

I think it is safe to say that we all, if believers in Jesus Christ as Savior want to live lives that are fulfilling, rewarding and purposeful.
A life that is pleasing to God is just that.



This is accomplished by being holy.
Holiness: set apart from the world for God.
Some aspects of holiness we have seen so far:

- Sanctification is holiness
- What holiness looks like
- Why should we be holy
- How God makes us holy
- It's not too late to be holy

Just to name a few.

Today we wrap up the series with asking;
Do I Have The Faith To Be Holy?"

: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 – "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely... He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it."

INTRODUCTION

Don't let the word "holy" scare you. You may feel unqualified to live a holy life. It is actually something reserved for saints, prophets, and spiritual giants.

But yet,
God said;

I Pe 1:15 *but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior;*

v.16 *because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."*

So,

It's not a question of should I be holy because God commands holiness, as we just read.

Be holy for I am holy.

The real question is, Do I believe enough to be holy?

Ie.

What kind of faith do I have anyway?

Today YES, you can be holy, but not because of your power... your perfection... or your performance.

You have the faith to be holy because God Himself does the sanctifying work in you when you trust Him.

Ok,

So let's say I want to live a holy life, a life set apart from the world and for God.

Here is where it starts.

I. Holiness begins with God, not me

Holiness is not a works program. It is not a striving.

It is knowing God and yielding to Him.

I Thes 5:23 *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

"May the God of peace Himself sanctify you..."

Holiness starts with God's character, not yours.

Ha!

God is doing this for us.

When you ask, "Do I have the faith to be holy?"

God answers,

"You have Me—and I am enough."

Faith doesn't start with saying, "I can do better."

Faith starts by saying,

"God, I trust You to do in me what I cannot do in myself."

I think of Samson, though from the O.T. He was a man set apart for God. Yet, he went in and out of that being set apart by poor choices but ultimately submitted himself to God, regained his strength and defeated many Philistines that day.

But it was a work of God that accomplished it.

Secondly;

II. Faith makes holiness possible, not easy, but possible.

Hebrews 11:6 tells us:

"Without faith it is impossible to please God."

Do you know what it doesn't say?

"Without pleasing God, it is impossible to have faith."

Maybe that's the struggle some Christians have. They try to be pleasing to God before they have the faith.

Here is the order:

1. Faith precedes holiness.
2. Faith produces holiness.
3. Faith empowers holiness.

You don't live holy *to* get faith—

You live holy *because* you have faith.

A holy life is the fruit, not the root.
Build your faith, not your performance.

III. Holiness is trusting God enough to obey Him

Holiness is not just avoiding sin.

Holiness is trust that leads to obedience..

When God says:

- Forgive — do you trust Him enough?
- Give — do you trust Him enough?
- Walk away from temptation — do you trust Him enough?
- Love your enemies — do you trust Him enough?
- Let go of bitterness — do you trust Him enough?

The question “Do I have the faith to be holy?” really means:

“Do I trust God more than I trust my flesh?”

One person said;

Obedience is faith wearing work clothes.

Holiness is faith lived out in real time.

IV. Holiness becomes real when I cooperate with God

God does the sanctifying, but you do the surrendering.

Ha!

It’s not working, it’s surrendering.

Philippians 2:13 says,

“For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.”

Notice the pattern:

1. God works in you → surrender
2. You work it out → discipline
3. God completes the work → transformation

Let’s call holiness partnership.

Not equal partnership—but real partnership.

God supplies:

- the strength
- the conviction
- the desire
- the grace

You supply:

- the yes
- the obedience
- the surrender

Your faith says:

“Lord, I’ll step out. You strengthen my steps.”

Jos 3 the Israelites are about to cross the Jordan River to enter the Promised Land. At this time the river flowed at its highest and fastest. God gave them specific instructions on how to cross the river.

v.15 *when those who carried the ark came into the Jordan, and the feet of the priests carrying the ark were dipped in the edge of the water (for the Jordan overflows all its banks all the days of harvest),*

v.16 *the waters which were flowing down from above stood and rose up in one heap*

Faith says; "Lord, I'll step out. You strengthen my steps."

V. Faith to be holy comes from the Holy Spirit

You don't produce holy faith by effort.

it is in the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:16 –

"Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh."

You can't overcome the flesh *by* the flesh.

You can only overcome the flesh *by* the Spirit.

The Spirit gives you:

- power to say "no" to sin
- desire to say "yes" to God
- conviction when you drift
- strength when you're weak
- purity when you're tempted
- victory when you surrender

So the question isn't:

"Do I have the faith to be holy?"

The question is:

"Am I letting the Holy Spirit work in my life?"

VI. God finishes what He starts

Here's the good news:

Thess 3:24

"He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it."

In your journey;

YOU may not feel faithful.

YOUR discipline may not be consistent.

YOUR strength may not be enough.

YOUR heart may wander.

But God says:

"I am faithful. I will do it."

If God started it in you, He will sanctify you completely.

Faith simply says,

"Lord, finish Your work in me."

CONCLUSION: You have the faith you need – because you have the God you need

So do you have the faith to be holy?

Yes — because holiness begins and ends with God.

He:

- calls you
- cleanses you
- equips you
- empowers you
- preserves you
- completes you

Faith isn't believing in yourself.

Faith is believing in God's power to transform you.

Holiness is not perfection.

Holiness is progress in the right direction, by the Spirit, through faith.

Set apart from the world and for God.