



Sunday April 29, 2018
The Holiness of God Series
Part 4 : Perfecting Holiness

Quick Review (Don't have to mention all points)

In Part-1: Holy God - we introduced the holy nature of God,
We discussed about : The Revelation Of A Holy God
We said that God wants His Nature Reproduced In Us
We defined Holiness - What it is. God's absolute purity and sinlessness.
We also mentioned that Holiness is God's Glory And Beauty
We saw briefly that God is immeasurably holy - glorious in holiness. And then in closing we discussed about The Holiness And Goodness of God.

In Part-2 : Holy, Holy, Holy

We talked about God as the The Holy One, who is Thrice Holy.
Everything about Him is holy: His name is Holy, He speaks in holiness, His angels around him are holy, holiness adorns His house.
And so God states that He Must Be Regarded As Holy. We must not dishonor or profane His name.
In closing we saw that it is the Atonement Makes Us Holy. It is the Blood of Jesus, His Righteousness given to us that gives us Access Into His Holiness.

One of our goals in this series is for us to receive a revelation of the holiness of God so that we live out of that - knowing the God we worship is a holy God.

Part-3 His Holiness In Me

We talked about "Jehovah M'Kaddesh - The Lord Your Sanctifier".
His People - Called To Holiness
Holiness is a call to become like Him and to belong completely to Him.
It is a call to share His nature and a call to belong.
We saw that God Himself has made provision for us to be holy, by breaking the power of sin and making us a new creation that is holy (sanctified).

Sanctification - The Process of Holiness

- #1) Sanctification of our mind and body
- #2) Sanctification of our desires, our affections, our passions
- #3) Sanctification of our dreams, hopes and aspirations
- #4) Sanctification of our time, talents and money
- #5) Sanctification of our family, home and possessions

The Rewards of Personal Holiness

- #1) Holiness - key to being part of Him
- #2) Holiness - key to possessing our possessions
- #3) Holiness - profitable in all things
- #4) Holiness - key to being a vessel of honor



#5) Holiness - key to walking in spiritual authority

#6) Holiness - key to Christlikeness

TODAY : Part-4 Perfecting Holiness

2 Corinthians 7:1

Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness (Greek 'stain') of the flesh and spirit, perfecting (Greek 'epiteleio' = to fulfill further, accomplish, finish, bring to completion) holiness in the fear of God.

God has made us new creation in Christ. However we need to keep our outer and inner person, the flesh and spirit (or spirit and soul) clean. There are all kinds of things that are stain our outer and inner person. Sinful habits - words and deeds - stain our flesh. Sinful attitudes and desires stain our inner person. We are to stay clean in flesh and spirit - in the outer and inner person, and keep progressing, moving to perfection in holiness, motivated by reverence for God.

How does God help us "perfect holiness" in our lives? God works in us by **(A)the power of His Spirit, (B)by the power of His Word, and through (C)His divine disciplinary dealings**. If we are to perfect holiness so that His holiness is reproduced in us and revealed through us, we must understand and learn to work with God, as He works in us to transform us into Christlikeness. This is what we address in this chapter.

Empowered By The Spirit of Holiness

Romans 1:4

and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of holiness. He imparts to us holiness and empowers us to walk in holiness, thus reproducing in us holiness.

There is no sin in the outer (flesh) or in the inner person, which the Holy Spirit cannot set us free from. He sets the captives free. He breaks every yoke and removes every burden.

In Romans 7, the apostle Paul describes what is most likely his life before He came to know Jesus Christ. He had a desire to do the Law with his heart, but he found himself powerless, because sin dominated his outer man. However, in Christ Jesus, he discovered that the Holy Spirit set him free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2). The apostle Paul teaches us in Romans, 8, Ephesians 5 and in Galatians 5, that we as believers do not walk according to the flesh, but walk in the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit enables us to crucify the sinful deeds of our body. When we walk in the Spirit, that is yielded to the Holy Spirit, we will not fulfill the desires of the flesh.



When you need help and strength to overcome, ask the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to help you overcome.

You Are Clean By The Word I Have Spoken

John 15:3

You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

John 17:17

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

John 8:31-36

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free'?"

34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.

35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.

