



VOL 2 NO 4

SUMPATHEO VOICE

COMPASSIONATE TOUCH MINISTRIES

APRIL 2015

GOD WANTS YOU TO BE HOLY



Scripture: 1 Thess 4:1-12

In the Bible, the opposite of Holy is Common. Holy signifies being set apart for God and His purposes alone, such as the communion vessels that are used in the Church.

'Common', on the other hand, is used for any normal purposes. The opposite of clean is unclean. Though the communion vessels are set apart as holy vessels, we clean it every time after every use. In the same way, we are called to be holy and blameless, before our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. Justification is an act by which God declares us not guilty and accepts us just as if we have not sinned. From then onwards our purpose in life is to become like Christ in every way. The process of becoming like Christ in every way is called sanctification. And, then one day, our physical body will be transformed like that of Christ which is called glorification.

SIX LESSONS ABOUT HOLINESS:

1. Holiness is not Optional. (1 Thess 4:3)

Holiness is not one in many. *It is God's will that you should be sanctified: 1 Thess 4:3 (NIV).* There is *no substitute for holiness.* Why? *Heb 12:14* reminds us to, *Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. Heb 12:14 (NIV).* The Bible says in *Jer 17:9-10 (NLT), "The human heart is most deceitful and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is? But I know! I, the LORD, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve."* We have to ask God on a regular basis to cleanse our heart from every wickedness, and enable us to see God. *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God says Math 5:8.*

2. Holiness is for every disciple of Christ. (1 Thess 4:7)

We think only the selected few can become saints due to the RC veneration of the saints. But, holiness is not for the selected few. According to the Bible, all are saints when we are saved (*Eph 1:1; 2:8-10*). In other words, we should overcome sin by experiencing God's love on a daily basis because of what is written in *Eph 1:4 (MSG).* Bible says in *1 Peter 2:9-10 that we are chosen by God to be holy for his priestly work.*

3. Holiness should be progressive. (1 Thess 4:1)

Progression is a process of taking steps to move forward, such

as walking or living. There should be progression in our holy lives as well. If we are not holy compared to yesterday, then we are backslidden. Bible says in *1 John 3:2-3 (NIV), everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.* Our focus should not be others when we think of holiness. We are called to fix our eyes on Jesus who is the standard of holiness. (*Rev 22:11, 14*)

4. Holiness should be holistic. (1 Thess 4:1)

Holiness should affect every areas of our life. Similar to how one has to pass all the subjects to get a degree we should pass all the subjects of our Christian life. A godly person avoids all extremes and focuses on balance in all areas of his life. At the same time, holy life is not an ascetic life (*1 Tim 4:1-5; Col 2:21-23*). Paul says that our holiness should reflect in our bedroom (*1 Thess 4:3-8*), it should affect our fellowship and friendship (*1 Thess 4:9, 10*), and it should also reflect in our work place (*1 Thess 4:11, 12*). Enoch and Job both had families, yet they pleased God through their walk with God.

5. Holiness results when you know God. (1 Thess 4:4,5)

Knowing God is the key to overcome passionate lust, we must hide His word in our hearts not to sin against God (*Ps 119:11*). God is not like Pharaoh who had asked Jews to make bricks without providing the essentials. God will not force us to do what we cannot do. When God asks us to do something He will make sure to supply His unlimited grace to those who ask Him. The more we know God, the more we will be weaned of sin.

6. Holiness is the responsibility of both, God and Us. (1 Thess 4:8,9)

We are called to live and obey God's word. God gives us His Holy Spirit and conviction to obey Him. *Phil 2:12-13* explains clearly--*continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.* Working out our salvation is our responsibility and working in holiness is God's responsibility. In *Isaiah 6:1-6*, when Isaiah saw God's holiness, he became aware of his sinfulness and confessed his sins. When he confessed his sins, God sent a Seraph with a live coal to purify Isaiah. Remember, **fire purifies what can't be burned, and burns what can't be purified.**

May God enable all of us to be a set apart and clean vessel that is useful for the purposes and glory of God!

God bless you!

- Pastor Benny

PRISCILLA'S CORNER



How to Protect God's Amazing, Incredible Plan for Your Life

By Joyce Meyer

It's His love that makes us pliable, like a piece of clay in His hands. And the more pliable we become—that is, the more obedient we become to the Holy Spirit—the more we will experience God's presence in our life.

Let me explain. If you have a child that just sweetly obeys you, there's a desire that builds up inside you to give them everything they need and want. But if they have the attitude of "Get me this. Get me that," you don't even want to be around them.

Now remember, God's love is unconditional and He always forgives. But we don't ever want to take advantage of that. It's important for us to examine our hearts and ask ourselves: What kind of attitude do I have towards God?

For example, have you ever felt like God is stricter with you than with other people? I know I have. It's easy to get caught up in thinking, *God, it's just not fair. How come they can do that and I can't?* But the truth is, God has a unique plan for your life, and that means He may require you to do some things that He's not asking someone else to do. We need to stop comparing ourselves to others and just do what we believe God is asking us to do.

