



PRAY FIRST - DAILY DEVOTIONAL

DAY 8

If you've ever had an operation, you may have noticed that operating rooms are squeaky clean. Cleanliness is paramount in hospital operating rooms. Doctors and nurses are very concerned that the equipment is not dirty or dusty. Why? Because even the smallest amount of impurity will contaminate the procedure. They put great effort into sterilizing the equipment so nothing can cause an infection.

Medical professionals undergo a remarkable process to ensure an operating room is free from contamination. In that case, it shouldn't surprise us that God can only operate in an atmosphere of perfection. Doctors know that you can't perform surgery with a muddy scalpel, and God knows that he can't do His work in our lives without first purifying us.

This is how God makes us holy. He takes our messy lives and begins to clean us up. It's called "sanctification." The Greek Word for "sanctification" is "*hagios*" and is related to the word "holy." The goal of sanctification is to be led by God to become all He wants you to be. It is to separate yourself from evil and an act of separation to God.

We separate ourselves from sin and separate ourselves to God. This journey leads us to become more and more holy.

Peter addresses this process in **1 Peter 1:13-16**. Read it slowly and intently.

Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy.

Sanctification is God's work through the Holy Spirit who lives in us and who changes our character and conduct. As He releases His power in us, we separate ourselves from our sinful actions and dedicate ourselves to pleasing the Lord.

READ: Read Galatians 5:22-26

JOURNAL (Reflect):

- Lord, show me how I have changed since I have started following you?
- Lord, is there anything specific you want to teach me from this passage of Scripture?

- Lord, where in my life do I need to become more holy? What part of my character do you want to develop more fully?

PRAY:

- Use what God shows you or an area you already know as your prayer focus. (i.e., anger issues, need to become more gentle or self-controlled, etc.)