

UPON THIS ROCK!

How Can I Live a Holy Life?

Tweaked article derived from <http://www.gotquestions.org/holy-life.html>

In order to address the question of how to live a holy life, we must first understand what *holy* means. To be holy means to be set apart or separate sanctified, from sin and evil. God calls us to be holy, just as He is (1 Peter 1:16, quoting Leviticus 19:2), but it's vital to understand that apart from God this is impossible. We must have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us and filling us with holiness. We can only live a holy life by the grace of God through the power of the Holy Spirit (2 Timothy 1: 8-10), in conjunction with the "truth" and "proper covering" of God.

But what does it look like to be *actually* righteous—to live a holy life? In Romans 12:1-2, Paul emphasizes presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice and renewing our minds: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

Living a holy life being obedient to God in all areas of life (1 Peter 1:14-16). Knowing and obeying God's Word is key (John 17:17). Having God's Word in our hearts keeps us from sin (Psalm 119:11). When we live in obedience to God, we are staying separate from evil. We are offering our bodies as "living sacrifices" to God (Romans 12:1-2). The purpose of living a holy life is to glorify God and display His nature to those around us (Matthew 5:16). Living a holy life of obedience to God is living in true freedom from the bondage of sin (Romans 6:6).

It's not always easy to choose obedience to God, especially if we're trying to do it all on our own.....in fact as it has been said, we can't do it on our own. Our flesh would love nothing more than to bring us back into bondage through disobedience. But we have the promise, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world" (1 John 4:4). The Holy Spirit will produce 'Christ-likeness' in us and, as we yield to Him, we can live a holy life (Galatians 5:16).

Here is the mindset we should have: "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:11). Any time we face temptation, we should say, by God's grace "I'm dead to that! That was part of my *old* life! I am a new creature in Christ!" (2 Corinthians 5:17). To live a holy life, to separate ourselves from sin, we must see ourselves as God does—as born-again children of the Most High, clothed with the righteousness of Christ.

Being part of the Body of Christ (God's community) is essential to living holy. Fellowship with other Christians and making our-selves accountable to them is a great source of strength in living a holy life. As Christians, we are called to encourage one another in this matter (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Remember, we are not trying to live a holy life in order to earn salvation; living a holy life is a natural outgrowth of being saved by God's grace, filled with His Spirit, and living according to the truth of Christian scripture. It is also important to not give up when we mess up. When we fail, our response should be to confess the sin, ask forgiveness, and keep moving forward in our Christian walk (1 John 1:9).....pressing towards perfection (Matthew 5:48). 2 Corinthians 7:1 says, "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

KIDS' CORNER...

Thinking before we speak is a good rule of thumb when it comes to communicating with others.



Before you speak

T H I N K

T=is it true?

H=is it helpful?

I=is it inspiring?

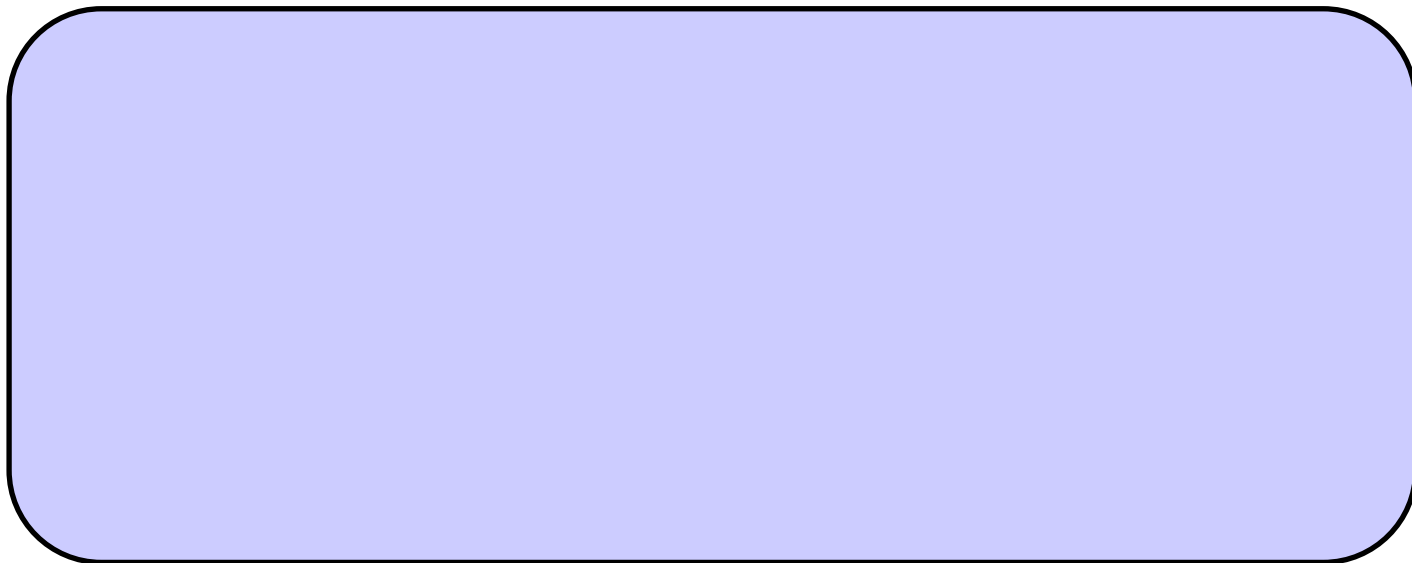
N=is it necessary?

