

# The End Goal Of Physical Life Is Holiness

**1 Peter 1:13-16** [NIV] *“Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. **But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’**”*

Peter is quoting **Leviticus 11:45** which was a command given by God to the people He had just brought out of the land of Egypt, a type of sin.

Peter was speaking to people who also had been brought out of sin through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Peter is telling the early Jewish Christians in particular, to be motivated by the imminent return of Jesus Christ. Such motivation must be even greater for us in this generation.

The preaching of Peter is very similar to that of Paul in his letter to the Church in Rome.

**Romans 12:1-2** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

The key to fulfilling both admonitions is to surrender our lives totally to God out of gratitude for what He has done for us through Jesus Christ. To allow the Holy Spirit to re-educate our minds and produce the “*fruits*” of holiness in our lives.

**Galatians 5:22-23** [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”*

**These “*fruits*” are the characteristics of the Holy Triune God, that are to be ours if we are to end our lives as His created children in His holy family [kingdom].**

**Isaiah 11:1-3** [NIV] *“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him, the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD, and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears;”*

This scripture is referring to the Messiah but the principle that all “*fruits*” are dependent on roots for growth and without roots a plant will wither and die before any fruit is produced. [**Matthew 13:3-6**]

**Every Christian should ask themselves, ‘am I laying down roots in my life that will allow the Holy Spirit to produce in me the “*fruits*” of holiness?’**

Today’s Christian religion appears to be mostly for consolation, like a young child climbs into the arms of a mother after a long day of play that included falls, bumps, frights and disappointments.

**We now have the cult of peace in the Christian fellowships, peace of mind, heart and spirit. We seek to relax and have God the Father, through the “*mother church*” comfort us.**

According to the Christian Bible there should be a people of God who are being subjected to a spiritual experience given by God, the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit. [**John 16:13**]

The work of the Holy Spirit is to teach us to walk in the way of truth [**Galatians 5:25**], the way of the scriptures recorded in God's Word, the Christian Bible, whatever conditions we have to face in this mainly godless society. [**2 Timothy 3:12**]

**John 16:2** [NIV] *"They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God."*

**Jesus Christ did not offer His disciples and all true Christians a peaceful life, even our own families can turn against us because we follow Jesus Christ. [Matthew 10:21-23]**

**We must never forget that there were 13 million Christians slain during the first two generations of the Christian Church.**

**All the apostles of Jesus Christ, except John, died a martyr's death.**

The people of the early Christian Church did **not** have peace in their lives. They did **not** seek it, for they knew that a soldier does **not** go to the battlefield to relax, he goes to fight the enemy.

**Revelation 12:11** [NIV] *"They [Christians] overcame him [Satan – v9] by the blood of the Lamb [Jesus Christ] and the word of their testimony, they did not love their lives so much as to shrink back from death."*

**Revelation 6:9-11** [NIV] *"When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, 'How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?' Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow-servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed."*

**The time factor is the last generation and days before the return of Jesus Christ to take over rulership of this world.**

**Ephesians 6:10-13** [NIV] *"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand."*

**This war we are in is not one against other human beings but evil, sin and Satan.**

All too many Christians today have forgotten altogether that in the Christian life there are such things as discipline and suffering.

**Paul in his letter to the Church at Ephesus reminds them and all Christians in every generation of the need for personal discipline and the enduring of persecution.**

**Revelation 2:1-3** [NIV] *"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands: I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary."*

This church in the face of persecution had worked hard and persevered. They understood the need for hard work and discipline in their maturing as Christians.

**Ephesians 4:17-19** [NIV] *"So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and*

*separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.”*

Our new Christian life must **not** be like those in the godless [gentile] society.

**Ephesians 4:20-24** [NIV] *“You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. **You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”***

Our goal is to be like God in righteousness and holiness.

Paul then tells us what are the roots that produce the “*fruits*” in that new life of righteousness and holiness.

**Ephesians 4:25** [NIV] *“Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbour, for we are all members of one body.”*

**Always speak the truth, never lie to anyone**, for this is part of the holiness of Jesus Christ that we are seeking to reflect. [**Titus 1:2**]

Lying disrupts unity and destroys trust, it tears down relationships and leads to all forms of hostility. [**John 8:44**]

**Ephesians 4:26-27** [NIV] *“‘In your anger do not sin’: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold.”*

Anger is generated by personal pride and it was pride that caused “*Lucifer*” an angel at the very throne of God to become Satan, an enemy of God. [**Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:12-17**]

**Psalms 4:4** [NIV] *“In your anger do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent. Selah”*

**Before we allow anger to burst out of us, consider what the end result will be if we allow it to control us.**

**Ephesians 4:28** [NIV] *“He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.”*

It is **not** enough to just stop the sin of stealing, or any other sin, we have to set ourselves on a new path in life that is completely opposite to the sin we have given up. This goes beyond the restitution of what was taken. The basis of this is found in the Old Covenant. [**Exodus 22:1-4; Proverbs 6:30-31**]

**Acts 20:30-35** [NIV] *“Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. ‘Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”*

Paul worked personally to support the work he was doing for Jesus Christ and those with him, following the teaching of his Master, Jesus Christ.

These words of Jesus Christ are **not** recorded in the gospels for **not** all of His words were written down. [John 21:25]

**Ephesians 4:29** [NIV] *“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”*

The Greek word translated “unwholesome” is “*saprōs*” meaning hurtful or worthless. It comes from a root word meaning degenerate and insipid. [Colossians 4:6]

**Ephesians 4:30-31** [NIV] *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.”*

**The key to all growth in righteousness and holiness is the active presence of the Holy Spirit.** Not to grieve or distress the Holy Spirit in the work He wants to accomplish in us.

**All the sinful attitudes that are listed here are the very things we should have rejected when we started our new life with Jesus Christ.**

To avoid these sinful attitudes again invading our mind and life we need the regular discipline of directing our thoughts on those things that are good.

**Philippians 4:8-9** [NIV] *“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me, put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.”*

These are the truths that are found in God’s Word, the Christian Bible. **The more disciplined, regular study of the Christian Bible we have, the less we will be grieving the Holy Spirit and hindering His work in us.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24** [NIV] *“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not put out the Spirit’s fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.”*

To be joyful, pray continually and give thanks should **not** fluctuate with our circumstances of feelings. **Obeying these commands often goes against our natural inclinations.** When we do make a conscious decision to do what God tells us, we will begin to see other people in a new perspective.

**We cannot spend all our time on our knees in formal prayer but we can have a prayerful attitude at all times.** Such an attitude is built upon acknowledging our dependency on God, realising His presence and determining to obey Him fully.

As we are coming to see that order and regularity in our Christian lives must be tied into our dependability.

Everything in the physical creation is naturally dependable, except human beings.

We have been created to have the will to become dependable and in so doing showing the Creator God we are developing His own character of dependability.

**A major root of a Christian life that is working towards holiness is dependability, you cannot have mature spirituality without this root of dependability.**

A major part of dependability is punctuality, just as God does all things on time in His physical creation.

If you are lacking in self-discipline and so selfish and inconsiderate of others and their time, that you are not punctual in your service of God and His people, you are not spiritual, that is, holy people.

Remember, holiness grows from the roots of truth, anger control, honesty, speech control, and all these are the result of obedience to our Creator God, an attitude of constant prayer, regular reading and meditating of God's words as recorded in the Christian Bible and surrendering our lives to our Master, Jesus Christ.