We also need to understand that everything God asks us to do is for our own benefit. And if you consistently let God have His way in your life, you will always have joy.

We Can Do What We Want—to a Point:

In [1 Samuel 10](#), Saul is handpicked to be the first king of Israel. In verses 6-7, the prophet Samuel actually tells him, *The Spirit of the Lord will come upon you mightily, and you will show yourself to be a prophet with them; and you will be turned into another man. When these signs meet you, do whatever you find to be done, for God is with you.*

What Samuel was saying is, *Look, God has anointed you to be king and He's with you. So you can be confident in doing whatever you think is right for the people.*

What does that mean for you and me? It means we don't have to have a word from God for every move we make. If God is with us, we can know in our heart what's right and wrong and we can be secure in the decisions we make.

However, when God gives us a specific word or assignment, it's in our best interest to obey Him exactly.

Let's take a look at what happened with Saul.

When God Has A Plan...

In [1 Samuel 13](#), Saul goes to Gilgal to make a burnt offering to the Lord, with one very specific instruction from Samuel: *Wait seven days until I come to you and show you what you shall do.*

Well, Saul waited the seven days. But, when it looked like Samuel wasn't coming back and the people started to scatter, Saul went ahead and made a burnt offering himself. And, as soon as he finished, Samuel arrived.

It was a test. And Saul didn't pass. In fact, God told Saul, I would have established your kingdom forever, but now I'm putting David in charge (see [1 Samuel 13:13-14](#)).

Can you imagine how bad Saul felt? God had an amazing plan for his life and because he didn't wait a little while longer for Samuel to arrive, he missed out on an incredible promise that could have been passed to his family forever. Although God's love for Saul never changed, Saul's future changed because of the choices he made.

God knows none of us are perfect. But, if every day, to the best of our ability, we're allowing the **Spirit of Truth** to keep us on the narrow path, we will receive all the blessings God has planned for us.

How to Take Hold of God's Best for Your Life

Being a committed Christian is a full-time job—and it's certainly not for wimps. But having that kind of life is worth everything we have to give.

Listen to [Romans 5:19](#): *For just as by one man's disobedience (failing to hear, heedlessness, and carelessness) the many were constituted sinners, so by one Man's obedience the many will be constituted righteous (made acceptable to God, brought into right standing with Him).*

One person's choices really can change the world. Just think of some of the great heroes of our faith! You and I will never know the full extent of the price they paid, but because of their obedience, millions of people around the world have come to know Jesus Christ. And you have the same opportunity.

Incredible things can happen because of the right decisions you make every day. I hope you'll encourage yourself with this one question: **What will happen if I obey God today?**



VBS CELEBRATIONS

We conducted VBS in our Church this year from April 27th to May 03rd. The theme for this year was "Triumph Always". A total of 28 kids attended and were blessed through VBS. We conducted 6 classes in all, which were taught by 7 teachers and 3 volunteers. We used the VBS Popular Model to teach the kids and the 10 days program was condensed and taught in 5 days with morning and afternoon sessions in a day. All the kids were greatly blessed by the songs, Bible stories, memory verses, and missionary stories. The teachers did a great job by using creative ways to teach the children. As a result, at the end of fifth day, the kids were able to recite the Ten Commandments, the books in the Bible, and the memory verses assigned to them. It was a great joy to see all these kids getting involved in all the activities that were planned for them. Here are some of the pictures of the final day VBS celebrations:



Primary English Kids Singing "What I am..."



Junior Kannada Kids Singing "Jayave Jayave"



Beginners Singing "Idu Matravalla"



Junior English Kids Singing "Victorious"



Primary Kannada Kids Singing "Ko Ko Ko"



Intermediate Kids Reciting Memory Verses

News & Notes

Glimpses of VBS Celebrations

(contd from page 3)



Bangalore South Church

Time: **Sundays at 4:30 pm**

Age Group: **4 to 18 years**

Experience: **Lively worship, God's Word, and Fellowship in Kannada and English**



- * Transformation in kids who attended VBS.
- * Healing for all those who are sick.
- * Breakthrough in Bangalore South Church.
- * Couples to serve God full time.
- * Exponential growth in quality and quantity of the Church.
- * For the growth of English service, Kannada service, and Kids ministry.

Bro. Nelson ministering God's Word to the Kids on the Final Day

Sermons for this month on the topic—**"Deeper through Discipleship"**

05.04.15—**"He is risen, He is not here"** by Pastor Benny

12.04.15—**"God wants you to be Holy"** by Pastor Benny

19.04.15—**"How to have a meaningful quiet time"**
by Pastor Frani

26.04.15—**"At the mercy of the River"** by Pastor Benny

These messages are available in MP3 format. Please contact the church office for the same.

OUR VISION:

To reach Karnataka and the globe with the compassionate heart of Jesus Christ.

OUR MISSION:

To establish self propagating, self governing, self supporting spirit-filled churches with equal focus on prayer, worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and evangelism.

VBS Kids and Teachers

Contact Us

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