

GOD-CENTERED LIFE = STRIVING FOR HOLINESS

Why should we strive for holiness?

A. God <u>created</u> us to be holy.

For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy."

1 Peter 1:16 (NLT)

B. It's for our good.

But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, <u>there is freedom</u>. **2 Corinthians 3:16-17 (NLT)**

C. It's for HIS Glory.

May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—<u>for this will bring much glory and praise to God</u>. **Philippians 1:11 (NLT)**

How do we strive for holiness?

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns...I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. May you always be filled

with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God. **Philippians 1:6, 9-11 (NLT)**

A. Let Jesus <u>lead</u> our lives.

...My purpose is to give them a rich (meaningful/purposeful) and satisfying life. John 10:10 (NLT)

B. Grow in knowledge and understanding.

...and that you will keep on <u>growing in knowledge and understanding</u>. For I want you to understand what really matters... **Phil. 1:9-10a (NLT)**

C. Live it out.

Those who say they live in God should <u>live their lives as Jesus did</u>. **1 John 2:6 (NLT)**

You say, "I am allowed to do anything"—but not everything is good for you... 1 Corinthians 6:12 (NLT)

D. Jesus will transform us.

Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. Romans 12:2 (NLT)

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control... Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)

Going deeper on your own: Pastor Brandon encouraged us to strive for holiness. One of the ways we do that is digging deep into God's word and applying that to our lives. Galatians 5:22 tells us about the fruits that the Holy Spirit produces in our lives. Pick one fruit that you would like God to produce more of in your life and do three things - 1. Pray that God would help you grow in this area; 2. Search the scriptures for where it expands on the issue; and 3. When God brings you opportunities, intentionally work on it. As God grows your holiness, we would love to hear how, please email Pastor Brandon at Brandon@CenterPointChurch.com