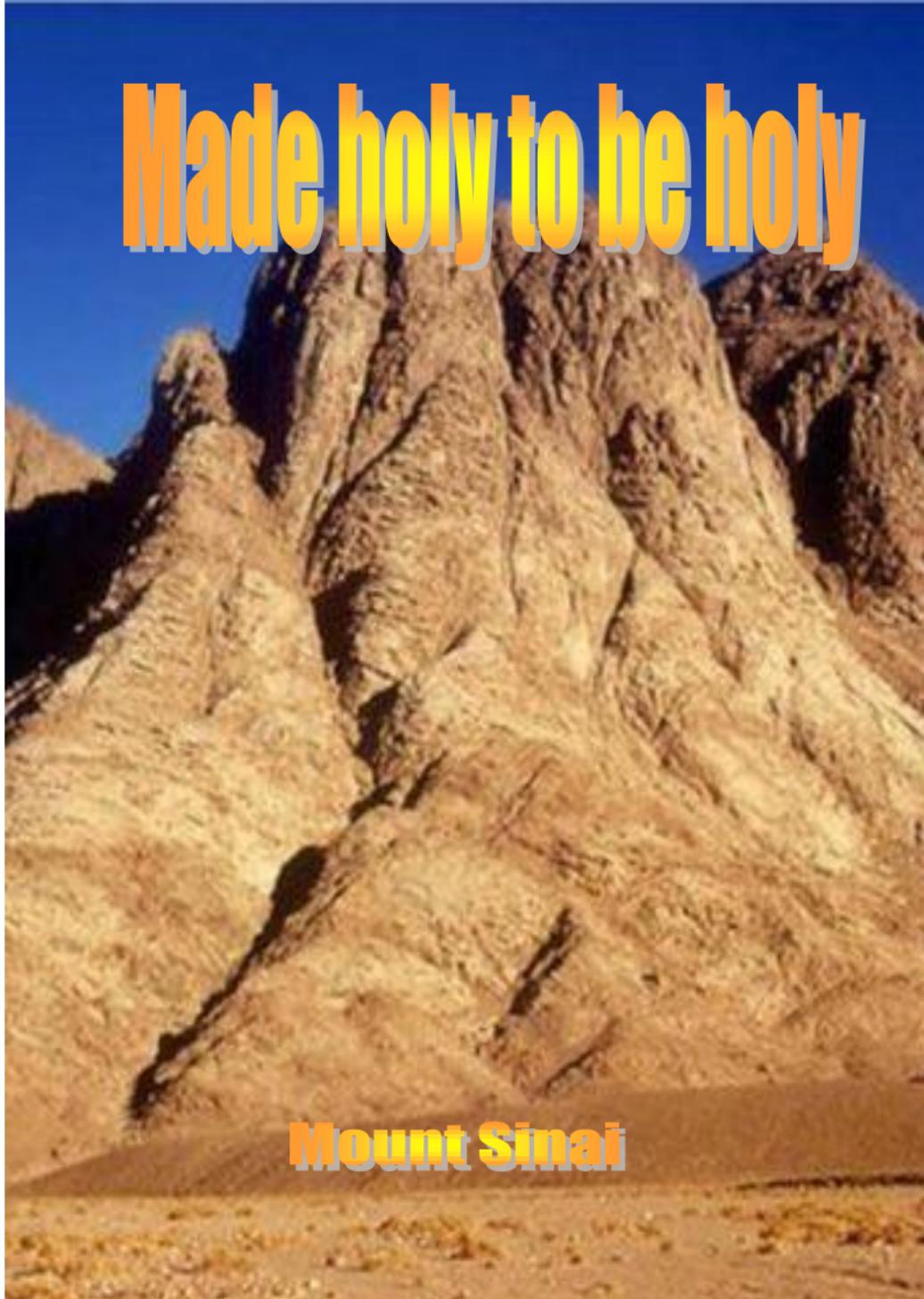


**Made holy to be holy**



**Mount Sinai**

## *Made holy to be holy*

### **What is holiness?**

Holiness isn't some unobtainable majestic virtue, or like walking on water, it's simply living the life God has created in us by the Spirit; which means we are to live as Jesus Christ lived. *'But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behaviour; because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."* 1 Peter 1:15-16

