

Crucify the “I” in my life and be “other”

centred. Jesus said that anyone who was to follow Him must “Deny self, take up the cross and follow Him.” In the garden of Gethsemane we see that Jesus lived His life by “other centredness.” In a place where the pressure was most intense, Jesus declares, “Not my will but Yours be done!” As he hung upon the cross Christ’s focus was not personal self preservation, but His desire to save you and me. In a culture of selfishness and greed, Jesus calls you and me to put God first, other people second and ourselves last, on the criteria of how we make daily decisions. *How high up your priority list do you come?*

Regular times of self- examination and

Repentance. Every great man or woman of God throughout church history has learnt the important principle of keeping short accounts with God. This in real terms means that we should spend time regularly, in examining our lives, attitudes, lifestyle and behaviour in light of the Word of God and confessing and turning away from any behaviour that we find, that is sinful!

Daily Readings on Holiness

Monday:- Galatians Ch 5 v 16 – 26

Tuesday:- Psalm Ch 1 v 1 – 6

Wednesday:- James Ch 4 v 1 – 10

Thursday:- 1 John Ch 1 v 5 – 10

Friday:- Philippians Ch 4 v 8 – 9 2 Corinthians Ch 7 v 1

Saturday:- Matthew Ch 7 v 21 – 27

Sunday:- Ephesians Ch 4 v 17 – Ch 5 v 5

Additional Readings:-

Micah Ch 6 v 6 – 9 Romans Ch 8 v 12 – 17

Colossians Ch 3 v 1 – 17 1 Peter Ch 1 v 13 – 25

2 Timothy Ch 3 v 14 – 17 1 Thessalonians Ch 5 v 14 – 24

*Holiness is the doorway to intimacy with God. God promises to make His people holy that we might enjoy His presence and blessing. Yet He calls His people to put Him first, Obey His Word and live our lives for the benefit of others. **The question is not CAN we be holy, but DO WE WANT TO BE HOLY?** If we do then we will establish Godly principles as the foundation of our daily lives!! Put God first, obey and do your best and the Spirit of God will do the rest!!*

Ever felt like your not living to your full potential as a Christian

Ever asked the question why does God seem so far away from me and my relationship with Him so weak?

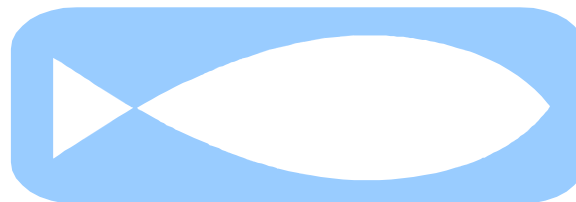
Ever got frustrated with the easy way that sin seems to ensnare you and cause you to compromise!

This tract is written for all those who want to take seriously the call of God to “Be Holy as I am Holy.”

In this tract you will find an explanation of what Holiness is and the biblical principles, that if lived out in daily life, will secure true holiness for us all.

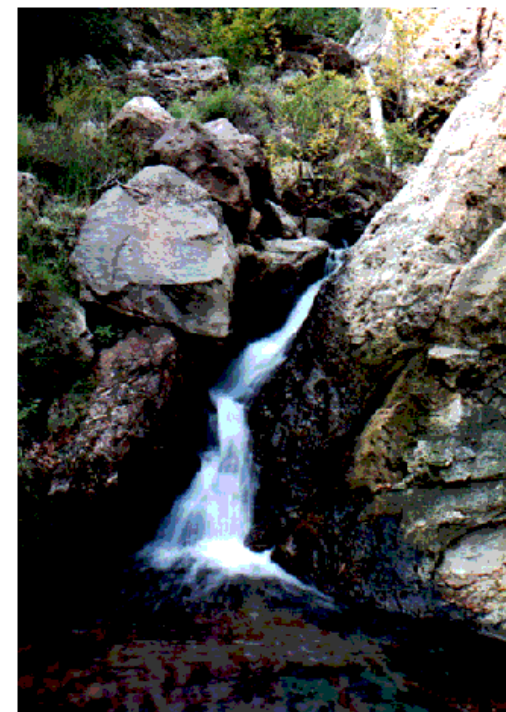
You will be shown that it is God’s desire that you be holy and will receive encouragement that God Himself has provided everything you need to live a life that is pleasing to Him.

You will be challenged that to live a holy life means sacrifice, commitment and the true prioritising of the things of God in your daily life.



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THE PRINCIPLES



OF

HOLY LIVING

GOD COMMANDS HIS PEOPLE BE HOLY AS I AM HOLY

For many Christians today one of the biggest struggles they have is to live the life that they believe God wants them to live. It seems that both pressures outside in society, and internal pressures within, try to squeeze us into living daily in a way which is more about the flesh than of the Spirit.

