



PRAY FIRST - DAILY DEVOTIONAL

DAY 11

How do you approach life? Do you see it as a sprint or a marathon? Unfortunately, most people approach life like the 100-meter dash. We live in a world where most things are instant. We despise waiting on hold, expect instant feedback, and complain if we can't get next-day delivery. We don't like waiting for anything.

It's the same spiritually. We want God to immediately answer our prayers, deliver us from our struggles and instantly make us just like Him.

"Make me perfect NOW, Lord!"

But God doesn't work that way. He may save us instantly, but change comes in the journey. When we respond to God's promise to make us holy like we do "next day delivery," we miss out on getting to know Him. Holiness is a long walk in the same direction.

Holiness is a marathon.

"I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us."
(Philippians 3:12-14)

A holy life is a life of perseverance. It is inviting God to form you while you wait.

Because we don't like waiting, many miss out on being transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. But we fail to realize that we are constantly being formed and changed – the question is, by whom?

If the renewing power of God is not transforming you, then you're being conformed, shaped, or molded by the forces opposed to God that are loose in this world. So the question is, **"by whom are you being formed spiritually?"** If it's not by God, then you have an enemy, a spiritual adversary, the Devil, who will be perfectly happy to do the task.

Commit today to ***"run the race,"*** which is lifelong. Your spiritual development is a journey. Don't give up, but lean in and finish well.

Your holiness depends on it!

READ: 1 John 4:1-21

JOURNAL (Reflect):

- Lord, is there anything you want to highlight to bring correction into my life from this passage?
- Lord, who or what am I allowing to form my life more than you?

PRAY:

- Pray that the truth of God's Word would become more firmly rooted in your life.
- Ask God to lead you into truth today as you go about your business. Pray for a deeper level of discernment in your life so that you will know when you are being influenced by anything or anyone other than God.