Only those born by God's Spirit through faith in Jesus are holy children of God. *'Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.'* (1 John 3:2) *'For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.'* Gal 3:26

*"To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."* John 1:12-13

*'By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.'*

1 John 5:2

Is it possible that our new birth in holiness is ineffective? No, God is able to do what He plans. We are created in holiness in the image of Christ. Another way of saying this is used by Peter. *'His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature.'*

2 Pet 1:3-4

**To have the holiness of Christ we need to be born of God**

*"Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'"*

John 3:7

We must be born again because the life we inherited from Adam is corrupted by sin and cannot enter the kingdom of God; we need a new life of holiness only inherited from God.

The only correct way to heaven begins with the conviction of sin as a work of the Spirit of God.

*'When He comes, will convict the world concerning sin.'* (John 16:8) Conviction of sin must then be followed with the faith of repentance, for many are convicted but few believe enough to repent. Many see guilt as a bad thing, but the conviction of the Spirit must expose our guilt, so guilt is a good thing, if we really want to get right with God. And once we are on the right way, guilt brings us back when we have miss-stepped.

As a result of repentance the Holy Spirit gives us a new birth in the image of Christ. This means the holiness and the character of Christ is implanted in the believer. The life of the Spirit brings all the blessings of God, along with the power to live a life of holiness and obedience, as demonstrated to us by Jesus Christ, with whom the believer lives by the Spirit of God.

The only way to be able to live the life of a disciple that Jesus requires is first to be born again by the Spirit of God, and to then walk by the enabling of the Spirit in all things.

Jesus sets the standard for this new birth. *"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow*

*Me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it.*” Luke 9:23-24

Those who have taken up their crosses have Christ as their sanctification. *‘I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.’* Gal 2:20

*‘For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.’* Col 3:3

*‘Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.’* 2 Cor 5:17

*‘As He is, so are we in the world.’* 1 John 4:7

*‘But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him.’* 1 Cor 6:17

*‘Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children;’* Eph 5:1

*“Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”* Matt 5:48

*'Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is.'*

1 John 3:2

*'You belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.'*

1 Cor 3:22-23

*'we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,'*

Eph 4:15

*'So that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.'*

2 Cor 4:11

## **God means for us to be holy**

Holiness is not only a possibility for the serious Christian; holiness is God's requirement for all His children. *"Without holiness no one will see the Lord."*

Heb12:14

*'The one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.'*

1 John 2:6

Spiritual birth is only the beginning. When God gave us a new life of the Spirit, He gave us the holy qualities of Jesus Christ. God gave us Christ's faith, purity, goodness and endurance,

and all the virtues of the life of Christ, which is also the life of the Spirit, *'love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.'* Gal 5:22-23

Holiness means having virtue that is self giving. *'Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.'*

1 Cor 13:4-7

Our heavenly Father doesn't demand from us what we cannot possibly do. Our God does what is needed so we can obey Him. God doesn't just demand we follow the example of Jesus, He gives us the life of Jesus Christ, and tells us to follow Him, and live the way He lived, to obey all He commanded His followers to do, so we can be transformed into His image. *'When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.'* Col 3:4

To live a life of holiness means living according to the directions of the Holy Spirit. *'But I*

*say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.'*

Gal 5:16-18

*'For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.'*

Rom 8:14

*'However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness.'*

Rom 8:9-10

## **The mystery of our transformation is Christ in us**

*'Christ in you, the hope of glory.'*

Col 1:27

*'But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption.'* (1 Cor 1:30) His life is the transforming power for holiness, but only when

we give ourselves over to obey Him in all things in absolute surrender to His will.