K=is it kind?



DO
THE RIGHT THING...
EVEN WHEN
NO ONE
IS LOOKING.

Thanks for.....



PLEASE BLESS:

HELP ME
WITH:



SAINT SPOTLIGHT SIS MICHELLE SMITH

My personal testimony....Wow where to begin? I guess the day I was born....May 24, 1965. The photo I chose to go with this article is very important to me. This is me on my 50th birthday, a day that doctors told my family would never come. A day that sometimes I doubted myself..but by the grace of God and Only by the grace of God, I'm still here. The photo isn't that great but one that will be a constant reminder that I made it to 50. Now to go back 50 years, I was born 5/24/1965 with a birth defect called Spina Bifida. In my case it meant a growth on my spine that would cause me to be born paralyzed from the waste down. I was also born with a condition called hydrocephalus which means a build up of fluid in the cavities deep within the brain. I have had over 150 surgeries to help manage my condition. Doctors told my mom I wouldn't live 2 hours. They kept gradually giving me more time....a week, 6 months...a year. Doctors told my mom, put her in a home for babies that will die, she won't live and IF she makes it to 7 she will be a vegetable. My mom said "not my child," so with the help of my grandmother, Sis. Helen Harry they raised me to be the 50+ year old woman I've become today. On the day I was born, my grandma was leaving the hospital and she saw what she described as an angel of the Lord that told her I would be ok. Thank God for a praying grandmother.

Grandma took me to church as soon as I was able to be out as I spent most of my first year in the hospital. At 6 months, our church split. I was "born" into the "campground" side of the Body of Jesus Christ. However, when the church split my grandmother made the choice to go on Bro. T.M. Jolly's "side". This is where I would spend my childhood and teenage years. Our church was in Charlotte at first on Sam Wilson Road. There at 8 years of age, on August 18, 1973, I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. At 8, I know I didn't have a lot of knowledge but I knew my life would be forever changed. I think I was told I spoke in tongues for 2 hours. I can still remember what I was wearing: a white polyester (yes polyester) dress with green sequins going down the front. Funny how you remember details like that. A couple of years later, sadly the church closed in Charlotte. Then my grandma got word that Bro. Richard Fitzsimmons (brother to Denny Fitzsimmons, who is still under Bro. Jolly's group now) came to Rock Hill, SC to a building that was off of Dave Lyle Blvd. The name of the building escapes me but I can take you to it to this day. There I was baptized at age 10. We stayed in Rock Hill until the age of around 17. We bought land and were in the process of clearing the land to start building a church when one day Bro. Fitzsimmons announces that he and his family were leaving (didn't give reason why). All we knew is they were gone and all the money we saved for the new building was too. I was terribly hurt and angry. I was at a very impressionable age, about to graduate high school and life as I knew it came to a screeching halt. Not only had the church left but things at home weren't good. Mom had divorced my stepdad; I was so angry over that and church that after I graduated high school I went to live with my aunt and uncle a short time only to find that wasn't the best choice either. I then moved in with my grandmother.

It was about 3 years time where we didn't have a church. We got word from my uncle that a new brother, Bro. William Podaras was just introduced to the Body of Christ and for our "geographic" area was the closest to a "body" church that we had. The "other Charlotte church" under the campground group was still in existence and I was allowed to go there (since I was little) as long as our church wasn't going on. There I met my former roommate Sis. Michelle Braziel (Best at the time) and also Bro Brintley. Sis Michelle & I attended the same junior high school together and we would pass each other in the hall in our "Little House on the Prairie dresses" and give each other that "I got your back" look every day. It was comforting to know I had someone of like mind around.

