

Hebrews: The Complete Work of Christ
Pursuing Holiness
Hebrews 12:12-17

The term “holiness” has the potential to create much confusion in our society today among both believers and non-believers alike. Like faith, holiness is a spiritual concept. And because it has a spiritual, eternal nature, we find it difficult to understand and explain within the limitations that are placed on us by language that is physical and temporal in nature. So, when we read words like, “without [holiness] no one will see the Lord,” we have a hard time getting our minds around that. We want to see the Lord. But we don’t know what that means.

1. Pursuing holiness is an active journey.
2. Pursuing holiness is a necessary journey.
3. Pursuing holiness is a corporate journey.

Faith and holiness have much in common. Without faith it is impossible to please God (11:6) and without holiness it is impossible to see God (12:14). Just as we must examine our lives to see how faith is connecting us to God, we must also examine our lives to see if there is any evidence of practical holiness. It is not those who profess to know Christ who will enter heaven, but those whose lives are holy.

For Further Consideration:

Take some time in the next couple of days to read through Hebrews 12:1-17. In prayer, ask God to show you the things in your life that you have entrusted to Him and the things that you still need to trust Him for. Consider the following questions: 1) Is there evidence of practical holiness in my life? 2) Do I desire and strive after holiness? 3) Do I grieve over my lack of holiness and earnestly seek the help of God to be holy?