

“Holy, Holy, Holy”
(I Peter 1:1-16)

No matter the family we were raised in, once we enter into God’s family we all need “re-parenting”. Spiritual, heavenly, holy parenting. The New Testament speaks of this in Hebrews 12 when the writer says “God deals with us as sons, for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?” (Heb 12:7) His chosen word for “discipline” is the word for child training, child teaching – in our case, how to live by faith, with hope, and in love as God’s holy children (all God’s children are holy children!).

Sometimes, such “training” or “discipline” may be quite painful, even bring great unhappiness, but it is always for our profit, for our good (Heb 12:10). The goal of spiritual re-parenting is not to make us happy, but to bring us to be at home in His holiness ... “that we may share His holiness” (Heb 12:10). God doesn’t mean for us to be admirers of holiness or students of holiness, but that we be partakers of His holiness. That we might rightfully assume and boldly step into all the holiness that is the birthright of every child of God, every saint.

Sanctification is simply growing up into the expression of who we are as God’s holy offspring. God’s holy nature graced to us in Christ is meant for the release of His holy character into our world (not the world we wish we were in, but the very one we are in!). You see, God’s holiness has no problem expressing itself in an unholy world. (Jo 16:33; I Jo 4:4) Perfecting holiness (II Cor 7:1) is not about generating holiness, acquiring more holiness, or promising to be a better example of holiness. It is about bringing our God-given holiness into an even fuller, more mature God-intended expression. Sometimes that calls for cleaning out the clutter – the stuff that didn’t come from God in the first place (II Cor 7:1; II Tim 2:21). At other times it may be about putting what God has graced to us into the service of His Holy purposes (Matt 6:10).

It will always be about God’s sanctification of our whole being in its entirety – “spirit, soul, and body” (I Thess 5:23). Holiness is about integrity, wholeness, coherence involving all aspects of our humanity so we may function “entirely” as God’s holy children were designed to function – spirit, soul, and body aligned, integrated, under the authority of the Justifier, Sanctifier, and Glorifier. The power to be holy as He is holy is divine, not human (Ps 37:5; Ps 138:8). When His divine intent is met with our human consent “the Faithful One Who calls you will Himself bring it to pass.” (I Thess 5:24)



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GREETINGS

Every now and then it does you good to stop and "Count Your Blessings." To even take the time to "name them one by one" and remember to "see what God has done." (You can sing that part if you like!)

Things like: satisfaction... security... significance... goodness. Or maybe: revelation... wisdom... instruction... correction. Don't forget: fellowship... friendship... family... freedom. Never overlook: peace... joy... love... rest. Then there's: food... housing... income... medicines. How about: taste... smell... hearing... touch. Never omit: difficulties... obstacles... sufferings... trials. And who would want to leave out: hope... heaven... help... hugs. It's not wrong to include: fishing... woodworking tools... carrot cake... good coffee! (Now, make your own list!)

You'll never regret thanking the Source of every good and perfect gift in all things... and for all things!

Calendar

AUGUST

- 11 Alachua Study
- 14-16 Catch the Fire Church, Myrtle Beach, SC
(contact: myrtlebeach@catchthefire.com)

SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 3 Buena Vista, CO (full)

OCTOBER

- 23-25 Louisville, KY (502-664-5622)

NOVEMBER

- 13-15 Sebring, FL (863-382-1085)

Praise & Prayer



The Source of every good and perfect Gift



Our Heavenly Father Who "re-parents" us



To embrace the discipline of the Holy Lover



To grow up into our God-intended expression