

The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, November 9, 2025

“To God Be the Glory ~ Through Our growth in Holiness”

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 & John 15:1-11

Holiness isn't about being flawless, it's about becoming _____. It's not about instant perfection, but _____ over time. We glorify God not simply by what we do, but by _____ we are becoming in Christ.

Biblical holiness isn't about pride, it's about _____. What I mean by that is, to be holy simply means to be _____ by God and for God and His _____, to belong fully to Him and to _____ His character in the world. Holiness isn't about withdrawal from the world, it's about _____ within it. It's about living in such a way that others see God's fingerprints in your life.

“...the Father is glorified when we bear much fruit.” (John 15:8)

“...for this is the will of God, your sanctification...” (1 Thessalonians 4:3)

#1. Holiness _____.

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.” (John 15:1-4)

- The _____ of holiness. If we want to understand holiness, we have to begin here, not with _____, regulations, or resolutions, but with _____.

This is the secret of holy living: _____ with Christ. Just as a branch draws life from the vine, all true holiness flows from a _____ connection with Christ.

We can't manufacture holiness on our own any more than a branch can produce grapes on its own. It's not about human _____ or religious performance, it's about staying _____ to the Source. Holiness isn't the reward for abiding, it's the _____ of abiding of remaining connected to the Jesus, the Vine.

- The _____ work in holiness. (P) Jesus is the source of growth, however, God is the Gardener, and He prunes the branches to make them more _____. Pruning is an important part of our growth in holiness, however, it can be _____ because it involves cutting away what is dead, overgrown, or distracting from our lives. This spiritual pruning can take the form of discipline, _____, conviction, or the painful removal of idols and attachments that hinder God's work

in us. Sometimes the Lord allows _____ to come into our lives, not to harm us, but to _____, and refine us, removing what we cling to so that we'll cling more tightly to _____.

“... Lord disciplines those whom he loves and chastises every child whom he accepts.” (Hebrews 12:6)

As uncomfortable as it might be, the Father's pruning is proof that He sees _____ in us. After all, He created us, He designed our inner most parts, and He alone knows what kind of fruit our life can bear when it's fully _____ to Him.

Abiding is a _____ posture that's about so much more than just _____ in Jesus—it's _____ with Him.

- Spending time in God's Word not out of duty, but out of _____ and delight.
- Bringing our worries to God in _____ before we bring them to others.
- Listening for His voice through the Spirit and _____ to His will.

Abiding isn't a one-time act, it's a lifestyle of continual _____.

When we abide in Christ, holiness stops being a burden and becomes a _____. We don't _____ to be holy, we remain in the One who is holy.

The call to holiness isn't a call to moral striving or _____, it's a call to _____ and relationship. It's not about trying harder, it's about drawing nearer.

#2. Holiness _____.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” (John 15:5-8)

Spiritual growth is the _____ of a living faith, and Jesus makes it beautifully clear here that holiness isn't invisible—it always produces fruit. And this fruit isn't for our _____, but for God's glory.

The world can't see the _____—it can't see our faith, our private prayers, our quiet abiding, but it can see the _____.

This is Christ's _____ taking shape in us. Paul called it the “fruit of the _____” in Galatians 5 (list):

Each of these qualities _____ the life and image of Christ, and when they're

produced and ripen in us, God is _____!

“Apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

When fail to abide, when we wander, when we’re apart from Him we produce nothing of _____ value.

It’s not about what we do for God, it’s about what God does _____ us. Holiness, then, is never self-generated—it’s _____.
_____ + _____ = holiness.

God tends to the soil of our hearts, cuts away what _____, nourishes us through His Word and Spirit, and brings forth fruit in season. It’s not about how _____ we look on the outside, it’s about how _____ we are to Him, and what’s going on on the inside.

That’s holiness in action: ordinary _____ that points people to an extraordinary God.

“If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.” (John 15:6)

When we’re disconnected from God we’ll eventually wither _____. And, we all know what this spiritual withering looks like: faith grows dry, _____ fades, service becomes _____, prayer becomes rote, fellowship with other believers becomes sporadic. The life of God stops flowing freely because something has broken our _____.

The answer isn’t surrendering to guilt and _____, it isn’t hiding from God, or wallowing in the pit of despair. The answer is simple—it’s _____.

“I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes. I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands.” (Psalm 119: 59-60)

The same grace that saved us is the grace that will _____ us when we repent and return. The Father doesn’t discard repentant branches, He _____ them; and the only life that’s truly lost is the one that refuses to be grafted back in.

If holiness glorifies God through fruitfulness, then holiness isn’t found in grand gestures, but in daily _____.

That’s where holiness lives, not in _____, but in _____, endurance, patience, and trust.

#3. Holiness _____.

“As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. For this is the will of God—your sanctification...” (1 Thessalonians 4:1-3)

Paul isn’t scolding the Thessalonians here, but _____ them to keep growing. In other words, the Christian life isn’t static, it’s _____. Holiness isn’t a box we check, but a journey we continue. A process that we’ll never fully _____ this side of heaven.

God’s will for you is that you become _____. Why? Because when God’s people live holy lives—pure, humble, compassionate, forgiving, truthful lives—the world sees the reality of the _____, holiness becomes our _____, and God is glorified.

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

Sometimes people misunderstand holiness as superiority, as if “holy” means “better than others.” However, biblical holiness isn’t about _____ in arrogance or pride, it’s about distinction in _____.

We’re not called to look down on the world, but to live _____ within it. We’re in the world, but not of it. We’re set apart, but not set _____.

The holy life doesn’t shout down the darkness, it _____ it. It doesn’t seek applause, it seeks to guide others _____.

Paul goes on to remind the Thessalonians in verse 8 that all this is only possible through the indwelling of the _____. In other words, holiness isn’t something we conjure up in our own strength, It’s something that God _____ within us as we submit to the sanctifying work of the Spirit.

“For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.” (Ephesians 2:10)

Holiness isn’t optional—it’s _____. Not because God is a tyrant demanding perfection, but because He’s a Father desiring reflection. He wants His children to look like Him. And when we live holy lives, we proclaim with our actions that God’s grace really works, that Jesus doesn’t just forgive sin, He _____ sinners. Holiness is the visible evidence of invisible _____. And that’s why it glorifies God: because it shows the world that the Gospel isn’t just true, it’s _____.