



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Living a Life of Holiness!

God wanted His people to be holy (set apart, different, unique), just as He is holy (Leviticus 11:44). First Peter 1:15-16 says, *"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; **Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.**"*

"It is written" means that a statement has final, unchanging, and divine authority. **It shows that God's word is true and must be obeyed.** It means the matter is settled. It is not a suggestion or a topic for debate. Our holy God expects us to imitate Him by following His high moral standards. He knew we have only two options: to be separate and holy, or to compromise with the world and become corrupt. That is why He designed laws and restrictions to help us remain separate—both socially and spiritually—from the world.

God wants us to offer ourselves, as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1)—daily laying aside our own desires to follow Him, putting all our energy and resources at His disposal and trust Him to help us to live a holy life. **We do this out of gratitude that our sins have been forgiven.** God has good, pleasing, and perfect plans for His children. Jeremiah 29:11 says, *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."* He wants us to be a new creature with a renewed mind, living a holy life and to honor and obey Him. Since He wants only what is best for us, **and since He gave His Son to make our new life possible**, we should joyfully volunteer as a living sacrifice for His service. We are called to **"be not conformed to this world"** (Romans 12:2), with its behavior and customs that are usually selfish and often corrupting. Our refusal to conform to this world's values, it must be firmly founded in our minds: **"Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."** The Holy Ghost can renew, reeducate, and redirect our minds. Sin always blocks our vision of God, so if we want to see God, and live a holy life, we must remove it from our lives.

Forget the past and strive to live a holy life! Paul tells us, *"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, **I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus**"* (Philippians 3:13-14). **We have all done things for which we are ashamed, and we all live in the tension of what we have been and what we want to be.** Because our hope is in Christ, however, we can let go of past guilt and look forward to what He will help us become. Don't dwell on your past.

Apostle Paul urges us to control our bodies in holiness and honor, warning us that ignoring God's standard of purity is an offense against God Himself rather than just human rules (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8). We should know how to control and master our own body with purity and moral self-respect, rather than giving into sexual sin. God summoned us to live pure, dedicated lives that reflect His holy character. Grow in the knowledge of God by concentrating on your relationship with Him now. Realize you are forgiven, and then move on to a life of faith and obedience. Look forward to a fuller and more meaningful life because of your hope in Christ. We should not let anything take our focus off Christ while we are striving to live a holy life. With the single-mindedness of an athlete in training, we must lay aside everything harmful and forsake anything that may distract us from being effective saints of God.

Hebrew 12:1 shows that we do not struggle alone, and we are not the first to struggle with the problems we face. Others have run the race and won, and their witness stirs us to run and win also. **What an inspiring heritage we have!** Therefore, our life involves hard work. It requires us to give up whatever endangers our relationship with God, and prevent us from living a holy life. Therefore, we must run patiently, and to struggle against sin with the power of the Holy Ghost. To live effectively, we must keep our eyes on Jesus. We stumble when we look away from Him to stare at ourselves or at the circumstances surrounding us. **We are striving to be Christlike, not ourselves, and we must always keep Him in sight. In order to live a holy life, Jesus requires total, undivided commitment without turning back to old habits or earthly distractions.** Living a holy life requires purpose and discipline. We must focus our life on being Christlike. We must discipline ourselves to pray, read and study the Word of God. It takes hard work, self-denial, and grueling preparation. We are living this life toward our heavenly reward. We are called to live as children who obey God. **And stop shaping our lives around old, sinful desires that we followed before we knew the truth.** Moreover, Revelation 21:27 says, *"And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."*

May you be blessed with these encouraging words to live a life of holiness!