

Foundations for Holiness

1 Peter 1:1-9

We cannot follow Christ without having been “saved”, but the world is full of people who have been “saved” but are not following Christ. Every Christian should _____ that _____.

Discussion 1. What are the dangers with calling myself a “Christian” but not actually following Christ? Can you think of any practical ways that distinction plays itself out?

The church will never become who God intends us to become in this broken world unless and until we gain a correct understanding of Who He is. Our “holiness”, then, depends upon the _____ of our _____ (i.e., how we think about God).

Discussion 2. Can you think of any ways your understanding of God has changed from when you were a child or perhaps a teenager? Do you believe your understanding of God is still changing? If so, how?

For the Christ follower, suffering is normal, suffering is necessary, and suffering fulfills our _____, which is to glorify God. Yet another way being a “Christian” is one thing, but following Christ is a deeper thing altogether.

Discussion 3. Speaking strictly in general terms, do you believe the American church really understands how and why suffering is normal, even central to the Christian experience? Why or why not? Do you believe suffering has been normal to your own Christian experience?

Faith, like so much of life, grows best through adversity; and the markers for that kind of faith in God are our _____ for Him, our _____ in Him and our _____ in Him. These are the indicators of our faith.

Discussion 4. In your own experience, how has adversity grown your faith? If love, trust and joy are indicators of our faith, what do your current indicators tell you about your faith? Are there any particular next steps this brings to mind for you?

Discussion 5. How does this lesson cause you to pray? How does it prepare your heart for worship?