

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

December 1, 2023 – The Cry of the Bride: Maranatha – Erlinda Cruz

Key to a Burning Heart

Holiness: Living Fascinated in the Pleasure of Loving God

- Starting with the right foundations.
- Two foundational truths and three practical principles for our pursuit of holiness.

God calls us to holiness because He is holy. In being holy, He has the highest, most pleasurable, and exhilarating quality of life in existence. He wants to share this life with us forever.

“Be holy, for I am holy.”

1 Peter 1:16

He has called us to enjoy the superior equality of life in the liberty of holiness. Many see holiness only as the drudgery of self-denial. God created every human being with a longing for pleasure and fascination. It is His design. Understanding these two longings is foundational to pursuing holiness in a biblical way. The call to holiness is a call to the superior pleasures of being fascinated by the revelation of Jesus.

Holiness equips us to enjoy life together with God forever. We must not approach holiness in a negative way with dread. It does not keep us from pleasure, but equips us to experience it. The power of holiness frees us from the vain imaginations of lust, pride, and bitterness.

Foundation Truth #1: Being Preoccupied with Superior Pleasures

God is the author of pleasure. He created us to enjoy physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual pleasures. Our longing for pleasure is part of our created design and must be satisfied; it will not go away. The devil tempts us with “counterfeit” pleasures that are outside God’s will.

The greatest pleasures available to the human spirit are spiritual pleasures that come to us when God reveals God to our spirit. This exhilarates our spirit at the deepest levels. We are liberated from the inferior pleasures of sin by experiencing the superior pleasures of the beauty of Jesus.

The Spirit discerns the deep things of the Father’s heart and mind including the delight He feels for Jesus, the saints, and His kingdom. The Spirit helps us feel some of what the Father feels.

“The Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God... We have received... the Spirit... that we might know the things that have been freely given to us.”

1 Corinthians 2:10-12

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The Spirit escorts us on a divine treasure hunt into the beauty of Jesus. He takes the things Jesus is thinking and feeling, and He reveals them to us. This is divine entertainment at its highest.

“He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.”

John 16:14

God releases small measures of insight and inspiration from the Word, which tenderize our spirit for a few moments. These subtle flashes of glory are to be a regular part of our relationship with God. Over time, this holy influence changes us emotionally.

Holiness is the result of fascination and facilitation causes fervency.

Fervency creates burning and constancy.

Constancy causes drawing more and more to Him!