

Dgroup Discussion Guide for September 2, 2018
Live As God's Holy Temple

Scripture: Haggai 2:10-23

When the Israelites were tasked with rebuilding God's temple (Haggai 2), they became concerned about having it live up to its former glory from the time of King Solomon. They did not have the resources, but God assured them that the glory of the rebuilt temple would exceed its former glory (Haggai 2:9). How is this possible?

God is not confined to a building; He dwells in His people. 1 Corinthians 3:16 says, ***Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*** If you have a relationship with Jesus, then His presence is in you. Back then, people would look at the temple and say, "God is there. That's where His glory dwells." Today, God wants people to look at *you* and say, "God is there. That's where His glory dwells." This is not because we are perfect, but because people see the difference He is making in our lives.

As God's temple, we are a place of worship, so we must therefore practice holiness. Romans 12:1 says, ***Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.***

Haggai 2:10-23 tells us that holiness is not achieved through osmosis. Being in close contact with something holy does not automatically make us holy. Just because you attend church and D-group meetings, or read your Bible regularly does not mean that you become holy. However, the opposite is true for sin: it is contagious, and being in contact with it can contaminate us. But, there is good news. 1 John 1:9 says, ***If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.***

There are 3 stages of holiness:

- Positional - sanctification at the time of conversion

"But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:4-6)

2. Progressive - always living out your salvation

"So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure." (Philippians 2:12-13)

3. Permanent - sanctification that is only achieved when we are in heaven

We have been chosen by God to bring the Gospel to those around us, and they will only respond to it if they see for themselves our lives being changed for His glory. 1 Peter 1:14-16 says, ***As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."***

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. J.C. Ryle said " *We must be holy, because this is the only sound evidence that we have a saving faith in our Lord Jesus Christ*". When people look at our lives do they see God's salvation in us? Are we able to live our life giving glory to God?
2. What does being a temple of the Holy Spirit mean to you? How can you live as God's temple?
3. In what specific ways are you fulfilling God's mission to Make Disciples?