

Ready to Meet the Lord
Without holiness no one will see the Lord. Hebrews 12:14
Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God. Matthew 5:8
God's Word says, "Be holy for I am holy." 1Peter 1:16
Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord and who shall stand in His holy place? Psalm 24:3, 4

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We all want to hear, **"Well done!"**, when we stand before the Lord on Judgment Day. Matthew 25:21, 23, Romans 14:10.

There are various aspects of our readiness to meet the Lord, such as having received **forgiveness of our sins** through faith in Jesus' death and resurrection, and **being holy and set apart unto the Lord from all evil, sin and wickedness.**

The parable of the wedding feast in Matthew 22:1-14, includes the necessity of holiness, when the king asks one of the guests, "Friend, how did you come in here not having a **wedding garment?**" Verse 12. And he was speechless. The king ordered him to be bound hand and foot, taken away and cast into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Verse 13. The **wedding garment** is described in Revelation 19:7-9.

There are many other aspects of being ready to meet the Lord. For example, Matthew 25 contains three parables: The wise and foolish virgins; The talents; The sheep and the goats, and these parables each stress an aspect of readiness to meet the Lord.

Today I think to focus on the aspect of **being holy**, or "holiness".

Holiness means to be set **apart from** what is unacceptable to God and set **apart unto** what is acceptable to God.

One of the Greek words for "holiness" is *hagiasmos*. This is also translated as "sanctification".

For example: 1Thessalonians 4:3, This is the will of God your **"sanctification."** The Greek is *hagiasmos*.

1Thessalonians 4:7, For God has not called us unto uncleanness, but unto **"holiness."** The Greek is *hagiasmos*.

(I used Young's Concordance to find this out.)

The Lord Jesus Christ is sanctifying and cleansing the Church with the washing of water by the Word, so the He might present to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle; **but that it should be holy and without blemish.** Ephesians 5:26,27.

In the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, Revelation 19:7-9, His wife has made herself ready, and to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen clean and white: **for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.** ("saints" means "holy ones")

John Wesley defined holiness as the **"life of God in the soul."** Galatians 2:20, Colossians 1:20, Ephesians 3:17, 2Cor 13:5.

Jesus living His life in us is our holiness. Colossians 1:27.

This is the positive aspect of holiness.

Christ lives in us through the presence of the Holy Spirit within us.

The fruit of the Spirit living in us is the character or nature of Jesus. Galatians 5:22, 23, Ephesians 4:24, Colossians 3:10.

This is our holiness. Romans 13:14.

However there is a **negative aspect** of holiness also.

2Corinthians 7:1 says, "Therefore having received these promises, **let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and the spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord.**" (The promises are mentioned in verses 16,17,18, of the previous chapter: "You are the temple of the living God. (As God said in the OT), I will dwell in them, and walk among them, I will be their God, they will be My people. Therefore come out from among them (the wicked) and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you will be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.)

If we have the hope of seeing the Lord when He comes, **we will be purifying ourselves even as He is pure.** 1John 3:3.

"He who does righteousness is righteous, even as He is righteous." 1John 3:7.

Holiness is also a process of **putting off** the old nature of selfishness/sin, and **putting on** the new nature of serving others in love; God and our neighbour. "Put off the old nature and put on the new nature" is covered in Ephesians 4:17-5:14, Colossians 3:5-17.

We do this by faith in the promises of God's Word.

Every step of progress in the Christian life is a step of repentance and faith.

When we recognise an aspect of our behaviour that is sinful, if we choose against it and confess it to God, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1John 1:9.

2Peter 1:4 says that by the promises of God, (through faith and believing), we are able to escape the corruption in the world.

A major step for me at 29 was being set free from anger. (After that it was insecurity, fear, doubt, unbelief and so on.) We struggle to get free but the more we struggle the worse it gets!!! 1Corinthians 15:56. (The strength of sin is the law.)

Sin is stronger than we are, but it is not stronger than faith in the promises of God. 2 Corinthians 7:1.

One day someone showed me Romans 6:1 – 14, especially verses 6, 11, 14.

For two weeks I believed and proclaimed verses 6, 11, 14, claiming that anger was crucified to death with Christ on the cross, and that I was dead to anger and alive to God through Jesus Christ.

There was an amazing change in my life after two weeks. Faith in the Word had set me free in a major way.

Jesus said, “If you continue in My Word, you are truly My disciples and you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” John 8:31, 32. (The context of V31 to V36 is becoming free from sin.)

V36 says, “If the Son shall set you free you shall be free indeed.”

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1John 1:9.

Romans 6:12 says, “Do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in the lust thereof.” 1Corinthians 7:19.

Fear God. Matthew 10:28. He will not turn a blind eye to the sin we have not dealt with.

By confessing our bondage of sin and putting our faith in the promises of His Word, we will be set free.

Jesus said, “Most truly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not remain in the house for ever but the son abides for ever. John 8:34, 35. **Therefore if the Son sets you free you will be free indeed. John 8:36.**

Further relevant Scriptures: Exodus 25:8, Exodus 28:36, Deuteronomy 30:6, 2 Chronicles 7:14, Psalm 48:1, Psalm 24:3, Psalm 66:18, Psalm 119:11, Psalm 51:10, Ezekiel 36:25-27, Matthew 5:8, Matthew 22:12, Acts 15:9, Acts 26:18, Ephesians 4:17-5:21, 27, Colossians 3:5-17, 1Thessalonians 4:3, 4, 7, 1Peter 1:15, 16, 1Peter 2:5, 9, 1John 3:3, Revelation 19:7, 8, 9.