

Holiness

The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews sums up the word 'Holiness' as "Holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord", Hebrews 12:14.

The Hebrew word for 'holiness' comes from the same as does 'sanctification, dedication, and consecration', and used of both people and things, i.e. 'The Mountain of the Lord'.

The Greek word for 'holiness' also translates as 'sanctification', with the implication of 'the state of growing in divine grace as a result of Christian commitment after conversion'.

Paul, writing to Titus sets it out quite clearly for us, "That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things", Titus 2:2-3.

Not the ordained 'elders' of the Church, but older in years and experience. So also with the women, not a slave to wine - although the Greek, in its grammatical tense, implies the person to be a confirmed drunkard.

Thus, a life of sound life has grown from the seed of holiness planted by the Lord at the time of repentance.

What have these 'older' people learned? I think that age, walking a life with God, and experience has taught the 'oldies' far beyond their holiness just being a seed in their live, they have gained a knowledge and wisdom of,

1. What God wants us to do,
2. Who God wants us to impart some of His Love to,
3. How God will work through us to bring about His Will.

Some of you heard the message when you went to Church with your parents, but you still need to be led to use what you heard the right way. Others, having gone to a Church, either with a friend or by yourself, are still 'babes in Christ'.

Both need the 'milk of the word that they might be nurtured and grow, "I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able", 1 Corinthians 3:2.

We live in an age where there are so many distractions, yet in Matthew chapter 5 it is loaded with directions regarding living a Holy Life, i.e. as God has ordained, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect", verse 48.

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour,

wherewith shall it be salted?" verse 13.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works..." , verse 16.

If these are applicable to the 'aged men and the aged women' in the Church, who then is going to guide the young ones on milk?

We do live in an age of distractions, and Satan has got it down to a fine art.

Chronologically, Jesus taught the above about half way through His Time of Ministry and He certainly was not short of having distractions.

Today we do not have the aged men and women who can teach, but we do have teachers who have never really experienced the joy of that holiness growth in their lives.

Today, we have many people who use God as they would a small corner store , open twenty-four hours a day, it is so convenient.

Sorry folks, you cannot just go to God and get 200 grams of holiness, and you certainly cannot go to God and get a 10 kilo bag of holiness. It just isn't dispensed that way.

Gaining Holiness is a lifetime experience 24/7, 365 day per year. Remember, the convenience store may be open twenty-four hours a day, but you only go in for a few minutes.

Those who use God as a convenience must also understand that God is there twenty-four hours a day, but they are only with Him for a few minutes.