Sanctification in holiness is Christ formed in us. (Gal 4:19) If our minds are on the flesh, we will not know the fellowship of God. When our minds are on the Spirit we will love and obey Jesus. *“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.”* John 14:23

God is all the holiness we need. *“Be holy for I am holy.”* *“For I am Yahweh your God, so you must consecrate yourselves and be holy because I am holy.”* Leviticus 11:44; 1 Pet 1:16

God gives us all the holiness we need. *‘seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature.’* 2 Pet 1:3-4

Godliness is the holiness of the divine nature that is already granted to us, as the life we received as the spiritual children of God.

## **New birth doesn't mean instant maturity**

The world is fallen from the holiness of God. To expect perfection and peace in the world is not only foolhardy but goes against any reasonable observation. In this life, everyone is living out their own drama, according to the level of their own spiritual understanding.

The world is a mirror for our souls. We interpret the world according to our deepest understanding. Our interpretation of what is happening has less to do with others and most to do with how we see ourselves. Those who have not denied themselves to follow Christ by taking up their crosses, do not have holiness, and cannot see God, so they cannot be holy as He is holy.

Those who do follow Christ are still in the process of having their minds transformed to become like the mind of Christ. If we don't really believe we are born of God with His life, we will be unable to walk as Jesus walked, because we will still think we are fleshly, even though we believe we have received mercy.

As is the case in the physical realm, growth in the spiritual life begins with birth, then moves to

adolescence and then onto a mature life in the Spirit. Without effort growth will be stunted.

It is also a sad reality, that quite a lot of those who come the right way through Christ, have not grasped the enormous gift God's grace bestows on those who truly believe, who long for it with all their strength. God gives all of Himself and all He has to those who love Him with all their hearts, minds and strength.

But to become mature we must want His life to grow in us according to the knowledge of God as He works in us and we submit to His will.

Sometimes growth is stunted because we try in our own strength to do what only God can do when we obediently surrender to His love. It is often the case that many try hard to be holy, some for a long time, but in the end they give up and take a back seat in spiritual matters.

The first requirement for spiritual growth to transform our lives is absolute surrender to a life of trust and obedience, so that God can manifest His life through us, instead of us trying to manufacture the life of Christ in our own strength, which is a futile experience.

All our sincere but misguided efforts to make ourselves like Christ are good evidence we have not understood that we have died with Christ so that He can give us His life. Our efforts only shows that we are going back to chew on the dead body of our past to do the impossible.

The first thing we need to recognise is that we live by faith, so we trust in God, we live to please God, we obey God, and we accept what He says about what He has done for His beloved children.

Few seem to realise that God has given us the same life that was in His Son. He has made us perfect in His holiness. And while we need to realise that truth, we can only do this by accepting that the person we were in the flesh is dead, so we refuse to chew on the carcass of our old life.

Instead of looking back, we surrender to the power of God to manifest the life of Christ in us. We walk just as Jesus walked to please the Father, we speak as He would speak, and we do as He would do, because He lives in us to make His life visible in the world.

How absurd it is, that we attempt to get a dead person of the flesh to help us live a life of the Spirit. Living in the past is a major reason for a lack of spiritual growth. What could possibly possess us when we keep harking back to the life once lived, as if we can gain comfort for our self pity, when God has given us His life and a share in the inheritance of His Son.

Is it because we don't believe God has given us the life of His Son, so that we are made holy as He is holy? Is it because we listen to the great deceiver who denies we have the holiness of Christ?

Yes, we will miss the mark now and again, but when we stumble, we again obey God and confess our sin and He will be gracious to forgive us our sin, and cleans us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9) But this will only be effective when we desire the holiness of Christ that the Father desires for us. We can go on confessing our sins for ever if we make no effort to change our behaviour. So the Lord requires we take positive action to cease what is not holy in our behaviour. We are told to: '*Put to death therefore what is earthly in you.*' Col 3:5

## **Holiness requires effort in changing our corrupted minds**

What we believe determines our behaviour, so when our behaviour doesn't match what we think we believe; our belief hasn't gone deep enough.

