

The Life Challenge

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:10

Series: Hope Is On The Way

Title: Be Holy

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Text: 1 Peter 1:13-16

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WARM-UP

Do you have a story about receiving a special and unique gift for Christmas? How did you feel receiving the gift? How did you use the gift?

DISCUSSION

The word "holy" means to be separate. When we think about God as holy, it means that He is transcendent, that He is above and beyond His creation in such a way as to be distinct from it. When we think about ourselves as holy, it means that we are to be set apart from the world for God, separate from all sin. We know our daily challenge with temptation and sin, so how can we ever hope to be holy?

1. Discuss these ways that the Bible answers this question:
 - We are holy (position in Jesus) - 1 Corinthians 1:30
 - We will be holy (perfect in Jesus for eternity) - Philippians 1:6
 - We are becoming holy (progress in becoming like Jesus) - 2 Corinthians 3:18
2. 1 Peter 1:14-15 says, "As obedient children, let yourselves be pulled into a way of life shaped by God's life, a life blazing with holiness." How does this invitation give you hope in the journey of becoming holy?
3. On this way of life shaped by God's life we will experience these things:
 - Repentance: Ask God where you need an internal change of mind and heart? Jesus is calling everyone to experience this inward change - to bring your heart, belief system, thinking and behavior into alignment with God's truth, His ways, and His work.
 - Conviction: Ask God if there is any unconfessed sin in your life. The convicting power of the Holy Spirit opens your eyes to your sin and opens your heart to receive God's grace.
 - Confession: Ask God if there is sin that you are keeping secret and not overcoming. You need to acknowledge your sin and bring it into the light with others that you trust. You have to walk in the light with God and others if you're going to get free.
 - Discipline: Ask God what the consequences of your sin are that you must accept and where you must receive His discipline. True discipline from God is trying to soften your heart. When your heart is broken before God you are soft not hard; receptive not resistant; contrite not rebellious; open not closed; accessible not inaccessible.
 - Obedience: Ask God how He wants you to live in obedience to His word. If you love God, you will obey Him. You won't be perfect in your obedience, but your desire is to submit to the Lord and display good works. When you love God and obey Him, you naturally have love for each other. Obedience to God's commands will make you light and salt in a dark and tasteless world.
 - Keep your mind filled with hope and be totally ready to receive the gift that's coming when Jesus arrives again. You are letting yourselves be pulled into a way of life shaped by God's life, a life blazing with holiness. Pray this as an Advent blessing and commit to walk together in the light.