

THE HOLINESS STREAM: THE VIRTUOUS LIFE

Holiness flows out of a divinely transformed heart.

“A divinely transformed heart, by its very nature, will produce right action. It simply cannot do otherwise... Purity of heart is the fountainhead of all right action.” Holiness is “loving unity with God... It is a growing, maturing, freely given conformity to the will and ways of God... In holiness we become the persons we were created to be.”

(Streams of Living Water by Richard Foster, p. 71, 82-84)

Jesus and the Holiness Stream

“It is simply a marvel to watch Jesus move among children and women and men—always timely, always appropriate, always capable.” When we look at the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness, we see “someone who understood with clarity the way of God and who had the internal resources to live in that way, instinctively and without reservation.” In the Sermon on the Mount, “Jesus points to an inner life with God that transforms the heart and builds deeply ingrained habits of virtue.”

(Streams of Living Water, p. 6-8)

In what way does Jesus turn upside down our conventional understandings of holiness?



Happy are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord.
Happy are those who keep his decrees,
who seek him with their whole heart,
who also do no wrong,
but walk in his ways.

You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.

O that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!

How can young people keep their way pure?

By guarding it according to your word.
With my whole heart I seek you;
do not let me stray from your
commandments.

I treasure your word in my heart,
so that I may not sin against you.

Blessed are you, O Lord;
teach me your statutes.

– Psalm 119:1-5,9-12

TAKING IT WITH YOU

“We do certain disciplines and exercises as a means of training, much as an athlete trains to become more proficient at a particular sport.”

(Renovaré workbook, p. 40)

1. **RESPOND** to God’s invitation and cultivate your friendship with him this week. Perhaps go for a walk together or talk to him by prayerfully journaling about your joys and struggles.
2. **READ COLOSSIANS 3:1–17** each morning this week while praying that God will burn the words into your heart.” (Streams workbook, Session 4)
3. Look for a **PHOTO** of someone who really embodies Christlike holiness for you. This person could be someone famous (Billy Graham or Mother Theresa) or someone close to you (maybe your own mother!). Keep this photo near you as an encouragement to grow in Christlike holiness.
4. **WALK TOGETHER** Look for a friend who can walk with you. Ask one another, “How is it with your soul?” and try to be as honest as possible in responding. Commit to struggling against temptations and keeping one another accountable (for example, commit to purity when Internet browsing and discuss it together).
5. **VIDEO MEDITATIONS:** Ask God to continue to transform your heart and actions as you meditate: dallaswillardcenter.com/video-meditations