We want a quick fix for our brokenness, and while our new life is given to us complete in Christ, our realisation of that completeness takes time. As the Bible says, we work out what God has worked in our hearts. Phil 2:13

Scripturally, the heart of man refers to the deeper parts of the soul; it is the deeper parts that effect our unconscious disposition, and where we have locked away our most disturbing experiences, and our subsequent fleshly conclusion about the nature of life and the world.

So our minds have both a conscious and unconscious component. We may know many things about God in our conscious mind, but the transformation of our heart only takes place when the unconscious mind absorbs God's truths and makes them our own.

It is often the hidden damaged recesses of our minds that produce our ungodliness even when

we consciously agree with the Bible, and this deeper brokenness causes us the most distress. We fall back on our deeper thoughts when we expect the world to be a better place, and when it is less desirable than we prefer.

The holy work of sanctification is to transform not only our conscious mind, but more importantly our subconscious mind; the whole soul needs to be conformed to the image of Christ, otherwise we remain as if we are half baked.

In this process of becoming like Christ, our Father uses the world as our training ground as we become aware of what is not holy in us, and we commit ourselves to putting it off and putting on the holiness of Christ who is our life by Spiritual rebirth.

If we think we believe God's word about our new life, and we react negatively to the things of the world and the behaviour of others, we have had the ungodliness of our subconscious revealed to us. Our proper response is to repent as we bow down before our Father and seek more fully the kingdom of God and His righteousness to be

made alive in us by ridding our minds of wrong thinking.

We often struggle to be holy because we still think we are deficient, ignoring what God says about us as being led by the Spirit. Sometimes we are told we are still sinners, when God says we are saints of light. We also struggle because we still have a tendency to think with our old thoughts, not realising we need to promote the renewing of our minds.

Our real problem has to do with our minds, so often they are thinking as natural men of the flesh, rather than been set on the things of the Spirit. The real work is the transformation of our minds so that we can approve what is acceptable and perfect. We need to train ourselves to give up thinking as we did in the natural man, and begin thinking as those who are holy children of God.

Christ is our life, the holiness of God in us, our aspiration, and our every desire, as we sit with Him in heavenly places. Wouldn't it be better for our hearts if our every thought and meditation be filled with Him?

So often we can be aware of the constant rehearsing in our mind the events and situations from the weakness of the flesh, and it is this way of thinking we are to put off as inconsistent with walking with God, as those who have been remade in the image of Christ. We have to inform our minds of what God has done and is doing so we can be presented complete in Christ. We have to know what the Bible says we are in our deepest being as opposed to the unconscious mind.

If our thinking is not consistent with godly thoughts, we cannot live godly lives, because we do not totally believe God has given us the life of Christ. If we make the effort to set our minds on what God is working in us, the Spirit will open our minds so we have the mind of Christ.

The constant chewing over our earthly troubles, our disappointments, and how we have been hurt by others, only goes to show we still have our minds set on the flesh that was crucified with Christ. Talk about a dead man walking!! The great contradiction is, while we give ourselves over to worldly thinking, and get anxious, we still claim we love God and want to be holy. The result is we have no peace.

Even if we aren't reacting to our troubles, we spend an enormous amount of our precious time hashing over worldly fantasies of how we will do this or that; and the things of the Spirit are conspicuous by their absence.

How depressing, the flesh is a loser, and depression follows thoughts of loss that belong to the world. But the mind that is fixed on the Spirit has life and peace, because those who are in the spirit have received every blessing in the heavenly places in Christ. Worldly losses don't reduce our heavenly inheritance when we really walk with God.

If someone came to us and spun a cock and bull story, we would quickly see through their rubbish. But we exercise our minds with all sorts of thoughts of getting square, and making up a story for our defence and the wrongness of others, and never question for a moment that we are deceiving ourselves with fleshly thoughts. We have to put to death that which is earthly in us, and this begins between our ears.

If our minds are running amuck we need to bring them to God for a burial service. If we don't deal

with fleshly thoughts, we need to remember that thoughts determine behaviour, and worldly thinking will not result in holy living.

The general cure for fleshly thinking is to set our minds on the things above where Christ is seated on His throne. But this must be done while we believe that God has given us the life of Christ so we can walk before Him in spirit and truth.'

