

God tells His people to be Holy! 1 Peter 1:15–16 (NIV84) 15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; 16 for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.” There is an action of will that is involved. Hebrews 12:14 (NASB95) 14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. (NIV says, without holiness) -pursue it.

1. **Be Humble:** Philippians 2:5 (NIV84) 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: (Humility)
2. **Pursue Holiness – Sanctification:** Hebrews 12:14 (NASB95) 14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.
3. **Change behavior, put off old behavior, choose to live the new life you now know.** Ephesians 4:20–24 (NIV84) 20 You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. 21 Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. 22 You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.
4. **We are not obligated to our sin nature, We are sons and daughters of God led by the Spirit of God** Romans 8:12–14 (NIV84) 12 Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. 13 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, 14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Holiness consists of three things - separation from sin, dedication to God, transformation into Christ's image. It is ridiculous to talk about being transformed into Christ's image unless we are actively dealing with the first two.

A.W.Tozer wrote, ““Strive to get beyond mere pensive longing. Set your face like flint and begin to put your life in order. Every man is as holy as he really wants to be; but the want must be all compelling.”

III. The Holy Spirit – The Holy Spirit is the Agent in sanctification: Indirectly because He is the one who always calls an unbeliever to consider who Jesus is and accept what He offers, but also directly as the one who makes it possible for us to be sanctified, crisis and progressively. Look at the following passages:

2 Thessalonians 2:13 (NASB95) 13 But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because **God has chosen you from the beginning for**

salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

Romans 15:15–16 (NASB95) 15 But I have written very boldly to you on some points so as to remind you again, because of the grace that was given me from God, 16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, so that my offering **of the Gentiles may become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.**

1 Peter 1:2 (NASB95) 2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, **by the sanctifying work of the Spirit,** to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

Ephesians 3:16 (NASB95) 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, **to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man,**

The Power to live a sanctified life comes completely and totally from Him our part is to learn and do everything we are shown. Paul writes- Live by the Spirit

Picture - Flame and the moth:

Summertime as a Kid in India, seeing the moth drawn by the flame of a candle or a lamp. The moth would continue to come closer and closer, and as the moth did the inevitable was going to happen. Eventually the moth and the flame would become one. Consuming fire: Deuteronomy 4:24 (NASB95) 24 “For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

That is one of the realities of one who follows Christ. For if you are a follower not just an admirer or a spectator, you are constantly drawn to His holiness. Your love for Him consumes everything else and then everything that you are about is by Him, for Him, in Him. Completely consumed by the fire of the Lord.

Some people see holiness as being some joy killing activity. Like God is trying to keep us from having fun. It is exactly the opposite, we are set free to live as He made us to live. We get to actually live according to His design, He is not restricting us, He liberates us to be who He made us to be. It is the ultimate answer to the question in human hearts – Why am I here? I am here because He wanted me here, I am His, for His glory!

Sanctification is the gift He gives to us at Christmas. Family be sanctified! His holiness, set apart unto Him completely. His heart, His eyes, pleased by what pleases Him, grieved by what grieves Him, His heart beat as ours. We can be set apart to Him completely, we were made for this. We were made for Him.