



Pastor Sam Devine

February 7, 2021

THE GIFT OF HOLINESS

God's gift of holiness is for all who desire to become more and more like Christ.

The gift of holiness is not something I obtain for being extra good. It is the life I choose to live because of who God is.

It is not so much a halo as it is a 'hallow'. Living in a way that hallows His name.

📖 Romans 6:15-23

❖ **The gift of holiness expresses itself in willing obedience to God.**

The truth is that we are not really free because we have used our freedom to live separate from God.

We can think sin is a friend when it is really a foe. We can think we are free when really we are in bondage.

"Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?" v16

Who do you give yourself to? To sin which leads to death or to obedience (to God) which leads to righteousness.

When you choose sin, instead of setting you free, it entangles you in its tentacles. You end up obeying its dictates and demands.

"But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness." v17-18

The law says, obey or else. Grace says, obey because you are loved.

He has won our affection and allegiance. So, we willingly and gladly obey Him. We will do what He says because we trust Him who is Holy.

❖ **The gift of holiness expresses itself in right living before God.**

"...Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness." v19

Once we pursued sin making up ways to please ourselves. Now we can pursue God's righteousness, thinking about ways we can give ourselves more and more to Him.

"When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." v20-23

When you are made right with God you are freed to live right. God changes your heart and your vocabulary.

Our goal is to become more like Him and to spread the fragrance of Christ everywhere we go.

It is a call to total obedience, total commitment and total devotion. It is a call to know Him and live for Him wherever He leads.

He leads us to eternal life.

Questions for Reflection:

- What are you giving your affection and allegiance to that you need to repent of?
- What new word is God showing you that you desire to become part of living right?