*"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God."* Col 3:1-3

God expects us to cultivate a lifestyle of holiness by walking with the Spirit. *'I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.'* Gal 5:16

*'As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behaviour.'*

1 Peter 1:14-15

The holiness of Jesus Christ now implanted in the believer seeks to express itself in godly virtues that we must have as our priority. *'Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.'* Phil 4:8

To be holy means to be spiritually minded, it means living according to the spiritual life given to all who are born again of the Spirit. The flesh is life according to the natural man that serves self interests and worldly ways; it is from this that all our evil comes. Life in the spirit means the principle of holy obedience given to us by the Spirit is enabling us to live for God.

We can know if we are born of the Spirit by the desires of our hearts. Are our desires in the world or in God? Do we desire His holiness and want His motives to fill our minds? If we have the Spirit of God we will have His motivation for life. When we rely on the Spirit of God made alive in us we have the strength to live according to His will.

When we rely on ourselves we don't abide in Christ, so we can do nothing in relation to holiness. John 15:5

## **We have a battle for our minds**

*'For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.'* Gal 5:17

Our negative reactions to the words or deeds of others, is motivated from our unconscious mind of the flesh, even when we consciously know that we are to love others as God has loved us. When we react to the drama of someone else living out what they believe, good or bad, we reveal the poor level of our transformation in certain areas of our understanding, and thereby the holiness we as yet have not made our own.

Our reactions to what is happening around us, reflects on us, and who we are according to the understanding of our hearts at the present time. Even though God has given us a new heart in His likeness, we often don't realise completely the difference the work of God should make to our peace and holiness. Ezek 36:26

Consequently, we live by fleshly thoughts when we expect a level of goodness from others we are unable to produce ourselves. These are the things that the world will confront us with, but these are in reality, a test of our faith to trust in God. Our Father uses growing pains for our good as He transforms us into the image of Christ.

Rom 8:28-29

It is this constant unfolding of our deeper inner selves that is necessary for our sanctification. The process of sanctification by the Spirit is the only way for us to have these hidden dark reefs transformed into a life of holiness that reflects the will of God in the light. *“I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.”* John 8:12

Our reactions to disagreeable things, reveals the work still to take place in our devotion to the holiness of God. They reveal what we need to bring to the cross as we confess our sin in humility before God.

Sanctification is the will of God for us in Christ, who is Himself our sanctification. So when we pray for our further transformation into His image, God will answer our prayers and give us

the spiritual power we need to persevere in our faith. But we must seek first the kingdom of God to make progress in our sanctification. Christ imparted in us is our sanctification.

2 Cor. 5:21

For if we were always aware that God has made us like Christ, and that The Father and the Son now dwell in us, then nothing in the world could cause us to be anything but holy and content. When we have a burning desire for the holiness of Christ we can ask the Father and He will help us.

*'So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."*

John 8:31-32

We need to have God's word change our hearts, and not only our conscious minds. If we believed all things that have been revealed to us in God's word, we would always show love and be compassionate, showing mercy at all times. It is worth stating again: What we believe determines our behaviour, so when our behaviour doesn't

match what we think we believe; our belief hasn't gone deep enough.

Therefore, it is important to see the difference between what we think we believe, and how we behave. Since we may agree with what is required of us in the way of holiness, but we find ourselves reacting otherwise, then we have to work on our faith in determination to believe and obey, and be resolute in putting to death all that is earthly in us.

*'that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which is the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.'*

Eph 4:22-24

*'But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.'*

Rom 13:14

As a result we must work on the transformation of our minds by walking by the Spirit, constantly informing ourselves of the glory of God and what He is doing in us so that we are made complete in Christ. Our goal should be that which Paul had:

*'For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.* 1 Cor 2:2

Transformation requires a constant refocus of the mind on the spiritual realities of Christ's work of atonement within us. Our minds must be trained to fix our thoughts on what God has done and is doing. If we allow our thoughts to run randomly in the natural cause of things, they will take the line of least resistance, and follow the pattern of worldly living.

