

# Faith Talk - May 24, 2026

**Series:** The Utter Relief of Holiness

**Sermon:** Our Individual Pursuit of Holiness

**Scripture:** Psalm 119:10-11; Proverbs 24:16; John 8:31-32, 16:8-11, 17:17; 2 Cor. 7:10-11; Mark 14:38; Luke 6:12

## 1 Peter 1:15-16

*But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; for it is written, Be holy, because I am holy.*

## Sermon Summary

This sermon presents six individual disciplines essential for experiencing holiness and victory over sin. Beginning with the simple prayer "Jesus, lead me in holiness," the message builds on previous weeks' teachings that holiness is Christ in us, our identity in Christ, and a corporate pursuit through Worship, Grow, Serve, Go rhythms.

The sermon emphasizes that God is committed to our growth in holiness and that we must cooperate with His sanctifying work. This is an inner sanctification God does in us as we experience Him.

It's important that we practice these individual disciplines the way God designed, not the way the enemy accuses. The Word is about internal transformation, not external effort. Prayer is about God's will, not my want. Confession is about humility, not humiliation. Forgiveness is received, not earned. Healing is about God's gift, not our guilt. Submission to God's good purpose is willing, not reluctant. Freedom is about light, not darkness.

## Main Points

- **Ask for Holiness** - *Jesus, lead me in holiness.*
- **Pursue Holiness** with all your heart and keep getting up
- **Accept Conviction** - Agree with God about your sin
- **Grieve and Repent** - weep with Jesus as you turn to walk with Him
  - Release regret and embrace forgiveness
- **Absorb the Word** into the heart of who you are as a person
- **Pray Intentionally** - Commune with God and allow Him to touch your will

## Discussion Questions

### Conversations with Adults

1. The sermon distinguishes between regret (the enemy's work that kills) and grief (God's work that moves to repentance). Which of these have you been experiencing when you sin? How would "weeping with Jesus" change your response and outcome of failure?

2. Proverbs 24:16 says the righteous person falls seven times but keeps getting up. What specific sin or temptation causes you to stay down rather than getting back up? What would "getting up" look like practically?
3. The message emphasizes "absorbing" the Word (treasuring it in your heart) rather than just reading or knowing it. How would your Bible reading change if you focused on treasuring rather than only learning? What does this look like?

### **Conversations with Students**

1. The sermon says we often rationalize and justify our sins instead of accepting conviction. What's a sin you tend to excuse or minimize? What would it look like to "agree with God" about it instead?
2. Shame and regret lead to more sin and defeat, but grief and repentance lead to freedom. When you mess up, do you hide in shame or bring it to Jesus? What's the difference?
3. The message quotes: "If I do not let God in deep enough to touch my will in prayer, the rest of the day will be constantly contested by inward rebellion." When you pray, are you just asking God for stuff or actually letting Him change what you want?

### **Conversations with Kids**

1. The sermon says when we do something wrong, we should not feel bad alone, we should cry with Jesus about it. Why is crying with Jesus different from just feeling bad by yourself?
2. A righteous person (someone who loves God) still messes up, but they keep getting back up. When you do something wrong, do you give up or ask Jesus to help you try again?
3. The sermon talks about "treasuring" God's Word in your heart, like keeping something really special safe. How can you treasure the Bible instead of just reading it?

## **Closing Prayer**

Heavenly Father, we begin by simply asking, *lead us in holiness*. We're grateful that You are committed to our growth in holiness and that the sin defeating us can be overcome by the holiness that offers to relieve us.

We ask for help in pursuing holiness, seeking You with everything we are and getting back up when we fall. Give us humility to accept conviction when the Holy Spirit shows us sin. Teach us to grieve with Jesus rather than wallow alone in shame and regret, knowing that grief moves us to repentance and freedom.

We commit to absorbing Your Word, treasuring it in our hearts so it becomes part of who we are. Help us to pray intentionally, letting You touch our will and transform our desires. May we live free in the rescue and relief of holiness, reflecting Your glory in all our conduct. In Jesus' name, Amen.