

Secret to living a holy life

By Ron McClung | Jul 19, 2016

What would your reaction be if someone said, "I would like to live a holy life"? Would you encourage them in their pursuit or would you laugh and say, "Yeah, good luck with that. I'd like to fly to the moon too, but it's not likely to happen."

Some time ago, the Los Angeles Times published a report on a five-year study of 120 top American artists, athletes, and scholars. The researchers admitted they expected to find people with great natural gifts. Instead, the mothers of these high achievers reported it was other children in the family who had greater gifts. The study concluded that the key element common to these successful people was not talent, but an extraordinary drive and determination.

Do you suppose, if someone did a survey of people who excelled in spiritual things, they would find that such people have an extraordinary drive and determination to be holy?

Obviously, only God can make us holy. On the other hand, if I may say it reverently, even God is helpless to keep us pure unless we are determined to be holy. In effect, we tie his hands unless we use every bit of diligence we have to cooperate with his efforts in us.

One of the New Testament writers said, "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy" (Hebrews 12:14 NIV). I did a word study on the idea of "make every effort." The Greek word means "to run swiftly in order to catch some person or thing, to seek after eagerly, earnestly endeavoring to acquire."

Abraham Lincoln said, "**Always bear in mind that your own resolution to succeed is more important than any one thing.**"

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Can it be that the secret to living a holy life lies within my own grasp, your own grasp? Can it be that the one thing that will tip the scales in my favor is me, and in your favor is you?

Jim Rohn was a business philosopher, who said, "Disgust and resolve are two of the great emotions that lead to change." What would happen if we became so disgusted with the way we have been that we mounted great resolve to change? What then if we turn to God and trust him to help us, believing that he certainly can if we truly will?

August 13, 2017

FOCUS Wesleyan Church

"Encouragement for the Journey of Faith"

Joshua 3 "Crossing the Jordan"

Sermon Notes:

Joshua 3:1-17

1. Follow the _____ of the Lord (v. 2-4)

Joshua 3:3

2. Purification sharpens our _____ (v. 5)

Isaiah 59:1-2

3. Step out in _____ and stand _____ (v. 7-13)

Psalm 114:3-7

Reflection: What is one new thing you believe God spoke to you today as a result of worshipping at FOCUS?

The Word of God directs us as we consider what the *next step* is for our lives. Is there an obstacle in front of you that seems to difficult to cross? What has your focus been on when you tried to overtake that obstacle in the past? If it is an obstacle that the Lord desires for you to overtake, do you believe that He will lead you and go before you? What can you do today to help sharpen your focus on His movements?

Challenge: This week I will pray for following leaders in our nation:

Communion at FOCUS

Every Sunday at FOCUS we celebrate the Lord's Table, also known as Communion. We have open communion which means all are invited to receive. We receive communion elements by intinction. Tearing off a small piece of the loaf of bread, dipping it in the communion glass of juice, and then consuming it immediately. Please note, upon your request, we also have gluten free elements for those with gluten and other major food allergies.

TASTE and SEE - Worship event - August 22 6-8 PM

This worship event will be held at the John L. Hill Chapel. Iron Bell Band will be leading worship and praise through song, and Pastor Sebastian Angulo will be preaching.

Youth Group Tonight 6:30 - 8 PM!

Friends welcome, snacks provided!

FOCUS Family Fun Friday - September 15, 7:00 PM

FOCUS will be having a family movie night out on the lawn of the North side of the church building. Popcorn and water provided! Consider inviting some families and friends for a fun evening together!

Our Beliefs

Wesleyans believe in one God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the Savior of all who put their faith in Him alone for eternal life.

We believe that those who are made new in Christ are called to be holy in character and conduct, and can only live this way by being filled with the Lord's Spirit.

We believe in the Bible and its sufficiency to establish our faith and conduct.

We believe God wills for people everywhere to know Him and be made new in Christ.

We believe that the purpose of the Church is to worship God in spirit and in truth, and to reach a lost and fallen world with the gospel of Jesus Christ through its worship, witness, and loving deeds.

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