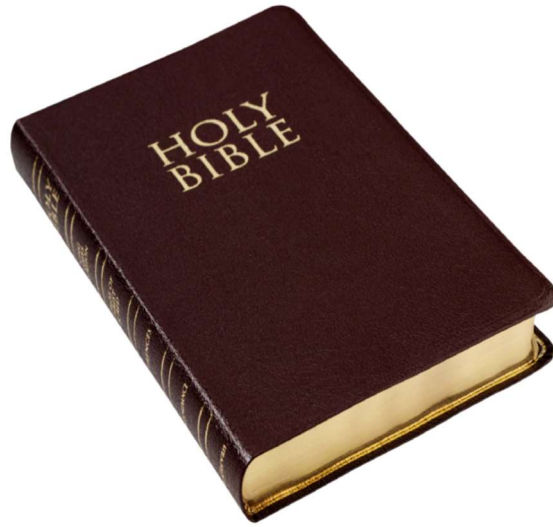


Living Holy (It's A Lifestyle)

As children of God, we have been selected and chosen to glorify God. "To Glorify God" is to honor and extol him. Scripture unfolds several ways in which we consciously and actively answer this privileged call; however, they all stem from a lifestyle of holiness. Holiness goes far beyond a particular denomination or religion type. It is truly our accepted way (style) of life, the way we are expected and choose to live.

The opportunity to conduct a workshop on this timeless topic was bestowed in 2009. Given the importance and significance of holiness in the life of the believer, a manuscript designed to serve as reference material was developed to assist Christians at every stage in his or her walk. Whether you've just begun your journey (babe in Christ) or you've been traveling this road for some time now (seasoned), the prayer is for these words to leap off the pages into your heart and spirit!

LIVING HOLY
(IT'S A LIFESTYLE)



2009
WORKSHOP MANUSCRIPT

REVISED

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH CHURCH MINISTRIES
1006 ACADEMY STREET
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INTRODUCTION

As men and women of God, we have been selected and chosen to glorify God. "To glorify God" is to honor and extol him.

HOW DO/CAN WE GLORIFY GOD AS MEN AND WOMEN?

By Living Holy (lifestyle)

1 Peter 1:16

By Not Compromising

Acts 5:29, 1 Thessalonians 5:22

By Watching Our "Conversation" (speech & behavior)

1 Peter 1:15

By Worship/Praise

Psalms 96:4,9

By Following/Keeping His Commandments (obedience is better than sacrifice)

Ecclesiastes 12:13, 1 Samuel 15:22

By Maintaining Our Integrity/Character

Proverbs 11:3

By Mortifying the Deeds of Our Flesh

Romans 8:13

By Casting Down Every Imagination Not Like God

2 Corinthians 10:5

By Hiding the Word of God in Our Hearts that We Might Not Sin Against Him

Psalms 119:11

By Not Being Unequally Yoked w/unbelievers

2 Corinthians 6:14

OBJECTIVES

- Gain a better understanding of "living holy" as instructed by the word of God
- Discuss two common practices contrary to a holy lifestyle
- Provide daily meditation scriptures to help you in your walk
- Inspire and encourage you to further your study in this area
- Convince you to glorify God in your life!

APPROACH

5 W's and an H

- What?
- Why?
- Who?
- When?
- Where?
- How?

LIVING HOLY BY THE BOOK

What?

What is meant by living holy (a lifestyle of holiness)? Let's dissect the words "to live" and "holy". Oftentimes, the literal sense of words connects into the knowledge, understanding and revelation of the Word of God.

Webster's definition of "to live" means, among other things

- to conduct one's life
- to carry out in one's life
- to maintain life
- to make one's dwelling
- to reside

Webster's definition of holy is

- consecrated, sacred
- spiritually pure; sinless; saintly
- regarded with or deserving deep respect or reverence

According to Nelson's Bible Dictionary, the Hebrew word for "holy" denotes that which is "sanctified" or "set apart" for divine service. Combined both in the literal and spiritual sense, "living holy" is residing in, carrying out, maintaining and conducting a lifestyle of sanctification, consecration, purity, respect and reverence.

WHY?

Why are we to live holy? The Bible is our instruction manual. When we purchase a major appliance or tool, it usually comes with an instruction manual. We see in bold black letters "READ THE INSTRUCTION MANUAL BEFORE USE". But what do we do? Many of us will lay the instructions to the side and say I got this. We will begin to use the product without reading the **warning labels, cautions, warranty, line-by-line steps** to using the product.

How many of you know if we take the time to read the manual, then we will be able to operate/handle the product more effectively and more efficiently. Sometimes we can't get something to work or we put the product together without reading the manual. It's the same with the Word of God. Some things will not work for us or come together until we get into the Word of God. Why because the Word of God is truth, knowledge and power to the believer. So since the Bible is our instruction manual, we're going to see what it says (instructs) us concerning living holy.

Why are we to live holy?

- God is holy.