Spiritual thinking requires diligent attention and perseverance. We work out what God has worked in us, if we wait for God to work it out, we will be of little value to God, and we will be vulnerable to spiritual attack.

The born again life is the life of Christ, already holy, and we learn to put off the old ways as we put on our life in the Spirit. In Jesus Christ, we have whatever virtues of holiness are His, even though it may be unrealised at this time and require recognition.

God knows we have to learn to live our new life according to the image of Christ, so He has provided for our sanctification, our

transformation. And He provides the way we can confess and be forgiven when we do stumble.

1 John 1:9

## **Self justification is an obstacle to holiness**

One of the biggest obstacles to sanctification is when we claim some sort of justification for our reactions. As long as I can justify my behaviour because someone has done me wrong, I can never gain victory in that area, because I am grieving the Spirit and not walking by the Spirit who seeks my transformation into the image of Christ.

All the instructions we have in the Bible as to how we should behave as God's children are instructions for holiness.

So holiness is absolutely dependant our surrender in obedience, a failure to obey means a failure to realise the work of God for us in Christ. Obedience produces results.

*'until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.'*

Eph 4:13

## **A lack of commitment is an obstacle to holiness**

When we are feeling settled and not disturbed by our environment, we can more easily respond to evil appropriately with godliness, but if we are uneasy, or unaware, the old ingrained fleshly ungodly ways of least resistance from our past, are often the first responders. We take offence most quickly with people we know, people we don't know don't bother us. Having a relationship with someone makes us more vulnerable.

Therefore the daily training of our minds in spiritual mindedness in walking with God is of great importance and requires determined commitment. For the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace. God has made us holy by birth, so we need to do what is necessary to be holy. We need to not only obey His words, but we need to challenge our thinking in the way of holiness, and when we find anything ungodly hiding in our hearts, we must root it out, or cut it off.      Matt 5:29-30

Often we will only be aware of wrong thinking after the event, and every event is another opportunity, so we need to repent often, and

humble ourselves before God and man, and confess our sins not only to God but the ones we react to, (James 5:16) if we want God to forgive so we can grow spiritually.

### **A lack of spiritual knowledge is an obstacle to holiness**

We are to live by the word of God; His word is both our sword and shield. God's word is also His precision instruments for heart surgery. His word is also given for our training in righteousness. Many people claim Christ and fail to harness themselves to His word, and as a result they leave themselves vulnerable to spiritual attack and ongoing spiritual immaturity. If we cannot apply God's word to our daily lives it is of little value having a head full of knowledge.

Living by the word is the only way to be spiritual minded, and it is needed to continue to produce increasing holiness and strengthens our faith as we walk with God. To walk by the Spirit is to follow the word of God, it is the word of God stored in our hearts, in our inner most being, which the Spirit brings to mind when we need help to live in holiness.

It's impossible to get spiritual inspiration from the word of God when our minds are running amuck with worldly thinking. It is then that the noise of the world will drown out the still small voice of the Spirit. And it's also unhelpful for spiritual growth if we think ten minutes a day or an hour on Sunday will see us putting on Christ and growing so that we may be presented complete in Christ.

Col 1:28

When we walk by the Spirit, and keep ourselves secure by being spiritually minded, we will make good progress in many ways, but we will find some things frustrating.

However, if we love God we will never give up, we will cling to the cross of Christ our Lord and Saviour until the end. Our present tribulations are nothing to be compared to the glory that awaits us when we are united with Christ our Lord.

The Spirit gives us a desire for Christ's holiness, so if we are not moved, and we are not seeking to obey, then we don't have the Spirit or we have grieved the Spirit through disobedience.

The mind fixed on Christ walks with God according to His word. Faith that seeks

continually to be conformed to the holiness of God is counted to us as righteousness. This faith has peace now, and perfection later. We are in the transformation stage, not the exaltation days.

