

STEPS TO HOLINESS

Lesson 1: Attitude

IGNITE Youth Ministry | October Series

Key Scripture: 1 Peter 1:13–16

Main Idea: When you have the right attitude, God can do anything through your life!

What Is Holiness?

Holiness means **moving away from the world and moving toward Jesus**.

As Christians, we are called to become more like Jesus in the way we think, speak, behave, and live. Holiness is not simply about what we do or do not do. It is about living a life that reflects Jesus Christ.

In this series, *Steps to Holiness*, we will explore three important areas of Christian living:

1. **Attitude** — The way we think, respond, and approach God and others.
2. **Principles** — The biblical truths that guide our decisions.
3. **Standards** — The boundaries and practices that help us live according to God's Word.

Our first step toward holiness is developing the right **attitude**.

1. Your Attitude Matters

Although your attitude begins on the inside, it becomes visible through your actions.

Your attitude affects the way you speak, your facial expressions, your body language, and how you treat other people. Sometimes, someone can recognize your attitude without hearing you say a single word!

Your attitude influences two important areas of your life:

Your Emotions: Your attitude affects how you express and respond to your feelings. You may feel frustrated, disappointed, or upset, but you can still choose to respond respectfully and with self-control.

Your Obedience: Your attitude affects how you respond when someone in authority asks you to do something. For example, when a teacher tells you to stop talking, you might obey outwardly while still showing disrespect through your expressions or actions.

God wants us to develop an attitude that honors Him, even when we do not feel like doing what is right.

You Can Struggle and Still Have the Right Attitude

Having the right attitude does not mean that life will always be easy or that you will never experience frustration.

Consider these examples:

- Your parents tell you that you cannot attend a party. You are disappointed, but you still choose to respect and obey them.
- You feel frustrated with a teacher because you think they are treating you unfairly. Instead of being disrespectful, you come to class prepared, pay attention, and participate.
- You are tired, discouraged, or overwhelmed. Even though you do not feel like going to church, you still choose to attend, worship, pray, and listen to the preaching.

Remember: You are allowed to struggle, but you can still choose to have the right attitude.

2. God's Ways Are Better Than Our Ways

Proverbs 21:2 (KJV)

"Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts."

This Scripture reminds us that we often believe our own choices and opinions are correct. However, God looks beyond our outward actions and examines our hearts.

A holy attitude begins when we recognize that **God's ways are better than our ways.**

Sometimes God asks us to do things that are difficult or uncomfortable. We may not understand why, and we may not feel like obeying.

For example:

- God may convict you to let go of something you enjoy because it is pulling you away from Him.
- You may not feel like praying, but you choose to spend time with God anyway.
- You may dislike a subject in school, but you still work hard and give your best effort.
- Your parents may ask you to do something inconvenient, but you choose to obey respectfully.
- Your pastor may preach something from Scripture that challenges the way you are living, but instead of becoming offended, you examine your heart and respond to God's Word.

These decisions demonstrate an attitude that puts God's will above personal desires.

When you learn to put God's ways above your own ways, God can do incredible things through your life!

3. Two Crowds, Two Different Attitudes

The Bible gives us a powerful example of how people can hear a difficult message but respond with completely different attitudes.

The First Crowd: Acts 2

In Acts 2, the Apostle Peter preached to a crowd in Jerusalem. He explained that Jesus was the promised Messiah and confronted the people with their responsibility in His crucifixion.

This was a difficult message to hear!

Acts 2:37 (KJV)

"Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

The people were convicted by Peter's message. Instead of rejecting what they heard, they asked what they needed to do.

Their response demonstrated humility and a willingness to change.

Peter then instructed them in Acts 2:38 to repent, be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

The Second Crowd: Acts 7

In Acts 7, Stephen preached to another crowd. Like Peter, Stephen challenged the people concerning their rejection of Jesus Christ.

However, this crowd responded very differently.

Acts 7:54 (KJV)

"When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth."

Instead of humbling themselves and asking what they should do, the crowd became furious with Stephen. Their anger eventually led to his death.

What Made the Difference?

Both crowds heard messages that challenged them. Both experienced strong emotional reactions.

However, their responses were completely different.

- In Acts 2, the people responded with conviction, humility, and a desire to change.
- In Acts 7, the people responded with anger, resistance, and rejection.

The difference was their attitude toward the message they heard.

The same principle applies to us today.

When Scripture challenges our behavior, we have a choice. We can become defensive and reject the correction, or we can humble ourselves and allow God to change us.

Having the right attitude does not mean we never struggle with correction. It means we remain willing to listen, learn, repent, and grow.

4. God Can Use Someone With the Right Attitude

You do not have to be perfect for God to work in your life.

You may have difficulties at home, struggles at school, questions about your faith, or moments when you feel discouraged.

But when you maintain an attitude of faith, obedience, and humility, you make yourself available for God to work in and through you.

Think about the young people who continue praying even when they feel like nothing is changing. Think about students who remain faithful to church despite difficulties in their families. Think about those who continue seeking God even when they face opposition.

