



Sermon Title: The Pain of Holiness

by: Pastor Rock Dillaman

Scriptures: As he (Saul) was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do." [Acts 9:3-6]

1. When you join the Gospel to idols the result invariably resembles the idols more than the Gospel!
2. Happiness is fleeting and fragile because it's circumstantial. It requires the full cooperation of a world that's rarely cooperative!
3. Holiness is a secure condition of spiritual completion.
4. In matters of faith you can be complete without being perfected. (2 Corinthians 7:1)
5. At conversion God makes us holy; He provides everything needed for us to be fully human. (Ephesians 1:3; 2 Peter 1:3)
6. Understanding is necessary for the perfection of what I already possess.
7. Understanding often comes on the heels of pain and disappointment.
8. The wounds of a friend are faithful. (Proverbs 27:6)
9. God's liberating work often begins with persistent pain!
10. The voices God uses to invite us to holiness often upset us.
11. Holiness isn't being right about everything; it's being right with God.
12. God doesn't use empty promises to encourage counterfeit happiness! He uses pain to birth holiness.

Growth Group Questions
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1st PERIOD

1. Share one project or goal that you hope to accomplish this summer.
2. What comes to mind when you hear the word “holiness?”

2ND PERIOD

1. Share about a time when it became necessary for you to experience the “faithful wounds of a friend” (Proverbs 27:6). How did you react and ultimately respond? Have you ever had to do that for someone else?
2. Share some examples of how God used (or allowed) pain and disappointment in your life to liberate you and mature your faith?
3. What points from today’s sermon challenged you, impacted you, or caught your attention and why?

3RD PERIOD

1. As you look back and remember your salvation experience, do you recall God’s pursuit of you being painful or uncomfortable in any way? If so, how?
2. Are there ways you sense God is currently working to “perfect holiness” in you? How are you responding? Is the process painful?

