

Active Faith | 1 Peter 1:14-19, 22-25 | 7/20/14

- Introduction
 - A call to Holy Living, to live the life that is separated from the world and to live a life that God has called us to live.
 - That is what Peter is instructing the Christians with, that not only are they to maintain their faith during their persecution but that they are also to live the Christian life.
 - To live the Christian life is to be set apart from the world, to live in a way that is different, one that is obedient to the commands of God.
 - Peter knew the importance of not just being a Christian for the sake of being one, but that one must live that life out as well.
 - We will look today at what it means to live a life that is separated from the world to live the Christian life.
 - We will look at three different ways in which we can do this
 - To turn from our old self
 - To be filled with the Spirit
 - To respect our heavenly Father
 - To embrace God's Word.
- As Christians we are to behave as children of God and not children of our former selves. | 1 Peter 1:14-16
 - **Read 1 Peter 1:14-16**
 - As Peter began his letter by giving encouragement to the Christians who were persecuted by reminding them of the hope that they have in Jesus Christ.
 - Because of the Salvation and the promises that God has given them.
 - That regardless of their trials and struggles that this is where the genuineness of their faith would be shown.
 - Peter now encourages them to not only maintain their hope but also calls them to maintain a life that would reflect a child of God.
 - A child of God a Christian that is different from the world they are set apart by God to be Holy.
 - We have previously discussed Holy in depth but as a refresher to be Holy is simply to be set apart. So God is a Holy God who is separate from the world and we Christians are called to also be Holy and set apart from the world.
 - Peter tells them that as obedient children we are not to be conformed to the desires of our former ignorance.
 - This former ignorance is our life as a non-believer as a full-fledged sinner who does not have faith in Jesus Christ.
 - We are not to look like this person anymore because we are now different we are set apart by God.
 - So if we are not supposed to look like our old self, what did that old self that old life look like?
 - Selfish
 - Live for personal gratification
 - One who lives to fulfill their personal gratification and goals. There isn't much that one will not do to get what is best for them.
 - Help myself first and others second.
 - This is the opposite of what Jesus has taught us by his example. A Christian lives the life of humility and serving.

- Gave ourselves over to our passions and desires without regard for the will of God.
 - If I have a desire for something then it must be OK.
 - If I have a desire to sin of any kind and I want to do it then I have no trouble giving myself over to it.
 - If it feels good do it.
 - The Christian of course understands that to feel good do it would likely mean to obey and give into our sinful fleshly nature, which would lead us to sin.
 - The Christian can say no.
- Conformed to the world around us instead of the requirements of God.
 - God has given us the perfect example and model of how to live our lives, but if we live as our old self then we just fit in with the world.
 - If the world says that sin is OK then we conform to that sin.
 - We ignore what God wants for us.
 - The Christian needs to always conform to the image God even if that goes against what the world wants.
- Live for worldly possessions and fame.
 - To the lost perhaps the meaning of life would be who has the most money and is the most famous.
 - To obtain glory in the eyes of the world would be one's goal because whom else would one seek one's approval?
 - What will the history books say about me?
 - As a Christian however we know that to live a life that is Holy and obedient to God is to live one that seeks the approval of God and not the world.
 - One lives not for person gain of fame and fortune, but one seeks to build up rewards in Heaven and one that seeks to glorify God and not themselves.
- **What else would you consider to be “the desires of your former ignorance”?**
 - Christians can still live like this even though they know the truth.
 - Peter is calling Christians out to live the life they are called to and not the one that looks like the world.
 - Unfortunately we as Christians are still susceptible to living life this way, one that is no different.
 - However we DO know better since we have the Holy Spirit, since we have God living within us.
 - If one gives into the old-self and the sinful nature by allowing themselves to sin and live life as they once did, that person can cause themselves to desire sin more and more.
 - Ephesians 4:17-19
 - “Therefore, I say this and testify in the Lord: You should no longer walk as the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their thoughts. They are darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them and because of the hardness of their hearts. **They became callous and gave themselves over to promiscuity for the practice of every kind of impurity with a desire for more and more.**”

- Paul warns the Christians here to not give ourselves over to sin because you will have a desire for more and more.
 - I know this to be true, if you have a sin that is tempting for you and you give in a little, you can find yourself wanting more and more until the end in which is usually that you crash and explode.
 - Sin has a way of doing that of pulling us in.
 - **A Christian who gives in and wants more and more of their sinful nature cannot live the Holy life that God has called them too.**
- The Christian needs to be filled with the Holy Spirit
 - For the Christian to be Holy to live the Holy life requires that we be filled with the Spirit.
 - To be filled with the Spirit is different than having the Spirit living within you.
 - Every Christian receives the Holy Spirit when they have true saving faith and become saved.
 - Ephesians 1:13
 - “When you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation and when you believed in Him, you were also sealed with the promised Holy Spirit”
 - So all Christians have the Spirit living within them, the Spirit who is wholly God.
 - But not all Christians are filled with the Spirit.
 - To be filled with the Spirit is to embrace the Holy Spirit of God that is living within us and allow him to fill our heart, to fill our mind with the things of God.
 - To allow the Holy Spirit to be in charge of our lives, to guide us and to overwhelm the evil that is in our sinful nature within us.
 - To continuously be aware of the presence of God within us
 - We as Christians do not always do this we instead live in our old self and are attached to our sinful ways.
 - But if we would truly embrace the Spirit and be filled with the Spirit our minds and our hearts would be filled with God and then we would be able to be Holy as God is Holy.
 - **Can you identify when you have been filled with the Spirit in your own life? Were you able to then think and make decisions that were more of God?**
- The Christian needs to be renewed
 - To resolve this issue of living our old-self and to then live the Holy life that God as called us we can do this by having our minds renewed.
 - Ephesians 4:22-24
 - “You took off your former way of life, the old self that is corrupted by deceitful desires; you are being renewed in the spirit of your minds; you put on the new self, the one created according to God’s likeness in righteousness and purity of the truth.”
 - Our minds are renewed with Christ because we have him living within us, but unfortunately we don’t always allow our minds to completely embrace him, we don’t allow our minds to be full of the Holy Spirit so that we then live the Christian life that we are called to live.
 - But if we embrace the Spirit we will be transformed into the same image of God and his character.

