

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

April 27, 2023 – Pursuing Holiness – Myra Ilagan

Pursuing Holiness

Today, we will start a series called "Pursuing Holiness."

Why pursuing holiness? As we all remember prior to our trip to the Philippines, we were exhorted and studied on carrying the presence of God [and walking in the Spirit]. We said that in order for us to be the **carriers of God's presence**, we must be free from sin / wickedness. We must be consecrated and set-apart only for God. We must be people who lives a life of godliness and holiness. That our lives must be living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated), and well pleasing to God (Romans 12:1); honoring Him, and glorifying Him in all we do. And we really set our hearts to live this life despite the trials, challenges, warfare because we know it is His command that "you shall be holy for He I am Holy." (1 Peter 1:16, Leviticus 11:44, 45). We may not fully grasp the meaning and apply in our lives being holy but through the power of the Holy Spirit in us and yielding to His leadership we are empowered to live this life of holiness.

And even if the Philippines conference is momentarily over, we do not stop to live a life of holiness - the more we must pursue holiness. It is because the life we live here now will impact the lives of those people we served in the Philippines, whether you like it or not. So we intentionally choose to live a life of holiness!

Below is a previous post from February 26, 2023 in the Discipleship Training room. Please take time to read and meditate.

Becoming a Person of "One Thing"

In this church, we have been taught and exhorted on being a person of "One thing." We know that David, Paul, and Mary of Bethany are man / woman of one thing. But God had just shown me another person of "one thing"—it's Moses!

There is only "one thing" Moses wanted the most and that is the presence of God.

These past few weeks, as we are preparing and getting ready to be sent to the Philippines, God has been impressing to me the importance of His presence, which is the only distinguishing characteristic of "His going with us." We also talked about this during one of our discipleship classes as we discussed our insights from the Sunday preaching. In the class, I've alluded that to be filled and to carry the presence of God we must be free from sin and wickedness. David had an understanding of this as he talked to God in Psalm 51:10-11. He understood that sin separates him from God's presence.

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One time, as I was reading this chapter, God showed me that He told Moses He will provide, send resources, and send His angels before them (verse 2) where they are going despite the sin they committed (described in Exodus 32). But Moses insisted if God's presence does not go with them to not send them.

This week God just shown me another AHA moment from this chapter specifically verse 3: Go up to a land [of abundance] flowing with milk and honey; for I will not go up in your midst, because you are a stiff-necked (stubborn, rebellious) people, and I might destroy you on the way.” Exodus 33:3 AMP

God told Moses and the Israelites to go and obtain the Promised Land God had given them BUT His presence will not go with them because of their idolatry and rebellion. Moses was given a choice between obtaining the promises of God without His presence, or refusing to go another step forward without His "Face." Moses didn't want the promises of God without the Presence of God.

We too have promises of God that we hold on to (Jeremiah 29:11, Philippians 3:14, etc.) but it should not be our primary goal to obtain it. He will give it to us no matter what because it's His promise - it's His Word. But to be a person of one thing, we must be in pursuit of His presence above all else.

If you were given the choice between obtaining all the promises and blessings of God for your life and ministry, or an encounter with God's face, what would you choose? In this season, we are being asked this question - what do we want most?