

HEBREWS 12:14 Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord

• *Recap: so far in this series, we've looked at 4 keys/steps, to holiness being realized in our lives:*

1. Being/living separately
2. Looking at Jesus instead of sin
3. Hating sin not merely fearing it's consequences
4. "Internal" holiness brought about by the Holy Spirit instead of the law

• Here's a fresh definition or understanding of holiness:

HOLINESS MEANS FACING AND OVERCOMING OUR TOUGHEST CRISIS OF FAITH

• We are most certainly, going to face many things along our journey with Jesus Christ, that will completely **overwhelm** us. But, when my heart is **overwhelmed**:

PSALM 61:2 **When** (*it's when, not if*) my heart is **overwhelmed** lead me to the **rock** that is higher than I

(MSG) PSALM 61:1-8

- Why a rock? It speaks of steadfastness, immovability, consistency, strength.
- Jesus Christ is our rock: see **1 CORINTHIANS 10:4**

Let's look at the lives of 7 people who faced their toughest crisis of faith and overcame:

1. God makes a promise to **Abraham** that his descendants will inherit the promised land, (see **GENESIS 12:1,7**). Abraham didn't even see this come to pass in his own lifetime, but he overcame his crisis of faith, moved when God told him to and therefore by faith, saw way into the future: see **HEBREWS 11:8-10**
2. **Moses**, called by God to deliver His people from sinful bondage, known as the great "law giver", no other prophet quite like him or after him, that God spoke to face to face, yet his temper and anger issues, (*killing the Egyptian, breaking the stone tablets, hitting the rock instead of speaking to it*) kept him out of the promised land. He could only see it from afar: (see **NUMBERS 20:11-12, DEUTERONOMY 32:51-52**)
 - It's possible that Moses was content with just seeing the promised land, because he'd seen God's face (*the physical face of God's spirit body, not the fullness of God's glory*) and was promised God's abiding presence: see **EXODUS 33:12-33**
3. **Samson**, called by God to deliver His people, very strong physically but not strong enough to say no to women, loses his strength, has his eyes plucked out and has his life end with God's favour return and his strength restored: (see **JUDGES 16:28-30**)
4. **David**, a man after God's own heart, squanders his leadership platform, commits murder, adultery and humbly asks God for total restoration: (see **PSALM 51**)
5. **Peter**, receives beautiful affirmation, of divine revelation from Jesus, moments later is rebuked by Jesus, promises to never forsake Jesus and does exactly that, gets restored by Jesus and becomes the second most prominent character of the New Testament,

leading 3000 to Christ with his first sermon ever. (see **MATTHEW 16:17,23, 26:70, JOHN 21:15-17, ACTS 2:14-41**)

6. **We all**, will most certainly face our toughest crisis of faith, and **if we endure**, the miraculous will occur in our lives and the lives of others.

- The miraculous meaning: the unchurched will be brought into the family of God, so that His Kingdom can be advanced.
- Once we've overcome, what's to us our toughest crisis of faith, we'll then have to face the next toughest crisis of faith, which will always be greater than the preceding one.
- This is the only way for us to grow from glory to glory, until Christ is formed in us:

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord

EPHESIANS 4:13(NLTSE) This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ

- What is the toughest crisis of faith you've faced so far?
- Did you overcome it?
- Are you ready for your next crisis of faith?
- We can have complete faith and confidence in future victory, because Jesus Christ enables us to:

HEBREWS 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin

7. In a similar way, **Jesus Christ** the man (see **1 TIMOTHY 2:5**), faced a crisis of His will or God's will be done:

MATTHEW 26:39(NLTSE) He went on a little farther and bowed with his face to the ground, praying, "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine."

- Because every one of these characters, took a stand of holiness, the lives of many were changed for the good. How about you?
- Your marriage, your immediate household, your extended family, your workplace, your care group, your chapter, your neighbourhood, your city, your country, is waiting for you to make an uncompromising stand of holiness, a life of conviction instead of preference.
- What are we doing about it?

ROMANS 8:19(NLTSE) For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are.

- In context, this verse refers to the lifting of the curse of the law of sin and death, but nevertheless, everything around us still yearns for God's children to stand in uncompromising holiness!

CARE GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Why do you think it's inevitable, that we'll all have to face some sort of crisis, during our walk with Jesus?
2. Psalm 61:2 speaks about being "**led**" to the rock. How do you think that leading, takes place?
3. In what ways have you experienced difficulty and/or victories, during times of crisis in your life?
4. How did you get through these times and what did you learn from them?