1 Peter 1:16 says "Because it is written, **BE YE HOLY; FOR I AM HOLY**". The New International Version reads "for it is written: **Be holy, because I am holy**". In other words, because God is holy, we are to be holy. Again, to be holy is to be set apart-set apart from sin and impurity, and set apart to God according to the NIV Study Bible. It is important for us to see this scripture for ourselves. Paul spoke to the Gentiles in Romans 11:16 "**For if the first fruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches**". When your Pastor admonishes you to live holy, he or she is not asking you to do so to please him or her or to make him or her happy. They are

preaching and teaching the Word of God. They are telling you what it will take to please God. God requires holiness out of his people.

- **Commanded To Live Holy**

This is a command, not a suggestion or recommendation. The phrase "Be Ye Holy or Be holy" is written in the second person imperative mood. As you recall from grammar, the imperative mood is a grammatical mood that expresses direct commands or requests. Furthermore, an imperative sentence gives an instruction to be obeyed. The subject word is not usually used in commands, but it can be. In this case, the subject is omitted. The subject is "You" or in other words, it is saying "You (2nd person) be holy." Variations of this scripture are found at least four additional times in the Bible (Leviticus 11:44-45, Leviticus 19:2, Leviticus 20:7). God says what he means and means what he says and if it's worth repeating, then we should take heed.

- **The Bible is not a cafeteria.**

We cannot pick and choose from the Bible which instructions we want to follow or practice.

Examples: company benefits, K&W
(Not treated like them)

We still have a choice because the Bible tells us in Joshua 24:15 " ...choose you this day whom ye will serve". How many of you know there are consequences to not living holy? Choose wisely.

- **It's The Least We Can Do**

We have to desire to live holy, desire the things of God. You've done so much for me God, the least I can do is to line my life up with your Word by the empowerment and enablement of your Holy Spirit.

Romans 12:1 says "I Beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service". That's the least that we can do considering John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life". Considering Jesus hung on Calvary's cross until God was satisfied with the travail of his soul. (Isaiah 53:11) Jesus endured the humiliation, the physical and mental pain and anguish and the ridicule for us. "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:5) I'm in my right mind on today because Jesus allowed them to place a crown of thorns on His head so that I could have a sound mind. He allowed it all to happen. He could have called a legion of angels to come to His rescue, but He was obedient to the will of God. How many of us are obedient to God's will today? Obedience is better than sacrifice. (1 Samuel 15:22)

- We are God's temple.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 says "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. You no longer belong to yourself. We have been bought with a price". 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says "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? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's".

Who?

Who is required/commanded to live holy?

- Every born-again believer
- We who have accepted Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior

We cannot live holy by our own strength, by our own will power. Zechariah 4:6 clearly tells us "...Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts".

When?

When are we to live holy/practice a lifestyle of holiness?

- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year including the extra day for leap year
- Full-time, not part of the time
- Not only on Sundays, Wednesday or Thursday nights or other "church" service times

We are always in the presence of God because he is omnipresent (everywhere at all times). Church never turns out because we are the church. Your witness may be the only representation of Jesus and the true church seen by others who don't know the Lord.

Where?

Where do we live holy, practice a lifestyle of holiness?

- Everywhere—on our jobs, at home, in our cars, in the grocery store, at church—you name it

There is no place we go that we are not to demonstrate a lifestyle of holiness.

How?

How do we live holy? Just to take it one step further, is it possible for us to live holy? The enemy would have you to believe that you can't. Well again, God commanded us to live holy in his Word. God would not command us to do something if he had not already equipped us to be able to do it. We were made in his image and every believer is indwelled with His spirit, the Holy Spirit.

- Yield to the Spirit.

We have the power within us to live holy if we yield to the Spirit. Galatians 2:20 says "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me". According to a King James Study Bible, "to be crucified with Christ" means the believer has been freed from the law and from the ruling power of sin that was aroused by the law. Since the believer has been freed from the law and sin, the old sinful life no longer asserts itself as formerly. Jesus cultivates within the believer His own desires, virtues, character, and power. We are to depend on Jesus for strength.

- Rely upon the Word of God, whether written, preached or taught. We must read, study and meditate on the Word of God. In Matthew 4:4, Jesus responded to Satan by saying, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God", letting us know that not only would we need physical food but spiritual food to sustain us. In his response, I believe there was also another message to us in how we ought to live. We know that God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are one for John 1:1 states "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God". 1 John 5:7-8 further confirms their agreement.

Therefore when we read the Word of God (the bible), we are receiving written instruction from the trinity. Search for scriptures that deal with your struggles and read them on a regular basis (over and over). The Word works when you work the Word. This may sound cliché, but it's true! Peace and deliverance can be found by focusing on these scriptures: "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you". (Matthew 6:33), "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me". (Philippians 4:13), "Because it is written, BE YE HOLY; FOR I AM HOLY". (1 Peter 1:16), "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14), "...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4), "Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?" (Matthew 6:27), Wherefore COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM, AND BE YE SEPARATE, saith the Lord, AND TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THING; AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU (2 Corinthians 6:17), Matthew 6:25-34 and Psalm 121.

- Attend worship services and bible studies.

