



PRAY FIRST - DAILY DEVOTIONAL

DAY 9

If you were to show me a picture of you ten years ago, would you have changed at all? Would I see any differences? You would with me. I now have less hair, a few more pounds to show, and I wear glasses. You would spot the differences.

What about your character? Have you changed spiritually and emotionally over the last ten years? Would people say you are more like Jesus? Would they be able to identify areas in your life where you have become more patient, gentle, generous, or kind?

Would others say you are more holy now than you were back then?

That's how sanctification works. As we submit our lives to Jesus and invite His Holy Spirit to work in us, He changes us, and the result is we become more Holy. We look and act more and more like Jesus.

But how does it work? How do we become holy like God is holy? Is it my job, or is it God's job to make me holy?

Some people will say that sanctification is solely God's job. They believe that if they do anything to become holy, it is working for righteousness. It becomes a trap into legalism.

Others will say that sanctification is solely our job. They take a Marine approach and decide that I can become holy if I muster enough discipline. They believe that God's job is to make sure He is holy, and our job is to make sure we are holy.

Neither of these approaches works on their own, but if you put them together, you will be well on your way to becoming holy – because sanctification is both God's and my responsibility.

Look at what Paul writes in **Philippians 2:12-13**, "***Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.***"

We're told to "work hard" while at the same time encouraged that "God is working in you." Becoming holy is a partnership with the Holy Spirit. He is the One who empowers us to "work hard" so that we can live holy lives.

When you understand this, you can't help but change.

READ: Read John 15:1-4

JOURNAL (Reflect):

- Lord, would you describe my life as one that abides in you?
- Lord, what is one thing you want me to do to partner with your work in my life so that I become more holy?

PRAY:

- Ask God to continue His work in your life and that He would give you the desire and the power to do what please Him.
- Pray for at least one other person that God puts on your heart. Pray for God to work his desires and power in their lives. Pray for them by name.