Their circumstances may be difficult, but they have decided to keep trusting God.

God can use willing and obedient people to accomplish extraordinary things.

He can work through you to:

- Pray for people who are sick.
- Share the gospel with someone who needs Jesus.
- Help others receive the Holy Ghost.
- Encourage someone who has lost hope.
- Make disciples and reach people who are lost.
- Bring change to your school, your family, your church, and even the city of Seymour.

When you have the right attitude, God can do anything through your life!

5. How Can You Develop the Right Attitude?

It is easy to talk about having the right attitude when everything is going well. But what happens when life becomes difficult?

How can you maintain the right attitude when you are discouraged, frustrated, or facing problems?

There are two important foundations:

First: Experience Salvation

A life of holiness begins with Jesus Christ.

According to Acts 2:38, we respond to the gospel through repentance, baptism in Jesus' name, and receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost.

- **Repentance:** Turning away from sin, asking God for forgiveness, and choosing to follow Him.
- **Baptism in Jesus' Name:** Being baptized in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.
- **Receiving the Holy Ghost:** Being filled with God's Spirit, with the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance (Acts 2:4).

God's Spirit changes us from the inside out and empowers us to live according to His Word.

Second: Develop a Relationship With God

Salvation is not the end of your walk with Jesus. It is the beginning of a life committed to following Him.

Just like any relationship, your relationship with God requires time, attention, and commitment.

We grow closer to Jesus through prayer, Bible reading, worship, fasting, and obedience to His Word.

As our relationship with God grows, our attitude begins to change.

We become more willing to obey, more faithful in difficult circumstances, and more loving toward the people around us.

A Christlike attitude will influence the way you treat your parents, teachers, pastor, friends, neighbors, and even people who are unkind to you.

When you develop the right attitude, the world begins to see Jesus in you!

6. The Call to Holiness

1 Peter 1:15–16 (KJV)

"But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

God calls us to holiness because He is holy.

Holiness is not simply following a collection of rules. It is choosing to move away from worldly influences and toward a life that reflects Jesus Christ.

That journey begins with an attitude that says:

"God's ways are better than mine."

It means choosing to say YES to God's Word, even when it challenges you, and NO to the desires and influences that pull you away from Him.

It means respecting and honoring the authority God has placed in your life, including your parents, teachers, elders, and pastor, while always keeping God's Word as the ultimate authority.

It means allowing God to transform your heart so your words, actions, and decisions reflect Jesus.

7. Your Personal Holiness Challenge

We do not want holiness to be something we only discuss at church. We want it to become part of our daily lives.

This month, IGNITE is challenging every student to take three practical steps toward building a stronger relationship with Jesus.

Challenge 1: Daily Prayer

Goal: Spend 50 minutes each day in prayer in October.

You can divide your prayer time into two sessions:

- 25 minutes in the morning while you get ready for the day.
- 25 minutes in the evening as you prepare for bed.

Use this time to worship God, thank Him, ask for His guidance, pray for others, and develop a deeper relationship with Him.

If you are not accustomed to praying for this long, begin building a consistent habit and work toward the goal.

Challenge 2: Daily Bible Reading

Goal: Read God's Word every day.

Download the YouVersion Bible app, follow IGNITE, and join our daily Bible reading plan.

Bible reading helps us understand God's character, discover His instructions, and recognize the areas of our lives that need to change.

The more we understand God's Word, the better equipped we are to live according to it.

Challenge 3: Weekly Fasting

Goal: Set aside one meal each week for fasting and prayer, if it is appropriate and safe for you.

Examples include:

- Fasting lunch on Thursday.
- Fasting dinner on Tuesday.
- Fasting breakfast on Saturday.

During the time you would normally spend eating, focus on prayer and reading Scripture.

Fasting teaches self-discipline and helps us prioritize spiritual things over personal desires. If fasting from food is not appropriate for your health or age, speak with a parent or trusted adult about a suitable alternative.

Final Reflection

Holiness begins with a decision to follow Jesus and continues through the choices we make each day.

You may not always understand God's plan. You may experience frustration, disappointment, correction, or difficult circumstances.

But you can still choose to have the right attitude.

Choose humility over pride.

Choose obedience over rebellion.

Choose faithfulness over giving up.

Choose God's ways over your own desires.

Holiness means moving away from the world and moving toward Jesus.

When you have the right attitude, people will begin to see Jesus in you. And when people can see Jesus in you, God can do incredible things through your life!

Questions for Personal Reflection

1. How can someone recognize your attitude without hearing you speak?
2. What is the difference between struggling with something and having a bad attitude?
3. How did the crowds in Acts 2 and Acts 7 respond differently to the messages they heard?
4. What does it mean to believe that God's ways are better than your own?
5. Is there an area of your life where you need to change your attitude?
6. What is one practical step you will take this week to grow closer to Jesus?

This Week's Challenge: Choose one area of your attitude that needs improvement. Pray specifically about it each day, and look for opportunities to demonstrate a Christlike response.

Remember: You are allowed to struggle, but when you learn to have the right attitude, God can do anything through your life!