

What Does Holiness Have to Do with Receiving from the Holy Spirit?

-To receive all that God has for us and for the Holy Spirit to move in our midst, we must create an atmosphere personally and corporately that He can move and manifest in our midst.

(Q) How do we do that?

(A) By living a holy life that is pleasing to God...

What Happens the moment we are born again?

-When we are born again, we are automatically because of the blood of Jesus, made holy and righteous, blameless in the sight of God.

-We are at the moment called to a life that is to be set-apart from the world.

-Unfortunately being born again doesn't mean you just automatically make all the right decisions, say the right things, never mess up...but we do have a commandment to live a life that is pleasing to God and it is a choice that you make everyday.

Strangers, Aliens, Exiles

1 Peter 2:9, 11-12

(9) *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.*

(11) *Dear Friends, I urge you , as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.*

(12) *Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God...*

-Verse 11 calls you strangers and aliens; one translation even calls you an Exile.

-Exile: one who is voluntarily absent from home or country;

-We see here that because you are a child of God, you have now become an exile of this world you may live in it, but you have no part of it.

-A person living in voluntary exile wants to have no association with their former place of living-they want a new existence in a new place-never to look back.

Be Holy-the commandment

1 Peter 1:14-16

(14) *[Live] as children of obedience [to God]; do not conform yourselves to the evil desires [that governed you] in your former ignorance [when you did not know the requirements of the Gospel].*

(15) *But as the One Who called you is holy, you yourselves also be holy in all your conduct and manner of living.*

(16) *For it is written, You shall be holy, for I am holy.*

-Now, to me, this doesn't sound like an option, this sounds like a command and a requirement from God.

He says I am holy, now you are a part of me, you too must be holy.

What is Holiness?

What is holiness? It is to live a life that is holy, set-apart, sanctified and consecrated.

Ephesians 1:4

Even as [in His love] He chose us [actually picked us out for Himself as His own] in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy (consecrated and set apart for Him) and blameless in His sight, even above reproach, before Him in love.

What is God's purpose in calling us out from the world?

Matthew 5:14-15

(14) *"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.*

(15) *Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.*

Light Up!

- So here we see that He is comparing us (the body of Christ) to a lamp-its purpose is to be seen, its purpose is to shine-so our purpose as Christians to be a light in a dark world-to shine!
- You have to light up in your world, light up in your job, your home, your school, all of your surroundings...be the light in a dark room.
- Jesus and the disciples did not blend in with the crowd anywhere that they went.
- There was a distinct difference between them and those around them.
- They were set apart to do the work of the Lord. You can't make a difference in a world that you are just like them.
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- You can't make a difference in a world that you are just like them.
- God has not separated us from the world because He wants to keep us from having a good time - rather, He has chosen that we be separate in order that our lives would stand out from the world around us.

What do You Want more?

- So many people sacrifice what they want the most for what they want right now?
- Do you want to exchange the presence of God and His spirit flowing freely in your life for temporary satisfactions of your flesh?
- The Glory and Power of God cannot flow through us unless we live *set apart*.
- I encourage you to ask yourself:
 - Am I living a life that is pleasing to the Lord?
 - Can people see the difference in me?
(at the grocery store, everywhere you go.)
 - Are you letting your light shine in the words that you speak about others, in forgiveness?
 - Can people see the light of Jesus in my life?