**GOD'S DESIRE IS
THAT YOU GROW IN
HOLINESS. AS A
RESULT OF THIS HE
HAS GIVEN YOU:-
THE EXAMPLE OF
JESUS TO INSPIRE YOU
HIS WORD TO TEACH
YOU!
HIS HOLY SPIRIT TO
TRANSFORM YOU!
HIS PEOPLE TO
ENCOURAGE YOU!**

Yet the Bible makes it clear that God commands His people to be Holy and without such holiness they will not see or have intimacy with Him.

So what is Holiness and why is it important?

The word holy/holiness appears 830 times in the Old Testament. It appears 230 times in the New Testament. What this tells us is that Holiness is an absolutely important aspect of the nature of God, the way He expresses Himself to His people and the lifestyle He calls His people to live.

The word holiness in its basic form means to be separated from the world, its morals and lifestyle and set apart for God's special purpose and use. For this to take place in an individual, there needs to be a moral and spiritual purity and righteousness. God is a Perfect Being and will not accept or embrace that which is sinful. As a result a lack of holiness produces a lack of intimacy in our relationship with God.

The source of all holiness comes from God Himself. He is completely ethical and morally pure in all that He does. In His behaviour and responses He is full of perfect goodness, love and justice. It is out of the nature of God that we as Christians receive our own holiness and are transformed to be the people that God calls us to be. One of the perfect realities about God is that He does not call His people to be something they cannot be. When God calls us to holiness, He provides everything we need to make Holy living a daily reality in our lives. However it still takes commitment, perseverance and real cost on our part to see true holiness established in our lives!!



Gold and Silver are tested by fire, and a person's heart is tested by God
(Proverbs 17 v 3)

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right Spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence; do not take your Holy Spirit away from me. Give me again the joy that comes from your salvation, and make me willing to obey you!”
(Psalm 51 v 10 - 12)

“Is Jesus at the centre of your life or on the fringes?”

The simple truth that Scripture gives us, is that without daily, practical holiness, then our relationship with God becomes barren and the promises He gives us in scripture remain unfulfilled in our lives. Many Christians lack peace, security, vision and victory in their daily living because deep down Jesus and His commandments are not really central and part of their daily experiences. Jesus is looking for a people who truly love Him and His Word. He is looking for a people who will let His truth filter down into the core of their being so that it affects their daily attitudes and lifestyle.

The essence of this growth in holiness is focused on the real development of Christ-like attitudes in your life and mine. This should be evident both in our moral living and also in the way we relate to other people. The work of holiness is a partnership between God and us. He gives us the resources to achieve a holy life and His Spirit to create internal change. However He asks us to

use our freedom of Will and ability to make decisions to establish and deepen the work of holiness in our lives. God in His Word has given us Spiritual principles that if applied and lived by daily, promise to establish real, lasting holiness that deepens and edifies our relationship with God.

When we become a Christian we receive a holiness that comes from being joined with Christ through faith. As we grow in our relationship with God, the Holy Spirit uses our will and decisions for God, to create our own holiness and purity that is modelled and founded on Christ's. At the heart of holy living is a desire to seek after God and to please Him with our daily living. Much of the teaching of holiness challenges us with simple questions like:-
What is really important to me?
What am I really passionate about?
You see a living faith is more than just believing the right things about God, it is about putting Jesus at the centre of our lives and pursuing him with a passion. Scripture asks us the question:-



6 SPIRITUAL GUIDELINES FOR HOLY LIVING!

Being Christ centred in your daily life:- Already looked at this!!

Knowing and living the Word of God:- At the heart of holiness is the desire to please God and be obedient to His Word. Scripture tells us that Jesus Himself was perfected in His holiness because of obedience. To know what is sinful and also to know what is right morally and Spiritual, we need to know the Word of God. For the Word of God to be a light unto my path, we need to meditate on it day and night and use it as a plumb line to measure the quality of our faith. In the Word, there is everything we need to show us the path of true holiness. However Jesus said it is not those who know the word of God that are saved, but those **WHO OBEY IT.**

Cutting out the roots of sinful living:- Scripture makes it clear that one of the reasons why we struggle so much with sin is because we feed the flesh in our lives. Selfish desires and pleasures bombard our lives daily and for many of us our response is to passively accept them. God calls us to go on the offensive and be aggressive in cutting off anything that stimulate sinful or selfish desires. You see sin is first conceived in our mind, it then filters down into our attitudes, which are outwardly manifested in sinful actions. Over time if this is not corrected it becomes habit forming behaviour. The Lord calls us to stay away from the place of temptation and to watch what we take into our lives through outside influences.

Developing a life of intimate worship:- Real worship has at its centre the ability to put us into a right position before God. This is where we recognise that He is Almighty, Holy, Sovereign, All powerful and perfect in His love for us. It also reminds us that we are small, sinful, proud and selfish. As we worship God we take our eyes off ourselves and get a glimpse of the wonderful love, grace and value that God has given us. In recognising God and taking our right place before Him, pride is dealt with, compromise exposed and a doorway into intimacy with God opened. The love and worth that we give to God at the point of true worship, keeps our lives focused on Him rather than on ourselves.