## **Holiness is for the body of Christ**

Unlike the popular opinion, holiness isn't a private matter; the purity of the church is the responsibility of all the members. Growth in holiness is found in God's way of iron sharpening iron, and this is only effective while interacting with others.

It is a common condition that we consider our walk with God as purely a private matter. I believe the Bible would suggest that this is not the way God has provided for our holiness to grow. We pray "Our Father" the prayer is made by the totality of God's people, whether we are in church or alone. We joined together are the body of Christ, collectively.

As members of the body of Christ we have a ministry to one another. We are given gifts for the building up of one another, the church, as the body of Christ.

1 Cor 12:7-27

Holiness training is meant to be a corporate as well as a private experience. Church us supposed to be interactive, one with another. We need each other to be complete, for we are members of the one body. Love for one another means wanting holiness for each other, and doing all we can to make it a reality. Without the tough love of the body life of the church we are not complete.

*'Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honour; not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.'*

Rom 12:10-11

Diligence means we are to be earnest and eager for others. To be fervent in spirit means our hearts are to be on fire, working passionately together for the Lord. It's not just about us as individuals; it's all about our burning desire and eager longing for all who are the church of Jesus Christ, which means all the saints. There is no separate me in the Christian life without the plural we, us, and ours.

Holiness means we must promote healthy accountability. Only being concerned about me,

on my own, hides me from exposure to the light needed to be revealed in us.

The truth is, we don't like to be corrected. Our first response is often, "who do you think you are" And the truth is, we are the servants of Christ, to do all things God requires of us as He has commanded.

*"This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."*

John 15:12-13

*'You belong to Christ; and Christ belongs to God.'*

1 Cor 3:23

Of course, anyone who doesn't want to come under the rule of the Holy Spirit, will not agree that we are to admonish one another if we are to obey God.

*'Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?'*

1 Cor 6:19

We are subject to Christ and we are subject to those who are in Christ. *'Therefore it is necessary*

*to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake.'* Rom 13:5

In the call for us to admonish one another, (Rom 15:14; Col 3:16) we are first of all to remember we are subject to Christ, and then there are two aspects to be considered, the one doing the correcting, and the one being reprovved. We have to be as willing to be admonished as we are to be willing to admonish.

Avoiding the giving of admonishment is itself a need for admonishment, as much as an unwillingness to be admonished is a denial of our shared responsibility to be holy in the Lord.

Since we follow Christ as our Lord and saviour, we can know what we should do by doing what He would do, because He is our example of holiness. We are to witness to His life by our words and deeds, because He lives in us.

### **We grow in holiness together**

When we remain with Christ as our constant companion, and we walk in obedience, we can put on Christ's love and holy character. But we never walk in insulation from the body of Christ, the Church.

Sanctification in holiness is a lifelong endeavour. Because we are to love others as Christ loves us, we need to be considerate and reflect on the personal situations that some of our brothers and sisters have to live under as they learn to walk with God.

But doing nothing and leaving others to themselves is not the loving thing to do, the Lord didn't leave the misguided and the wayward to blunder along in private.

We are to care for one another as we grow to maturity. *'Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you.'*  
Eph 4:32

But being kind doesn't mean leaving everyone to themselves. Instead: *'Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom and teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in our hearts to God.'* Col 3:16

Therefore: *'We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.'*  
Col 1:28

Although a word of caution can be unpopular, Paul tells us admonition is necessary for our spiritual health and progress. *'I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.'* Rom 15:14

Giving admonishment needs to be done with care as we share the burdens of others. *'Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfil the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself.'* Gal 6:2-3

If we all abide in Jesus Christ who is our life, we will all be holy as He is holy. Unshakable uncompromising faith in obedience to God is counted as holiness in the kingdom of God. Holiness knows peace now and perfection later. Holiness is oneness with God. Holiness knows God's love. Holiness knows God's security. Holiness knows happiness now. Holiness knows that nothing in the world matters, except to be one with God. Holiness is Christ in us and us in Christ forever. The sun might go down from us, but the Son has risen in us. It's not about what we have or don't have; it's about Christ who we have always.

# **Living Water Resources**

## **Come to the River**

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