



I AM HOLY

THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS

**DISCUSSION GUIDE
& 5 DAY
DEVOTIONAL**

I AM HOLY: THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS DISCUSSION GUIDE

Summary

The sermon focuses on the pursuit of holiness as a key expectation God has for believers. While we are made holy through salvation, living a holy lifestyle requires active pursuit and dedication. Pastor Eric emphasizes that grace doesn't negate our responsibility to pursue holiness - it must be intentionally sought after through obedience, sacrifice, and most importantly, maintaining a close relationship with God.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss Your call for holiness in our lives, open our hearts and minds to receive Your truth. Help us understand what it means to truly pursue You and live holy lives that honor You. Guide our discussion and reveal areas where we need to draw closer to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Ice Breaker

What's something you pursued or worked really hard to achieve in your life? What motivated you to keep going after it?

Key Verses

- Hebrews 12:14
- 1 Peter 1:15-16
- Matthew 6:33
- James 4:8

Life Application

This week, identify one area of your life where you've become complacent in your pursuit of holiness. Make a specific plan to prioritize God in that area through dedicated prayer time, Bible study, or changing a habit that distances you from Him.

Key Takeaways

- The pursuit of holiness begins with prioritizing our relationship with God
- Being made holy through salvation is different from pursuing a holy lifestyle
- Our pursuit must be passionate and intentional, not passive
- Proximity to God is essential for maintaining a holy life
- Grace doesn't eliminate our responsibility to pursue holiness

Questions

- What does it mean to you personally to 'pursue holiness'?
- How would you describe the difference between being made holy through salvation versus pursuing a holy lifestyle?
- The pastor talked about prioritizing our pursuit of God. What are some practical ways we can make God our top priority?
- What relationships or activities in your life might need to be reprioritized to pursue God more fully?
- How does staying in close proximity to God affect our ability to hear His voice and follow His leading?
- What are some barriers that keep us from maintaining passion in our pursuit of God?
- How can we maintain our passion for God when we feel spiritually distant or disconnected?
- What's one specific way you can pursue holiness this week?

Ending Prayer

Lord, thank You for calling us to pursue holiness and for providing the grace we need to follow You. Help us prioritize our relationship with You above all else. Give us passion in our pursuit and keep us close to Your heart. Transform our lives as we seek to live holy lives that honor You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS

Day 1: From Savior to Lord

Devotional

When we first accept Christ, it's often because we recognize our need for a Savior. We understand that we can't save ourselves, and we gratefully accept His gift of salvation. But that's just the beginning of our journey. God desires a deeper relationship with us - one where Jesus isn't just our Savior, but becomes the Lord of our entire life. This transition is both beautiful and challenging. It means moving from simply being grateful for salvation to actively surrendering every area of our lives to His leadership. Think about a friendship that grows into a marriage - the relationship deepens, the commitment strengthens, and the level of trust and intimacy increases. Similarly, our relationship with God should grow from initial salvation into complete lordship.

Bible Verse

'Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?' - Luke 6:46

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Day 1: From Savior to Lord

Reflection Question

In what areas of your life have you accepted Jesus as Savior but perhaps not yet fully as Lord?

Quote

When you accepted Christ as your Savior, you became righteous and holy in Him. But after the transition from living in sin to living in him, you have to go beyond Christ as your Savior and you have to transition to Christ as your Lord. PE

Prayer

Dear Father, help me to move beyond just knowing You as my Savior. Give me the courage and willingness to surrender every area of my life to Your lordship. Show me where I'm still holding back, and grant me the grace to trust You fully. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Day 2: Prioritize The Pursuit

Devotional

Imagine you're planning your day. You have meetings, errands, family commitments, and countless other tasks vying for your attention. In the midst of this busy schedule, where does God fit in? Is He just another item on your to-do list, or is He the foundation that shapes everything else? Making God our priority isn't about perfectly organized schedules; it's about heart orientation. When we truly prioritize God, every other aspect of our lives falls into proper alignment. It's like adjusting the lens of a camera - when the main subject is in focus, everything else naturally finds its proper place in the frame.

Bible Verse

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. - Matthew 6:33

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Day 2: Prioritize The Pursuit

Reflection Question

What practical steps can you take today to demonstrate that God is your top priority?

Quote

You have to prioritize the pursuit. What are you talking about, Pastor? Well, let me give you scripture first. PE

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help me to reorder my priorities with You at the center. Show me where I need to make adjustments in my daily life to put You first. Give me wisdom to make choices that honor You above all else. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Day 3: Passionate Pursuit

Devotional

Remember when you first fell in love? That overwhelming desire to spend time with your beloved, to know everything about them, to be near them? God desires that kind of passionate pursuit from us. Just as a deer desperately seeks water in a dry land, our souls should long for God with that same intensity. This isn't about emotional hype; it's about genuine, deep-seated desire for God's presence. When we're truly passionate about something, it shows in our actions, our choices, and our priorities. A passionate pursuit of God transforms our spiritual life from a duty into a delight.

Bible Verse

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? - Psalms 42:1-2

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Day 3: Passionate Pursuit

Reflection Question

When was the last time you felt truly passionate about your relationship with God, and what has changed since then?

Quote

Your pursuit must be passionate. Just like a deer that craves streams of water, my whole being craves for you, God. PE

Prayer

Lord, reignite my passion for You. Help me to desire You more than anything else in this world. Restore to me the joy of my salvation and grant me a heart that pants for You like a deer pants for water. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Day 4: The Power of Proximity

Devotional

In our digital age, we often fool ourselves into thinking that virtual connection is the same as real presence. But there's something powerful about physical proximity that can't be replicated through a screen. The same is true in our relationship with God. While He is omnipresent, our experience of His presence depends greatly on how close we choose to position ourselves to Him. Drawing near to God isn't about physical distance - it's about intentional intimacy through prayer, worship, and meditation on His Word. The closer we draw to Him, the more we experience His transforming presence in our lives.

Bible Verse

Come near to God and he will come near to you. - James
4:8

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Day 4: The Power of Proximity

Reflection Question

What specific habits or practices help you feel closest to God, and how can you incorporate more of these into your daily life?

Quote

Your pursuit is dependent on your proximity. Do you know the number one reasons why long distant relationships fail? Proximity. PE

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for Your promise to draw near to me as I draw near to You. Help me to create space in my life for genuine intimacy with You. Remove any barriers that keep me from experiencing Your presence fully. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Day 5: The Journey of Holiness

Devotional

Holiness isn't a destination we arrive at; it's a journey we embark on. While salvation makes us positionally holy in Christ, practical holiness is something we actively pursue each day. This pursuit isn't about achieving perfection or following a rigid set of rules. Instead, it's about allowing God's character to be increasingly reflected in our lives. Like a master artist working on a masterpiece, God is constantly shaping us into His image. Our role is to remain yielded to His transforming work, making conscious choices that align with His character.

Bible Verse

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. -
Hebrews 12:14

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Day 5: The Journey of Holiness

Reflection Question

What area of your life is God currently working on to make more holy, and how are you cooperating with His work?

Quote

Living a holy life transcends the initial moment of salvation, calling for deliberate and consistent pursuit in our daily walk with God. PE

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the ongoing work of sanctification in my life. Help me to cooperate with Your Spirit as You transform me. Give me the courage to pursue holiness in every area of my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.