



## PRAY FIRST - DAILY DEVOTIONAL

### DAY 14

In your journey to holiness, it's important to note that it's not only about you. Your sanctification is also for the sake of others. This is significant because your pursuit of spiritual growth can get you off track if you only make it about yourself. It's what happened with the Scribes and Pharisees in Jesus' day. They thought of themselves as very holy, very sanctified, but they couldn't even love anybody because they were so self-absorbed.

The New Testament never defines spirituality or sanctification in solely individualistic terms. Instead, they're understood and experienced in community. In **Philippians 2**, Paul describes how sanctification happens by telling us to work it out while God works in us. Then he talks about the fruit of your work and God's work.

***Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless.*** (Philippians 2:14-16).

Paul helps us understand that as a church community matures, this is what you'll find: An army of servants who don't grumble, who have grateful hearts, and who are not argumentative. Servants who are empowered to help, encourage and love one another. The point is this: **if you want to be holy, you'll have to invite others into your life.** Accountability keeps us from becoming preoccupied with ourselves. When we think we can become holy on our own, our focus will be on performance rather than on Jesus. Spiritual disciplines will become a box to check rather than a joy to experience. Instead of becoming freed to live a life of servanthood and love, we become spiritually proud and self-absorbed. In the end, we miss the work of the Holy Spirit and never become what God wants us to become: **HOLY!**

God wants to make you holy, and that's no small thing. Sanctification is not some spiritual self-improvement project – It's God's destiny for you. You miss out on that; you miss out on what you were made for.

**READ:** Colossians 3:12-17

**JOURNAL (Reflect):**

- Lord, according to this Scripture, you tell us to clothe ourselves with certain traits. What trait do you want me to wear more completely in my life?
- Lord, is there anyone I need to forgive in my life? If so, help me, Lord.
- Lord, where am I trying to live for you all alone? Why am I resistant to inviting others into my life in this area?

**PRAY:**

- Use the answers you received from your time of reflection as prayer points.