

A Sacred Journey

1 Thessalonians 5:23-28

We have a purpose to be holy, the power of God doing it in us, and a promise that God is faithful to complete it. Paul finishes out his letter with this prayer for his people to be completely holy, encouraging readers to continue walking in obedience as God moves faithfully in their lives.

Application

1. We often section off portions of our life where we think it's justified to be "*partially holy*" when in fact God's desire is for us to be *completely* holy. What areas of your life have you roped off to be partially holy?
2. When we think holiness is based on our own power, we are in one of two categories: discouraged or determined. Based on the explanation of each during teaching, which side do tend you fall? What is one step you can take to move towards God's power?
3. In our church, it is easy to become "prescription writers", seeing our need and thinking there is a quick fix with a program, instead of leaning into God's power first. How have you found yourself doing this or thinking this way? What is the alternative to being a "prescription writer"?
4. We can think of our responsibility and God's power using the analogy of a sailboat: God is the power of the wind, which is always working, but we are responsible for turning our sails towards the wind to catch the wind. God is always working and our job is to turn towards what he is doing. How are you going to turn towards the wind this week? How have you seen this happen in your own life already?
5. As God exposes and reveals sin in your life, how are you moving towards faith and repentance? Who is it in your life that you confess and repent with? Who knows everything about you?

Key Points

- Our purpose is to be completely holy—set apart for God’s specific design.
- Holiness is not just about saying no to bad things but saying yes to better things.
- We often section off portions of our life where we think it is justified to be “*partially holy*” when in fact God’s desire is for us to be *completely* holy.
- We can be overwhelmed by holiness when we start thinking we are responsible for supplying our own power to be holy.
- When we think holiness is based on our own power, we are in one of two categories: discouraged or determined. Both sides of the spectrum leave us exhausted and focused on ourselves.
- We have the responsibility to work hard and obey but God is the one who gives us the desires and power to do the work.
- Turning towards God to catch the wind starts with incremental steps of faith and repentance.
- Because God is faithful, he *will* make you completely holy.

Scripture References

[Romans 8:32](#)

[Philippians 2:12-13](#)