The bible tells us to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together. (Hebrews 10:25) Where do we normally come together to hear the Word...church right? If you know you are struggling with an issue or in an area and are seeking deliverance, then you should be sitting under the Word, hopefully a biblically sound Word and a Word delivered by your undershepherd. By sitting consistently under the Word, you will receive revelation and the strength to live holy.

- Do Not Compromise.

One definition of the word compromise is endanger in reputation, so in other words, we live holy by not endangering the reputation.

Whose reputation should we be concerned about first and foremost? Certainly not ours. It's all about God and his kingdom. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done. It's not about us.

We should not be charged with leading people astray, bringing a reproach against the universal church (God, body of Christ and local body). People are watching. When you don't do what you are supposed to/live how you are supposed to live, as the Word commands, we tell the world that our God is not able to deliver us/keep us/sustain us. Like Paul, I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. (2 Timothy 1:12)

- Don't allow anything and everything to enter your ear and eye gates.

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17)

The things I used to do, I don't do anymore. The places I used to go, I don't go anymore. My appetite and my desire have changed.

Therefore, I must guard my spirit from outside influences that want to take me back from whence I came.

Examples:

-Secular music carries a spirit.

-TV shows such as soap operas and some movies are full of lust, sex outside of marriage runs rampant, daytime or night.

Stop allowing these images to contaminate your spirit because that's really what it is...Contamination. Anytime we allow anything in our life that is ungodly and unholy, we are being contaminated.

-Don't allow your spirit to become contaminated with gossip. Entertaining gossip by either "listening" to it or "spreading" it hinders us from living holy.

- Display Self-respect (Respect Yourself).

- Don't allow yourself to be treated as an object, trophy or doormat.

- Give attention to your wardrobe (what you wear), making sure it is not too short, tight or revealing. We do not want to draw unwelcomed attention. Be presentable. Keep in mind you are not holy by what you wear, but what you wear is a reflection upon a holy God.

ASK YOURSELF

1. What am I "allowing" to keep me from living holy, from practicing a lifestyle of holiness? Is it a man, a woman, my friends, my own flesh-driven desires, denial that I have an issue?
2. What is that thing that you're putting before God?
3. Who/what do I love more? Do I love Jack or Sue more than God? Do I love my house and car more than God? Do I love my reputation/status more than God? God is your source. Jack/Sue may have been a resource used by God for a season.
4. Do I value my ungodly relationships (we're talking about being unequally yoked here) more than I value the price that was paid for me by Jesus on Calvary?
5. Do I make excuses for why I am not living holy, lining my life up with the Word of God, yielding to the enablement of the Holy Spirit?
6. Do I try to justify my actions or inactions?
7. Do I fail to take responsibility for my decisions/indecisions (the devil made me do it mentality)?
8. Do I seek to please people and not God?
9. Do I understand who I am and whose I am?
10. Am I showing to the world that I serve a holy, powerful and mighty God who is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day (2 Timothy 1:12)?

MEDITATION SCRIPTURES

(King James Version)

Because it is written, BE YE HOLY; FOR I AM HOLY. (1 Peter 1:16)

It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. (Matthew 4:4)

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matthew 6:33)

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. (Philippians 4:13)

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? (2 Corinthians 6:14)

Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?
(Matthew 6:27)

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven...
(Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Wherefore COME OUT FROM AMONG THEM, AND BE YE SEPARATE, saith the Lord, AND TOUCH NOT THE UNCLEAN THING; AND I WILL RECEIVE YOU (2 Corinthians 6:17)

...Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body. (1 Corinthians 6:13)

Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. (1 Corinthians 6:18)

Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof. (Matthew 6:34)

MEDITATION SCRIPTURES

(Cont.)

(King James Version)

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: (1 Peter 2:9)

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Romans 7:18-23 (Struggle of Two Natures)

Psalms 23 (The Lord is my shepherd...)

Psalms 120 (I WILL lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help...)

CONCLUSION

Ultimately, Jesus is our example. "For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." (Hebrews 5:15) As a man, Jesus experienced the temptations and challenges of mankind and still walked in holiness. The same power that operated in Him as a human being (God in the flesh) has been made available to us. We have help! Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 5:16)

Christians are called priests and saints in the bible, making a statement about whom our lifestyle should reflect. None of us are perfect and neither can be for the Word declares all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Thank God, we wake up daily to brand new (a fresh supply of) mercy and another opportunity to reflect a holy God by living holy as he commands us. As ambassadors for Christ, let us remember we have been called to represent Him in the earth, thereby glorifying God as His chosen men and women!

TERMS

Consecration

-the act of setting apart, or dedicating, something or someone for God's use

Extol

-to praise highly (Webster's NewWorld Dictionary)

Omnipresent/Omnipresence

-the unlimited nature of God or His ability to be everywhere at all times

Revelation

-God's communication to people concerning Himself, his moral standards, and His plan of salvation

Reverence

-a feeling of profound awe and respect

Righteousness

-holy and upright living, in accordance with God's standard

Sanctification

-the process of God's grace by which the believer is separated from sin and becomes dedicated to God's righteousness

(Taken from Nelson's New Illustrated Bible Dictionary unless otherwise specified)

NOTES

Author: JMB

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