- 2 Corinthians 3:18
 - “We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit.”
 - By embracing the Holy Spirit we can in fact begin to see clearly the life that God has called us to live, to be obedient and to be Holy as God has called us to be Holy.
 - The Christian must imitate God with the new self, which is created according to the likeness of God.
 - Ephesians 5:1
 - “Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children.”
 - What better way can we then live the Holy life than to imitate God?
 - Just as children who will generally imitate their parent’s weather that be good or bad.
 - We to must treat God as our Father, our heavenly Father and to look up to him with the respect and to imitate God in his holiness.
 - If we are filled with the Spirit we WILL be imitators of God.
 - What can we do to continuously be filled with the Holy Spirit so that we live a Holy life?
 - We must be rooted in Christ
 - Colossians 2:6
 - “Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, overflowing with gratitude.”
 - It is impossible to be filled and walk with the Spirit if we are not rooted in Jesus. Because if we are not rooted in Him then we are rooted in ourselves.
- We can live the Christian life if we respect our Father | 1 Peter 1:17-19
 - **Read 1 Peter 1:17-19**
 - If we address God as our father, our heavenly Father we are to also respect Him.
 - We cannot hope to live a Holy life if we do not respect God, if we show no respect than how can we possibly be obedient?
 - How often does a child that is disrespecting their parents at the same time is also concerned with being obedient?
 - If we are going to be obedient to God and live the Christian life that is Holy and set apart we MUST respect God, we must fear him.
 - We fear God because of his sovereignty and his omnipotence.
 - We fear God because he is THE God the creator of everything that we see and the supreme ruler of our lives.
 - He controls every aspect of our lives, how can we not fear him?
 - God controls the rain the lighting, he commands them where to go.
 - You cannot help but not fear God who has the power to do these things.
 - We also know it is only because of God that we were redeemed from our empty way of life.
 - Without God there would be no new self, no new way of life.
 - We would only be able to live the old life, one that is selfish and full of sin and disobedience to God.
 - With fear comes respect
 - With our God our fear primarily gives us respect for him and who he is.

- If we truly let the attributes of God be made aware of in our minds we will have nothing but respect and reverence for him.
 - We respect him because we understand his power and His might.
 - We know that he is omniscient he knows everything.
 - He knows our thoughts and our actions and what is in our hearts.
 - We respect him because he knows what is best for us and we respect his will for our lives.
 - He knew that for us to receive our internal inheritance was what was most important for us, even when we didn't know what we truly needed God did.
 - With respect comes obedience.
 - **If we fear God and respect Him for His sovereignty and omnipotence, then we WILL STRIVE to OBEY him.**
 - A child who truly respects their parents will also strive to be obedient.
 - For Christians to live the Christian life must also respect God enough to desire, to strive to be obedient to him.
 - Our obedience leads directly to a Holy life.
 - **How does your respect or fear of God affect your Christian life?**
- For Christians to live a Holy life we must be obedient to God's truth that comes from his Word | 1 Peter 1:22-25
 - ***Read 1 Peter 1:22-25***
 - If we are going to live a Holy life that is set apart, we have to be obedient to the truth of God.
 - To do this we MUST read his Word.
 - The Spirit works within us to reveal the truth of God's Word.
 - In fact these work together, because when we read God's word the Holy Spirit teaches us and makes God's word know to us. The Spirit makes it real.
 - John 14:25
 - "I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit –the Father will send Him in My name—will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you."
 - 1 Corinthians 2:12
 - "Now we have not received the spirit of the world, but the spirit who comes from God, so that we may understand what has been freely given to us by God."
 - God's Word will give us wisdom to understand his truths.
 - Colossians 3:16
 - "Let the message about the Messiah dwell richly among you, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, and singing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God."
 - In our obedience we will show a love that could not come from our old self
 - If we are to obey God's truth and embrace the Christian life we will love others from a pure heart.
 - This ability to live like this is not possible if we are not saved, we cannot possible love those that hate us or will never love us back if do not have a heart that was purified by the Holy Spirit.
 - Our actions with a pure heart
 - Philippians 2:1-8
 - This is the love, this is the attitude that the Christian who strives to live a holy life should look like.
 - **How do these actions/attitude differ from those of our old self?**

- Peter encourages the Christians and reminds them that God's Word endures forever.
 - 1 Peter 2:24-25
 - God's Word will endure forever, for all of eternity.
 - This passage from Isaiah describes our lives that wither, not matter the fame and fortune that we may have earned while here on Earth.
 - That no matter its greatness it will wither away.
 - **We must instead make certain that we live our lives for eternity by being obedient to God and being filled with the Spirit**
 - **Then we can live a Holy life that God has called us to life.**