

Spiritual How-to's

How & why we live a holy life

AKA – Cleaning up our act

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Review – Previous lessons:

- believe God exists & believe that He rewards
- accept His gift of Jesus
- live in holy awe & reverence of God
- receive the benefits of that life

Today's topic – How and why we live in holiness- aka – cleaning up our act

I. Because of His benefits, we choose to remove everything that contaminates our body & spirit 2 Cor. 7:1

A. Heb. 12:14 tells us to run swiftly toward holiness. Why?

- because those who are not holy will not see God
- holiness means living a life pleasing to God; not some weird vow of buzz kill
- 1. Mat. 5:8 – a pure heart opens our eyes to see more of God and His goodness
- 2. Rom. 2:4 – God's good leads us to repentance – choosing to clean up our act
- 3. Because we want to please Him, we choose to deal with contaminates in our life

B. These contaminates are called "sin". It's definition means, "to miss the mark".

1. Practicing these pollutants, causes them to permeate our spirit and sometimes even our body.
2. Anything that causes us to miss the mark of pleasing God is a contaminate, a sin
3. Guilt, shame, cover up, denial, pride – all pollute us and are sin too, that must be dealt with & be rid of.
4. Rom. 3:23 – says that we all have missed the mark.
 - that's why God has extended to us His free gift of Jesus' blameless life
In payment and exchange for our contaminated life
 - Jesus made it possible for me and you to boldly approach God now,
because He overcame sin by being resurrected from crucifixion.
5. SALVATION is just that. Recognizing that Jesus saved me from sin's penalty – death.

C. After salvation tho', am I perfect? Do I please God automatically?

Honestly, God does see our finished perfect product through the lens of Jesus Blood and victory.

1. But we have to choose to live a "sanctified", holy life by the choices we make.
 - please God or not?
 - admit our sin, missing the target, pollutions in our life
2. Enoch, Heb. 11:5 says that his life became a pleasure to God
3. That happens by recognizing our sin, admitting it to God, and asking the good, good father's forgiveness

D. God is our Heavenly Father and He trains us by showing us things in our life that need correction. Heb. 12:5-8

1. He does this because He loves us and wants to see us
2. He pulls us near & says to our heart things like -
 - a. Deb, that response did not please me, how could you have chosen differently?
 - b. Deb, that person is worthy of attention, when will you give it to them?
 - c. Debbie, do not fear man & his empty threats, fear me & my judgment.
 - d. Debbie, my ways are NOT yours, trust me & follow where I lead
 - e. Debbie, that is not my way. STOP sinning & accept my forgiveness.
 - f. Deb, I have forgiven you of all of that, stop living in shame & guilt.
3. When He speaks, through the Word, a message, a person, a song... it is our responsibility to respond.
 - a. we admit the sin & He forgives us I John 1:9
 - b. We confess, He will forgive us and cleanse us
4. When I lose my temper – Lord, I am so sorry I.... please forgive me
When I cuss someone out inside my head...
When I make an immoral sexual decision...
When I act, do.... These are sins of commission. Action. I admit and ask forgiveness.
5. Sins of omission, not doing, also need confession and forgiveness
 - When I don't pray
 - When I don't read & study the Word
 - When I don't serve, give, etc.
6. God's Spirit will talk to us, He will seek to train us and He will give us opportunity to change – to repent.
7. Pro. 28:13 tells us to confess and forsake our sin

E. How do we clean up our act, live a holy life?

A. Confess and forsake our sin.

B. Because God is holy and we won't see him without holiness.

Rev. 4:8; Heb. 12:14

II. Learning to admit when we sin & ask forgiveness is a lifestyle. And when we live this way, Proverbs tells us that we are kissed by mercy. Pro. 28:13

A. God is LOVE. He is a Father like no other.

B. Who gently calls us to clean up our act.

C. And then gives us the forgiveness and power to stay clean.

D. There is no shame or fear, only hope, joy and peace when we live a holy life.