

## The Pursuit of Holiness

### Hebrews 12:14

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<sup>KJV</sup> **Hebrews 12:14** Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

**Question: Are you following after peace & holiness?**

<sup>ESV</sup> **Hebrews 12:14** Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

**Question: Are you striving after peace & holiness?**

## The Pursuit of Holiness

<sup>NIV</sup> **Hebrews 12:14** Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

**Question: Are you making every effort to live in peace with everyone and be holy?**

## Context of Hebrew 12:14

The people to whom Hebrews is written are saved.

- <sup>KJV</sup> **Hebrews 3:1** Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

The readers are warned about the danger of departing from the living God.

- <sup>KJV</sup> **Hebrews 3:12** Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

## Basic Truths to Learn about Holiness

1. What is it?
2. How is it obtained?
3. How is it maintained?
4. What is its purpose?
5. How necessary is it?

## What is it?

**4 Facts everyone should know about holiness.**

1. Holiness is not "perfection." Only Jesus is perfect.
2. Holiness is "separation." (Lev. 20:26) holy // separated
  - **Leviticus 20:26** You shall be holy to me, for I the LORD am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.
  - What is separated to God is holy!

### What is it?

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1. Holiness is not "perfection." Only Jesus is perfect.
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3. Holiness is "separation" to Jesus as His possession. (1 Cor. 6:19-20),
  - **1 Corinthians 6:19** What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

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### What is it?

4. Holiness is "separation" from that which is sinful. (2 Corinthians 7:1).
  - **2 Corinthians 7:1** Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

### How is it Obtained?

1. When a person repents of sin, and receives Jesus Christ as Savior, they are united with Christ and are declared to be holy. (1 Cor. 1:2).
  - **1 Corinthians 1:2** Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified [made holy] in Christ Jesus, called to be saints [holy ones], with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

### How is it Obtained?

2. When you get saved, God makes you a new creature, old things pass away, and all things become new.
  - <sup>KJV</sup> **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.
3. When Paul writes to the Christians in the various NT churches, his primary identification of them is "holy ones."
4. If you are saved, you are holy! If you are not holy, you are not saved!

### How is it Maintained?

1. **Holy Christians** are to strive to be more holy. (Heb. 12:14)
  - **Hebrews 12:14** Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.
2. Christians are to pursue holiness!

### What is the Goal of Holiness?

1. The goal of holiness is Christ-likeness.
2. The Christian is to seek each day:
  - To walk in the light = obey what you know the Bible teaches.
  - To keep the conscience clear.
    - **Acts 24:16** And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and *toward* men.

### What is the Goal of Holiness?

2. The Christian is to seek each day:
  - To cooperate with the Holy Spirit who wishes to make changes in our attitudes and actions.
    - **Ezekiel 36:27** And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.
    - **Galatians 5:16** *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

### How Important is Holiness?

1. <sup>KJV</sup> **Hebrews 12:14** Follow peace with all *men*, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.
2. <sup>NIV</sup> **Hebrews 12:14** Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

### How Important is Holiness?

- Q. How important is oxygen to physical life?**  
**Ans. Without oxygen, you will physically die!**
- Q. How important is holiness to spiritual life?**  
**Ans. Without holiness, you will spiritually die!**

### How do I Pursue Holiness?

1. I must purposely remove from my life everything that hinders me spiritually.
  - <sup>KJV</sup> **Hebrews 12:1** "... let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."
2. I must keep my eyes on Jesus!
  - **Hebrews 12:2** "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith . . . ."

### How do I Pursue Holiness?

3. I must not get discouraged when the Lord chastens me.
  - <sup>KJV</sup> **Hebrews 12:5-6:** ". . . My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chastens, and scourges every son whom he receives."
  - **Remember:** it is God's love and delight in you that motivates His chastening!

### How do I Pursue Holiness?

4. I am to give thought about how to spiritually encourage others and help them to grow closer to the Lord.
  - <sup>ESV</sup> **Hebrews 10:24** And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,
5. Pursue peace with everyone you know.
  - **Hebrews 12:14** Follow peace with all *men* . . . .
  - You are not to pursue arguments.
  - You are not to despise or judge others with whom you disagree.

### How do I Pursue Holiness?

- You seek for things that build up and promote peace.

### Conclusion

Concluding questions:

Question: Are you following after peace & holiness?

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Question: Are you making every effort to live in peace with everyone and be holy?

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