*] Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.*

**I Peter 1:14-16 MEV** ***14****As obedient children do not conduct yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance.****15****But as He who has called you is holy, so be holy in all your conduct,****16****because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”*

**Psalm 101:3-4 MEV** *I will set no wicked thing before my eyes. I hate the work of those who turn aside; it shall not have part of me.* ***4****A perverted heart shall be far from me; I will not know* (look upon or participate in) *anything wicked.*

We need to remember this declaration of consecration when we are watching ungodly secular media.

**Holy Living Does Not Save Us, It Preserves Us**

Holy Living does not save us per se only Jesus’ sacrifice and shed blood can save us. However, holy living will preserve us from defilement and becoming lukewarm and halfhearted in our Christianity which will lead us to become as a “foolish Virgin.” Leaving us unprepared for Jesus’ return or to meet Him at our death. Shockingly, in Matthew 25:1-13 Jesus reveals in the parable of the 5 wise and 5 foolish virgins that as much as 50 percent of “the Born Again” “virgin” church will be unprepared for His coming. We believe that in large part this is because many Believers fail to live holy. Which leads to lukewarmness and a lack of desire for things of the LORD and spending time with Him in the “Secret Place” (Psalm 91:1; Matthew 6:6). This is spiritually lethal, because it is in the Secret Place that we discover his will daily and receive the power and passion to do it. This is extremely sobering and we must take heed to the Lord’s warnings in the following scriptures:

**I John 2:15-17 MEV *15****Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.****16****For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father, but is of the world.****17****The world and its lusts are passing away, but the one who does the will of God lives forever* (eg. Violence, vulgarity, nudity, prideful competition and striving to outdo one another)*.*

**Luke 21:34 NKJV** *“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation, drunkenness and the cares of this life and that Day come on you unexpectedly.* (Dissipation is the overindulgence in sensual, worldly pleasures and lustful entertainment)

**Revelation 3:15-16 MEV *15****I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were cold or hot.****16****So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spit you out of My mouth.*

**Matthew 25:10-13 MEV *10****“But while they went to buy some, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. 1****1****“Afterward, the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us.’* ***12****“But he answered, ‘Truly I say to you, I do not know you.’* ***13****“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.*

**We Live Holy Because We Are His**

We must remember that our lives are not our own, but He has purchased us as His own through His sacrifice on the Cross. God the Son died for us now we need to consecrate our lives to live for Him.

**I Corinthians 6:19-20 KJVER** ***19****What? Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God, and that you are not your own?****20****You were bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.*

**Overcoming & Holiness Go Hand In Hand**

Today’s inadequate teaching on holiness and overcoming or the lack of solid teaching in this regard leads Believers to make excuses for their sinful habits. When we say things like: “I’m only human!” or “I’m doing the best I can!” We are justifying our bad behaviours and sinful attitudes. If we justify or make excuses for our ungodly behaviours in any way or for any reason, we will never overcome them. And the bottom line is that overcoming is not an option. The LORD has given us everything we need to be overcomers of our flesh, every demonic power and every lust or temptation of this world system. And most importantly every promise in the Book of Revelation including eternal life is given to those who overcome.

**Supernaturally Empowered Humans Live Overcoming Holy Lives**

The reality is living a holy life in our natural strength is impossible, so how do we do it? First, we need to understand that as God’s children we are not just mere humans, we are supernaturally empowered humans. The same Holy Spirit that empowered Jesus during His time here on earth and that raised Him from the dead is the same Spirit that dwells in us His children (see Romans chapter 8). We need to daily be filled and refilled by His Spirit by spending quality time with the LORD in the secret place of personal intimacy. As we spend time in His presence in Worship, in the Word, and in waiting upon Him in prayer, we can seek and receive the needed refilling of His Holy Spirit’s power each day that enables us to overcome temptation and walk in purity and holiness. In our next session, Lord willing, we will share from God’s Word how we practically accomplish this in our day to day living. In closing, we need to pray daily that the Lord will empower us to be overcomers who tap into the unlimited supernatural power of His grace, His Word, and His Spirit to walk in purity and holiness before Him and before all those around us whom we impact by our example.

May the Lord richly bless you and guide you into all His transformative Truth that brings you into His victorious overcoming life and purpose in Jesus’ precious Name. Amen!