

Pursuing Holiness

Insights from Hebrews 12:14-17
Pastor Bob Johnson, May 24th, 2020

What is it????

- not **W**_____, **W**_____, or **W**_____
- but simply ... **W**_____ (Isaiah 40:31)
Living to bring ... (1 Cor. 10:31)

Which is it????

(Hebrews 10:9-10,14; Ephesians 2:4-6)

Four Keys To "Progressive Holiness":

1. Progressive Holiness requires ...

(Hebrews 12:14, 1 Peter 1:14-16, Ephesians 4:22-24)

2. Progressive Holiness requires ...

(Hebrews 12:14-15, Hebrews 10:24-25)

3. Progressive Holiness requires ...

(Hebrews 12:16-17, Genesis 25:29-34, Hebrews 11:24-26)

4. Progressive Holiness requires ...

(2 Peter 1:3-11, James 1:22)

F_____

V_____

K_____

S_____

S_____

G_____

A_____

L_____

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This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to our sixth week of this 11 week study of Hebrews 11-13. Our last week of small groups for this season will be the last week in June.

At GPC, we are big on small groups :). Even when we have to zoom! May our church family grow warmer together even through this social distancing season as we connect with each other through our phones and computers.

The good news is that we don't have to wait to be physically together to meet together, develop friendships and encourage each other as we learn to apply God's truths to our everyday lives.

Getting Started:

This week's message was all about pursuing holiness as we looked at Hebrews 12:14-17. Bob shared that pursuing holiness in our daily lives is simply not running ahead of or behind God ... but waiting on God and then following His leading.

Speaking of waiting, in the lines of life, how good of a waiter are you? When was the last time you were waiting in line? How did you do? Where does your mind typically go when you are waiting somewhere?

Bob talked about two experiences of holiness: positional and progressive. Positional holiness happens when we choose to become a follower of Christ. (Ephesians 2:4-6)

Bob shared that we are more "seated in the heavens" with Christ legally more than literally. What did he mean by that?

For those that are married, you became 'legally one' when you became husband and wife. If married, what did you enjoy co-owning with your new spouse ... and what ... not so much?

Before we study some Biblical passages, let's share one more getting started question.

From several passages, Bob emphasized that the pursuit of holiness is more like a 'team sport' than a solo-pursuit.

Learning to appreciate the value of a team is something we all have needed to learn. Growing up, or more recently, when did you first experience the value of being on a team?

What are some specific ways being on a team benefitted you?

Quick Review:

Let's re-read Hebrews 12:14-17.

From this passage and Sunday's message, and looking back at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, confused you, encouraged you, or stretched your thinking?

Of the four keys to progressive holiness, which one caught your attention the most?

Which of the four do you find easier to grasp and apply to your life?

Which of the four do you find more difficult to live in light of?

Let's re-read Ephesians 4:22-24.

In this passage, Paul gives us a three step process in walking with God. What are the three steps?

The second step is receiving from God a new 'mental map' or new 'path to walk' as you move forward with God.

In your walk with God, what is one or two examples of God rewiring your thinking that has led to some new patterns of behavior you are attempting?

Digging Deeper:

Let's re-read the last passage Bob shared from last Sunday.
2 Peter 1:3-11

This passage talks about how we can know if we are actually living out our faith in Jesus in way that moves us toward maturity and progressive holiness. Read the following verses related to each of the eight qualities and share how these verses relate to that quality.

Faith:	Hebrew 11:1-3, 6
Virtue (Goodness):	Romans 1:18-32, Proverbs 4:18-19
Knowledge:	Romans 12:1-2, Proverbs 2:3-5
Self-Control:	James 1:22, 1 Timothy 4:7-8
Steadfastness:	Romans 5:3-5
Godliness:	1 John 2:6
Affection:	Hebrews 13:1, Romans 12:9-10
Love:	1 Corinthians 13:1-8

As you reflect on these qualities and verses, which one or two do you think you are best at? Are there any you sense God prompting you to pay more attention to?

An important part of pursuing holiness is teaming together. How do the following verses describe what a healthy community would look like?

Ephesians 4:1-3
Proverbs 27:17
1 Thessalonians 5:11

How can our small group continue to grow and improve in helping each other in our pursuit of holiness?

Wrapping Up:

Looking back on the message from Sunday and from our discussion, what is one truth that stands out to you that you can prayerfully ask God to help apply to your life somehow?

Praying Up: :)

Before we wrap up our sharing time, let's prayer for one another!

What are some specific requests we have that we can pray for?