

The Joy of Holiness

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I. Introduction.

- A. Holiness is not an option- it is a part of salvation.
- B. God accepts us because of Jesus.
- C. God disciplines us to make us holy. (Hebrews 12:16)
- D. Our help in the battle against sin is the Holy Spirit by way of the Word of God and prayer. (Philippians 2:13)
- E. The pursuit of holiness requires discipline. Our objective should be to have hearts trained in holiness.
- F. Discipline without desire is drudgery. What is our motivation to pursue holiness?
- G. Text: Philippians 3:12-14.

II. Seeing Christ's objective for us motivates us to pursue it. Jesus gave himself for us to make us holy. (Titus 2:14)

- A. What motivates Paul in Philippians 3:7-9 is that he realizes that he no longer has to work for his salvation.
- B. The more we understand sin, the more we become grateful for our salvation. This realization of Christ's love for us is what motivates us. (Hebrews 2:10; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15)
- C. Paul clarifies that he has not yet obtained this objective that Christ has for him, but he is in process of pursuing both the objective and the reward. (Philippians 3:13)
 - 1. There will be a judgment for Christians that determines their situation in heaven. (2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 25:20ff)
 - a) The idea that God might one day say to us "well done" is motivating.
 - b) God's reward for faithfulness was greater responsibility.
 - c) God is the happiest being in the universe and He may invite us into His happiness. We can become happy only as we become holy. (John 10:10, 15:10-11; 1 Peter 1:15-16)

III. Notes from the question and answer time.

- A. We develop a hatred for sin and a desire for holiness through asking the Holy Spirit to change the desires of our hearts. He often uses the scripture to do this. (Psalm 119:36-37)

B. We keep this motivation toward holiness through focusing on the holiness of God and the love of Jesus Christ for us. (Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8; Hebrews 2:10)

C. A practical way to say “no” to a current temptation is to actually mentally say no to the temptation and consciously ask for God’s help. (Titus 2:12; Hebrews 4:16)

D. When a person really trusts Jesus, there is evidence in their life. There is a difference between someone who is still actively struggling with sin, but whose heart is repentant, and someone who is apathetic about their sinful lifestyle. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Matthew 7: 17-18)

E. On areas that are what is right is not clear, it’s important to seek God and listen to your own conscience. It’s also important not to be judgmental of others if they do not arrive at the same conclusion.

F. The pursuit of holiness does not save you nor is it a condition to keep your salvation. When Jesus truly comes into our lives, He comes with the intent of making us holy. We can either respond or not to that intention. If we do respond, He trains us in holiness and He will punish us if we do not respond to that intention. Holiness is the evidence of our salvation, not the means of it. (Hebrews 12:14; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

G. The act of sin and a sinful lifestyle often begin in growing lazy in our walks with God and in “little sins” of the thought life.

Application questions:

1. How can a realization of how wrong sin is and the realization that God loves you become motivation to pursue holiness?

2. What does Jerry mean when he says that we become happy only as we become holy?

3. How can you learn to hate sin and love righteousness?
