

#1

*Called into the fellowship of the Son, Part 15
You have come to a Holy God*

*Hebrews 12:14 NIV
Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.*

***Called into the fellowship of the Son, Part 15
You have come to a Holy God***

It is impossible for us to understand the Holiness of God.

We have been considering the fellowship of the Son.

God has called us into a unique fellowship.

Within this fellowship of grace we have a new life.

Hebrews 12:14 NIV Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

In Hebrews 12:14 the Holy Spirit is addressing our relationship with God.

The Holy Spirit indicates the quality of life we should pursue.

Two things are mentioned.

First, make every effort to live in peace with all men.

This should be our constant pursuit.

This exhortation is especially needed when our faith is being challenged and persecution arises.

How can we live in peace with everyone?

It is difficult at times to live in peace with those we are nearest and dearest to.

It is most challenging to live in peace with the attitudes and actions of difficult people.

This pursuit in life is a challenge to our Christianity.

Hebrews 12:15-17 almost seems out of place, until we consider that the Holy Spirit is addressing the fundamental constitutions of the Christian life.

Our Christian life springs from this foundation.

Hebrews 12:15-17 NIV See to it that no one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold the inheritance rights to the eldest son. Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. He could bring about no change of mind, though he sought the blessing with tears.

#2

*First, make every effort to live in peace with all men.
How can we live in peace with everyone?*

#3

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sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. He could bring about no change of mind, though he sought the blessing with tears.

We are warned that any that misses the grace of God may become like a bitter root whose infidelity to God affects others.

Deuteronomy 29:18 NIV Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the Lord our God to go and worship the gods of those nations; make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison.

Such a person would be godless (bebēlos, “profane, unhallowed, desecrated”) like Esau, Jacob’s brother.

His loose and profane character led him to sell his inheritance rights for the temporary gratification of a single meal.

We are warned not to yield to transitory pressures and forfeit our inheritances.

If any do, they will endanger their inheritance privileges in the same way that Esau lost his.

This would be true of anyone who ended his Christian experience in a state of apostasy.

Second, we are to make every effort to live a holy life.

This second major aspect of the Christian life is essential to the fellowship of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Hebrews 12:14 NIV Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

Deuteronomy 29:18 NIV
Make sure there is no man or woman, clan or tribe among you today whose heart turns away from the Lord our God to go and worship the gods of those nations; make sure there is no root among you that produces such bitter poison.

#5

Second, we are to make every effort to live a holy life.
Hebrews 12:14 NIV
Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.

#6



The pursuit of holiness is essential for all who hope to see God.

How can we attain holiness?

First, holiness is positional.

When we are born again, God sets us apart from the world.

1 Corinthians 6:11 NIV And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Paul just gave an extensive list of what we were when God called us.

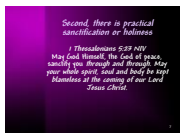
The major emphasis is not what we were, but what He has made us.

He has washed, sanctified, and justified us in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

By virtue of our union with Jesus Christ we are made holy.

Jesus Christ is the guarantee of our standing before God.

#7



Second, there is practical sanctification, or holiness.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 NIV 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.

Practical sanctification is a daily process.

This is a progressive work, where we grow more and more like the Lord Jesus all the time.

This requires both our labors and the work of the Holy Spirit.

#8



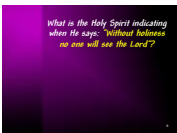
Third, there is complete or perfect sanctification.

This occurs when the redeemed are glorified when we see Christ and are changed into His glorious image. At that moment, we will forever be free from sin and the effect of sin.

His old nature will be swallowed up in victory. His state will perfectly correspond to his standing with God.

This is the hope and goal of all who have been called into the fellowship of the Son.

#9



What is the Holy Spirit indicating when He says: "Without holiness no one will see the Lord"?

We know that we cannot earn the right to see God by practical holiness.

Jesus Christ is our only access to the Holy God and heaven.

Practical holiness is a proof of the new life with Christ. This holiness is directly related to our fellowship with Christ.

When the Holy Spirit indwells us, the effectual working of the Holy Spirit produces holiness.

We have been studying the fellowship of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Now, Hebrews 12 tells us some things we have and have not come into.

This fellowship with Jesus Christ is a fellowship of holiness, righteousness, peace, and joy.

Hebrews 12:18-21 NIV You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, because they could not bear what was commanded: "If even an animal

touches the mountain, it must be stoned.” The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, “I am trembling with fear.”

The sight of the presence of God on Sinai was awesome.

The scene was terrifying to the people.

Even Moses trembled in the presence of God.

This was the institution of the Law.

Mount Sinai was a literal, tangible mountain that was on fire with the presence of God.

A violent storm raged around it.

The whole mountain trembled under the presence of God.

God presented Himself as He is.

He is a Holy God.

He is awesome in power.

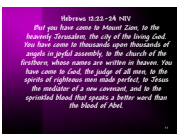
He is incomprehensible and unbounded.

His is the Mighty God.

We have not come to the forbidding terrors that caused everyone to tremble.

God has called us into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

#11



Hebrews 12:22-24 NIV But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

What have we come to?

By grace, God has called us into a New and perfect way.

#12

•He has brought us to God in Jesus Christ
 •He has brought us to Mount Zion, to the
 Heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the Living God.
 •He has brought us to thousands upon
 thousands of angels in joyful assembly.
 •He has brought us to the assembly of the
 firstborn.
 •He has brought us to those whose names are
 written in heaven.
 •He has brought us to God.
 •He has brought us to Jesus the Mediator of a
 new Covenant.
 •He has brought us to the blood of Christ.

He has not brought us into a relationship of fear.
 He has brought us into faith in Jesus Christ.
He has not brought us to Mount Sinai.
 He has brought us to Mount Zion, to the Heavenly
 Jerusalem, the city of the Living God.
 He has not brought us into an assembly of people who
 were trembling and afraid of the presence of God.
 He has brought us to thousands upon thousands of
 angels in joyful assembly.
 He has brought us to the assembly of the firstborn.
 He has brought us to those whose names are written in
 heaven.
 He has brought us to God.
 He has brought us to Jesus the Mediator of a new
 Covenant.
 He has brought us to the blood of Christ.

#13

We have already arrived in
 principle where in full reality we
 shall be forever.
 We possess today what we shall
 know in full in eternity.

We have already arrived in principle where we shall in full reality be forever.
The future is already the present.
We possess today what we shall know in full in eternity.
We do not come to a tangible mountain on earth.
We have been called and brought to the sanctuary in heaven.
By faith, we approach God in prayer and praise.
By faith we are not limited to one day a year contact and fellowship.
We may enter into the holiest place of all.
We may come near with confidence.
The Law has Sinai and all of its fear and trembling.
The Faith of Jesus Christ has Mount Zion and all of its blessing of grace.

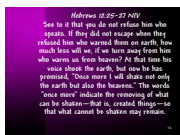
The redemptive work of Jesus Christ has brought us into this fellowship.

We have been called into a fellowship that is greater than Moses had.

We have been called into the fellowship of the Son.

Hebrews 12:25-27 NIV See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” The words “once more” indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

#14



#15



The Holy Spirit is calling us to a holy life.

There is a warning here and a word of rejoicing.

We have been given incomparable privileges and glories through Jesus Christ.

By Christ, we have been brought into the very presence of Almighty God.

If we refuse to walk in this privilege there is no escape.

We are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken.

We are partakers with the host of all of the redeemed.

We have been brought into the company of tens of thousands of Angels who are rejoicing.

We should be thankful and worship God.

Hebrews 12:28 NIV Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.

#16

