

BIG IDEA

We grow in our relationship with God by growing in holiness.

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 1:14-16, Hebrews 12:14, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8

BIBLE DISCUSSION

1 Peter 1:14-16: The challenge is to maintain the righteousness Jesus secured for us by staying the condition of holiness and to not fall back on old ways and destructive habits.

Hebrews 10:5-10: Jesus came to do the will of God, not only in death but throughout his life on earth as well. Before the ultimate and final sacrifice, He left us a model by which to live our own lives.

Hebrews 12:14: Whatever comes from love, from pure love, is holy. There can be no holiness in deceit, manipulation, or any of the myriad of darker motives.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8: Christians are ever in a state of maturing in holiness. Paul makes this clear when he praises growth but calls for greater maturity. The purpose is to be pleasing to God rather than ourselves.

“The path to holiness is not through human ability but through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. What a beautiful answer to the anxious cries of multitudes who thirst to be holy. We are holy as we rest in Christ’s holiness! Our holiness is his holiness — flowing to us, the branches, from the root.” – Dave Wilkerson, *Christian Author and Pastor*

Holiness describes our new standing with the Lord. He chose us to “be holy and blameless before Him”. Our bodies are the temple of His Spirit, and whatever He inhabits, He makes holy. However, our behavior sometimes doesn’t line up with this truth. We are declared righteous, but we don’t always act like it.

“The problem is that many Christians don’t see themselves as God does. They say, “Well, I’m not really holy, but I’m not that sinful either.” Therefore, they place themselves somewhere in the middle. But in fact, nothing lies between holiness and sinfulness. You are either one or the other. We must stop trying to straddle the fence and instead begin living out the reality of who we are in Christ. Although the Lord gives us our position of holiness at the moment of salvation, our behavior is changed over time as we submit and obey Him (2 Cor. 3:18).” – Charles Stanley, *Christian Author and Pastor*