36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

God's Word has the power to cleanse us, that is, do a work in us that causes us to get rid of the filthiness of flesh and spirit, so that we can perfect holiness in the fear of God. However, we must continue in the Word and receive the truth God reveals to us through His Word. Receiving revelation of the truth will cause us to become free. As we see in John 8, the freedom Jesus is talking about is being free from sin.

His Discipline Produces Holiness In Us

Hebrews 12:10 -11

10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.

11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

In Hebrews chapter 12, the writer speaks of the discipline of the Lord. He makes it clear that the reason the Lord disciplines us is so that we can be partakers of His holiness and have the fruit of righteousness in our lives.

To discipline is to correct from error and nurture in the right path. So God corrects us from the error of our ways.



God disciplines us primarily through His Word and His Spirit. We must be quick to judge ourselves as God speaks to us by His Spirit and His Word. This is the quickest and simplest way to receive God's correction.

In addition to this, **God would use the words and influence of fellow believers to speak correction into our lives.** Here again, we must be quick to receive correction through fellow believers.

If we are unwilling to receive what other believers are speaking into our lives. Then, God has no option but to **let us face the consequences of our actions.** God will let us just reap what we have sown, and thus let us learn from the consequences of our own actions.

There are times God will use circumstances and situations to speak correction into our lives.

Consecration - Walking Blameless In Holiness

Leviticus 20:7

Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God.

Matthew 5:29-30

29 If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and cast it from you; for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell.

As God works in us we must also cooperate with Him. As we read in Hebrews 12, the correction of the Lord, in order to help us partake of His holiness is not always pleasant. There are times as we consecrate areas of our lives, we must suffer the "pain of amputation". This is where by the help of God, you cut off things that are unclean, unholy and unnecessary. This is not always easy. But you have to let go.

Godliness - Going Beyond Externals

Psalms 51:6

Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

God is looking at our heart. Sometimes the outside may look great - but inside there could be pride, selfishness, self centeredness, and many other things that are unholy before God.



Godliness is practicing holiness from the inside out. Our priority is to keep our heart pure and clean. Then let the actions follow.

Our focus should not be on just the externals.

Destroyers Of Holiness

Sometimes people who have walked many years in holiness, seem to trip up and fall. What are some of the hindrances to a holy life as well as things that trip up people who are living holy?

#1, Hypocrisy

Matthew 23:27

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness.

Hypocrisy is when we want to look good before people, but are not concerned about our heart condition before God.

Hypocrisy is when we want the applause of men more than the commendation that comes from God.

Hypocrisy is when we are quick to point and judge the speck in our brother's eye, but condone the beam in our own eye.

#2, Worldliness

Worldliness is affinity and conformity to the world's patterns, standards and pressures.

James 4:4-5

4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship (Greek 'philia' = fondness) with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

The world represents the entire system of evil and rebellion, that we have to live in. Friendship with the world, is considered 'spiritual adultery'.

Vs 5, God is a Jealous God and He wants us for Himself.



#3, Strife

Hebrews 12:14

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

In that same chapter of Hebrews 12 where we are taught about God's discipline to produce holiness in us, the writer continues to address other areas that could affect our walk of holiness.

We must walk in peace with all people as well as holiness, implying that strife can disturb our walk of holiness.

#4, Giving priority to natural desires

Hebrews 12:16

lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright.

Esau, for the sake of a momentary need for food, was willing to give up his entire birthright - all that came to him as his inheritance. Esau is an example here of an immoral or unholy person. We are instructed not to follow what he did.

SUMMARY

We perfect holiness as we let God work in us by the power of His Spirit and His Word, and by Him bringing loving correction into our lives.

We respond by consecration - making choices that are aligned to His work in our lives.

We pursue godliness - holiness from inside out.

Guard against the destroyers of holiness.

Prayer & Ministry Time



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday April 29, 2018
The Holiness of God Series
Part 4 : Perfecting Holiness

There is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *2 Corinthians 7:1; Galatians 5:16-26; John 17:117; Hebrews 12:10-16; Matthew 5:29-30*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, How does the Holy Spirit help us perfect holiness?

2, How does God correct us (discipline us) so that we can grow and be partakers of His holiness?

3, Discuss some of the destroyers of holiness, and how we can intentionally guard against these:

#1, Hypocrisy

#2, Worldliness

#3, Strife



#4, Giving priority to natural desires

Pray for each other for a greater revelation of God's holiness.

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

1, families to be protected and strengthened

2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.

Close by thanking God together.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>