

The Highway of Holiness

Of the roads that we can walk down in this life, we are called to the Highway of Holiness (everyone has the opportunity)
What is the...? Hopefully, I can define it for us.
What it has for us is, Peace, Joy, the Fruit of the Spirit....

1. God calls us to holiness. Brought out from sin to be separate from the world

Isa 35:8

8 And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. **The unclean will not** journey on it; **it will be for those who walk in that Way**; wicked fools will not go about on it. (NIV)
Highway, Hebrew word figuratively - the course of life - raised up from the rest of the earth

2. What is holiness?

hagiasmos (hag-ee-as-mos'); 10x in the New Testament....The RSV translates it in every instance, ...
from 37; properly, purification, i.e. (the state) purity; concretely (by Hebraism) a purifier:
KJV-- holiness, **sanctification**. Means to be set apart for God (our focus today)

Rom 6:19-22

19 **I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves**. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness (*relate???*), **so now** offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.

22 But **now** that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. (NIV) *The law of sowing and reaping "That which a man sows, he shall also reap".*

1 Tim 2:15

15 But women will be saved through childbearing-- **if they continue** in faith, love and holiness with propriety. (NIV)

Heb 12:14

14 Make **every effort** to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness *where do we receive that holiness from???* **no one will see the Lord**. (NIV) *With some of these Scriptures it may seem that I'm speaking out of context or balance, I know that....the point of this lesson is for us to realize that we are set apart (sanctified) for God to work in us and thru us.*

1 Cor 1:30

30 **It is because of him** God that you are in Christ Jesus, **who has become for us** wisdom from God-- that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. (NIV)

II Th 2:13

13 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work **of the Spirit and through belief in the truth**. (NIV)

1 Pet 1:2

2 who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, **through the sanctifying work of the Spirit**, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance. (NIV)

1Thes 4:3-7

3 **It is God's will** that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality;
4 that each of you should **learn** to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable,
7 For God did not call us to be impure, **but to live a holy life**. (NIV)

3. The Way is narrow

Matt 7:13-14

13 **"Enter through the narrow gate**. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

14 But **small** is the gate and **narrow the road** that leads to life, and only **a few** find it. (NIV)

Luke 16:16

16 "The Law and the Prophets were proclaimed until John. Since that time, the good news of the kingdom of God is being preached, and everyone is **forcing his way into it.** (NIV)

Matt 11:12

12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, **and forceful men lay hold of it.** (NIV)

The Kingdom of God suffers violence and forceful men lay hold of it - we must put out effort to live the life set apart for God

4. How to walk along the "Highway of Holiness" (how ever long that is for each of us)

- Of primary importance, we must remember the words of Christ

"Enter through the narrow gate....only a few find it" The way seems narrower now than it did 46 years ago

- Is it possible to walk in holiness? **YES!**

Isa 1:18 **The first step**

18 "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. (NIV) **The first step is repentance, asking for forgiveness then**

- What does it require from us?

Matt 5:29-30

29 If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell. (NIV) **What about the left eye or the left hand?? Jesus was using figurative speech here. The right eye and hand signifies using that which is pleasing or profitable to us. We must give those things up and shut those senses down if we are to ever be set apart for God's use.**

John 5:14

14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "Behold, you have become well; **do not sin anymore**, so that nothing worse may befall you." (NAS) **The paralytic man (for 38 years) that Jesus healed. When God healed us he said.....**

Rom 6:12

12 Therefore **do not let sin** reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness.

16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey-- whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? (NIV) **We really don't understand the concept here of slavery...the closest thing we can relate to is employment and possibly what we were like before Christ saved us.**

1 Pet 1:16

16 for it is written: **"Be holy, because I am holy."** (NIV) **The requirement for us to be holy is because God is holy and we are to be like Him.**

Eccl 12:13

13 Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: **Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man.** (NIV) **Proverbs says that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge**

- How can I do this?

Matt 11:29

29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (NIV) **for my yoke is easy and my burden is light... put on Christ**

Isa 62:10

10 Go out! Go out! Prepare the roadway for my people to return! Build the roads, pull out the boulders, raise the flag of Israel. (TLB) **an admonishment to the elders**

Eph 2:20-22

20 built on the foundation who?

Eph 2:19

19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, of the apostles and prophets, 20 with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. (NIV) we are working out our own salvation with fear and trembling. Holiness is not necessarily instantaneous (righteousness is through Christ) but setting ourselves apart for God's service takes time and effort building upon the foundation that we know as Christ

Prov 16:17

17 The highway of the upright avoids evil; he who guards his way guards his life. (NIV) How is this done?

Prov 16:6

6 Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the LORD a man avoids evil. (NIV)

Exod 28:36

36 "Make a plate of pure gold and engrave on it as on a seal: HOLY TO THE LORD.

(NIV) We are kings and priests before God (But ye are a chosen generation, royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people....) Let us engrave on the forefront of our minds....

● Let us come to the "conclusion of the matter"

➤ We are to walk in holiness. Why? Because God (who is holy) commands it.

1 Pet 1:16

16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." (NIV)

Rom 12:1-2

1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship.

2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-- his good, pleasing and perfect will. (NIV)

Heb 12:14

14 Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. (NIV)

● A last thought

Rom 6:22

22 But now that you have been set free from sin (the divider) and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness (set apart from the world), and the result is eternal life. (NIV)

That eternal life is the reward and benefit of leading a life of holiness, being sanctified, set apart for God's service. Remember that we have been called out of darkness and into His service.

Walk in Holiness!