

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 4



HOW TO BECOME HOLY

Scripture Texts: 1 John 5:18; 1 John 1:7-9; Romans 5:1-2; Romans 12:1; 2 Peter 1:4; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Galatians 5:16

The chief distinction of the new covenant brought in by Jesus Christ is holiness, brought about by God living and working in man. In the old covenant, man was told what to do. In the new, God moves in and does it in him – with the man’s consent and cooperation, of course. Few under the Law enjoyed the presence of the Holy Spirit, but it was the exception and mostly temporary for a special purpose. Now He is given freely to abide forever to all who desire to live a faithful Christian life.

To be made holy, one must be born of God, yield himself completely to God, and place faith in God to live in him. Having been made holy (God’s work), we are to perfect holiness throughout our lives (man’s work).

MEMORY VERSE: *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection.—Revelation 20:6a*

Be Born of God

1 John 5:18; 1 John 1:7 and 9 What a beautiful picture of holiness this is! We can have it. God is holy. He is the only Being Who is holy in Himself (**Revelation 15:4**). If any other is to be holy, it must be by partaking of Him. God’s desire and purpose is to dwell in the hearts of man. He **canst not look on iniquity (Habakkuk 1:13)**. How can He dwell in an unholy heart? He gives the sinful, dead soul a new birth, a clean new life. This man is **born of God**. Then he **sinneth not** because he is cleansed **from all unrighteousness** by the **blood of Jesus**. Birth from God takes away sinfulness and puts in godliness. This is God’s part in our salvation. Man’s part is to confess and forsake his sins. This brings God’s mercy (**Proverbs 28:13**). Real heartfelt confession results only from repentance. **If we confess out sins**, we receive this birth from God through Christ. **Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish (Luke 13:3)**.

In both Old and New Testaments God draws close to His people, manifesting His glory and care for them. He opens to us the privilege of entering the holiest place (opened by Christ’s death and resurrection) and living with Him the holy life. (Read **Colossians 1:22; 2 Timothy 1:9**).

Faith Is More Than Belief

Romans 5:1-2 As we study this lesson we must remember that our holiness is a daily progression. It consists of God doing His part and man doing his part. True repentance is accomplished by belief in Jesus Christ and obedience to His Word. A look at Jesus brings conviction of His holiness, love and sacrifice, and of one’s own need. If allowed to become fruit, conviction brings yielding, repentance, confession, and forsaking. As one thus yields, faith grows. Faith is more than belief. It is an actual reaching for. We are **justified by faith**. Sins are forgiven and washed away **by faith**. **Peace with God** comes in. This is by grace through the atoning work of **our Lord Jesus Christ**. At this point a person has salvation, is holy. He has left sinning. He is born of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is in him. He has power to live right if he so chooses – to live holy. By this Holy Spirit **we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand**, grace to say no to wrong and yes to right. **And rejoice in hope of the glory of God**. God’s glory is a holy life lived by His people, and people rejoice that they can live holy by His grace. The Holy Spirit comes to abide, comfort, strengthen, teach, and guide man to glorify Christ. This is **by faith**, yes, but more. It is also a reaching for the gift.

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Romans 12:1 Full faith can be had only if one is obedient and submissive. **Present your bodies a living sacrifice.** Let this be definite and complete, not halfhearted. Give yourself, your all, your life, possessions and abilities. Yield all of your plans and all of your will to His. This is giving holy sacrifice to God.

There is only one salvation. All steps in it are parts of one whole. It is a progressive walk from beginning to end. Faith in the blood of Jesus purifies the heart of man; but man keeps himself pure each day by obedience (**1 John 3:3**).

Partakers of His Divine Nature

2 Peter 1:4 We have **exceeding great and precious promises** by which we partake **of the divine nature**. If God's Spirit lives within, we have His nature. His love **is shed abroad in our hearts (Romans 5:5)**. By His Spirit we **know** or understand **the things ... given to us of God (1 Corinthians 2:12)**. We have **the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)**. His nature is **holiness** in us. **Having escaped the corruption ...** we escaped the consequences that result from unforgiven sins.

Perfect Holiness

2 Corinthians 7:1 **Having therefore these promises** – promises just stated that God will receive and be a Father to those who separate themselves from sinful elements (latter part of **Chapter 6**). **Let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit.** Christ saves us, but He does not take from us the bad habits that we have picked up along the way; we must lay them aside forever. **Perfecting holiness ...** *Perfecting* is a word of continuing action. This refers to the daily walk of a saint. We are to live so that the holiness in our hearts will develop, increase, become more dominant inside, more evident outside, and continually grow more perfect. The normal Christian life is one of addition and growth in grace. See **2 Peter 1:5-8**.

Galatians 5:16 When the Holy Spirit within us is consulted and obeyed (called walking in the Spirit); **the lust of the flesh** is not obeyed. Sinful temptations are not fulfilled. We must **watch (Mark 14:38) and through the Spirit ... mortify** (put to death) the deeds of the body (sinful flesh). (**Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5**). This is life, holiness, and godliness.

JUST A THOUGHT

He who does not pray for his needs has the greatest need.

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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