Along with myself and my grandma, I had 2 sets of aunts, uncles, and a few other saints at the church. One by one they all left for various reasons. I guess I stayed there around 3 years when I felt God's leading to leave, so once again hurt and anger. Fast forward another year or so and I was living with my brother. He had been in and out of church many times. He had come back to Hwy 29 Charlotte church and wanted me to see him be baptized. Everyday for 2 weeks I said no. I was at that time I guess "mad at God". Well something finally triggered me to say yes and I told him I would go but not to expect me to say anything. I also told him that as soon as he was baptized that I was leaving. Well I was early as I often am and I got to the side door at the church. I heard the most beautiful music I had ever heard and in my heart I knew who it was. I sat there for what seemed a long time and finally opened the door to find it was Sis. Michelle Braziel playing. She ran down the steps to greet me and God started softening my heart. My brother was baptized and God gave me a wonderful experience. I knew I would be back and sadly, my brother left and I stayed.

Shortly after, Sis. Michelle Braziel and I became roommates. We attended Charlotte Church over the next 2 or so years. One night she came home and told me God was leading her to the Church at Rock Hill. She jokingly told me I couldn't come, although some things started happening there that I didn't feel God was in. I guess I stayed a couple of months or so, until one Wednesday night I came and was once again disheartened. Sis. Regina (who is Sis. Michelle Braziel sister) was playing the piano and was playing the song "I'll say yes Lord yes, to your will and to your way." I had yet one of those deep experiences with God. I knew he was telling me to leave and to also attend The Church at Rock Hill. It was February of 1997 and God had finally brought me to a place where he could work on my spirit. Before coming I didn't even know I had a bad spirit.

When I first came, there were about 12 of us including children and God has blessed us with the wonderful people we have in our church today. Shortly after I came, the Pincham's joined us and I was able to be in the delivery room when Sis. Taylor was born. Not to mention, I found a best friend in Sis. Alicia that I thought wasn't possible. Sure there have been ups and downs in the last 19 years but I know I'm in a place where the word is going forth and the truth is being taught. I often think of this song and this sums it up to me: And I'm still here, Thank you Lord for leading me this way, The vision you gave me grows clearer everyday, and I realize Lord, you could have chosen others in my place, but I'm so glad I'm in this race and I'm still here. ***The thing I look most forward to for our church is when Bro. Miller rolls me in or I'm able to walk into our new church. As another song says, The best is yet to come!***

DO GOOD TO ALL!!!

Galatians 6:10-Let us do good to all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Scripture is full of specific instruction on how we should treat each other. The following Scriptures explain clearly what God expects from us in this regard. Read them carefully and consider how to apply them in your life:

Leviticus 19:11 Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another.

John 13:14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another;

Romans 12:16 Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.

Romans 14:13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

Romans 15:7 Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Galatians 5:13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Ephesians 4:2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Ephesians 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

Colossians 3:13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Hebrews 3:13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

James 4:11 Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law: but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

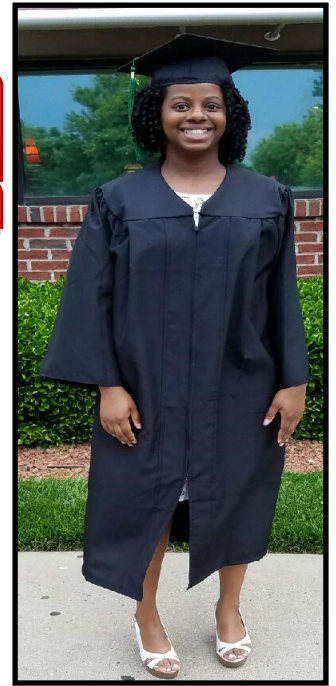
1 Peter 3:8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:



CONGRATULATIONS!

High School Graduate
Sis Taylor Pincham

College Graduate
Sis Anna Bell



Kingdom Kids!

Psalm 127:3 Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.



6/16/16
Sis Rayna
Eliza Robinson

7/21/16
Bro Joshua Cole
Abraham



9/8/16
Bro Evan Samuel
Randall

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Pastor Johnny E. Miller

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The Church at Rock Hill



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www.thechurchatrockhill.com

E-Mail:
its-time@thechurchatrockhill.com

Service Times

Sunday 12:30pm

Wednesday 7:30pm

*Open for prayer one hour
before each service.*

2016 MEETING SCHEDULE

HAVERILL, MA	(R)	OCT 13-15
PARIS, FR	(MG)	OCT 26-29
LITTLE ROCK, AR	(M)	NOV 8-11
SHRIEVER, LA	(R)	NOV 18-19
PORTLAND, OR	(R)	NOV 23-26
STERLING, IL	(R)	NOV 24-26
LOUISVILLE, KY	(CC)(GM)	DEC 6-8
JACKSONVILLE, FL	(R)	DEC 9-10
ORANGE, TX	(R)	DEC 16-17
MT. CARMEL, IL	(Y)	DEC 27-29
SEATTLE, WA	(R)	DEC30-JA1