Faith Talk - May 17, 2026

Series: The Utter Relief of Holiness
Sermon: Our Corporate Pursuit of Holiness
Scripture: Philippians 2:13; 1 Timothy 4:7-8; Hebrews. 10:23-25; Colossians 1:28; Ephesians 4:15-16; Matthew 28:18-20

1 Timothy 4:7-8
But have nothing to do with pointless and silly myths. Rather, train yourself in godliness. For the training of the body has limited benefit, but godliness is beneficial in every way, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

Sermon Summary

This sermon presents the corporate disciplines (church body) side of pursuing holiness through four essential rhythms: Worship, Grow, Serve, and Go. Building on previous weeks' teachings that holiness is "Christ in me" and "who I am in Christ," this message emphasizes that holiness is also "what I pursue," not through self-improvement techniques but by cooperating with God's sanctifying work through the church.

The sermon clarifies that pursuing holiness rescues us from sin rather than proving ourselves to God. Using 1 Timothy 4:7-8 as a foundation, the message explains that training for godliness (not focusing on sin) produces victory over sin. Each rhythm is presented as non-optional for spiritual growth: Worship treasures God corporately, Grow builds Christ-centered relationships, Serve uses spiritual gifts to build the church, and Go share the Gospel in the world.

The central challenge: stop focusing on what defeats you and start living the corporate rhythms that empower you.

Main Points

- **Train for godliness, not against sin** - Focus on God's power produces victory over sin's power.
- **Holiness is both corporate and individual** - God never intended us to pursue holiness alone.
- **Worship: treasuring God above all things** - Regular gathering transforms us corporately (Hebrews 10:23-25).
- **Grow: building relationships to mature in Christ** - We need community to warn, teach, and encourage (Colossians 1:28).
- **Serve: sharing your gifts to build the church** - Everyone's participation is essential (Ephesians 4:15-16).
- **Go: taking the Gospel to the world around me** - Living on mission sanctifies us and glorifies God (Matthew 28:18-20).

Discussion Questions

Conversations with Adults

1. The sermon says we often focus on "working on our sin" rather than "training for godliness." How would your spiritual practices change if you redirected effort from fighting sin to experiencing God's goodness?
2. Which of the four rhythms (Worship, Grow, Serve, Go) is most inconsistent in your life, and how might this inconsistency be hindering your spiritual growth and victory over sin?
3. The message emphasizes that your participation (or lack thereof) affects others' spiritual growth. How does understanding this mutual dependence change your view of church involvement and commitment?

Conversations with Students

1. The sermon says training for godliness (focusing on God) is more effective than trying not to sin (focusing on behavior). When you face temptation, what would it look like to focus on God instead of just trying harder not to do wrong?
2. Which rhythm feels most difficult or uncomfortable for you—Worship (showing up consistently), Grow (real relationships), Serve (using your gifts), or Go (sharing faith)? Why?
3. The message states that when you don't use your spiritual gifts, it affects not just you but others, too. How does this perspective change how you view serving at church or in youth group?

Conversations with Kids

1. The sermon talks about four things we do at church: Worship (treasure God together), Grow (make friends who love Jesus), Serve (help at church), and Go (tell others about Jesus). Which one is your favorite? Which one is hardest?
2. Why do you think God wants us to come to church with other people instead of just praying at home by ourselves?
3. Everyone has special gifts from God to help the church. What do you think your special gift might be? How could you use it to help others?

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for designing the church as the place where we corporately pursue holiness together. We're grateful that You don't call us to fight sin alone but to train for godliness through the body of Christ.

We ask for help in faithfully practicing the four rhythms: gathering to treasure You in worship, building relationships to mature in Christ, sharing our gifts to build the church, and taking the Gospel to the world around us. Forgive us for the times we've treated these as optional checklist items rather than essential training for godliness.

We commit to cooperating with Your sanctifying work by engaging spiritually in these corporate disciplines. Help us to stop focusing only on what defeats us and start living the rhythms that empower us. May we understand that our participation affects not just our own growth but the spiritual health of the entire body. In Jesus' name, Amen.