WE ARE CALLED TO BE HOLY...BUT HOW?

1. Make HOLINESS Your Purpose

- Let's revisit the Oswald Chambers quote from Sunday's message.
- "God has one intended destiny for mankind holiness. His only goal is to produce saints. God is not some eternal blessing machine for people to use (at their whim) and He did not come to save us out of pity. He came to save us because He created us to be holy."

2. Do Not Resist the Holy Spirit

- On our journey to accepting Christ, we are led by the Holy Spirit (1 Peter 1:2).
- The Holy Spirit is also the primary guide in our journey to holiness.
- Read Acts 7:51 and 1 Thessalonians 5:19.
- What do these two verses tell us NOT to do?
- How are we guilty of doing this in our daily lives?

3. Commit to Obedience

- Read Hebrews 11 this week.
- What is the common qualifier of each of the heroes?
- How is obedience the pathway to holiness?

4. Pursue Jesus, Not Moralism

- Read Hebrews 12 this week.
- What does it mean that Jesus is the "author and finisher of our faith?"
- What does this mean concerning who should be our standard?
- If we pursue moralism, the tendency is to look more like the world's standard for morality. How well is that working?!?
- If we pursue Jesus, the tendency is toward holiness! And that is what we are all about.

5. Expect Improvement, Not Perfection

- Too often, Christians don't strive to be holy because we consider it an impossible standard. But God is not leading us to an unattainable level of perfection. Our lack of perfection should merely lead us to continually strive to meet God's goal for us.
- John Calvin once wrote in his commentary on 1 Peter, "As even the most perfect are always very far from coming up to the mark, we ought daily to strive more and more. And we ought to remember that we are not only told what our duty is, but that God also adds, "I am he who sanctifies you."

BECAUSE WE ARE LOVED...As believers we are holy not because we desire to be loved by God but because we are already loved in Christ and because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). And the best way to demonstrate that we love God is to seek to become holy because He is holy.

