

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3

Aiming for Holiness

1 Peter 1:13-16

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: . . . for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:16

Believers who put their faith in the birth, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus begin a lifetime of learning to be like Christ. But how can fallible humans in a fallen world achieve that goal? Furthermore, why should holiness be our goal if achieving it is impossible?

These questions remind me of a little girl I babysat who wanted to mimic everything I did. Whether it was holding a fork or walking up the stairs, she wanted to do everything as I did. She would beg me to demonstrate over and over again until she perfected the act. Her aim wasn't to be a master fork user or stair climber, though. She wanted to be like me because she loved me.

Holiness isn't about chasing impossible ideas of perfection, but rather becoming like the Savior we love. We can't make ourselves holy through our own efforts. But by focusing on who Jesus is, we open ourselves to the transformative work of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER: Holy God, may your Spirit work within us to make us more like Christ. Amen.

Megan L. Anderson—Kokomo, Indiana

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4

Tent Dweller

Nehemiah 8:13-18

THOUGHT FOR TODAY: And day by day, from the first day to the last day, he read from the book of the law of God. Nehemiah 8:18a

During the seven-day Festival of Tabernacles (a Jewish celebration called Sukkot, observed in October this year), the Israelites lived in temporary tents or shelters made from tree branches and twigs. This special celebration served as a reminder of how much God had done for them. They remembered their deliverance from slavery in Egypt and the protection they received as they wandered in the desert. No doubt, the Israelites were filled with joy and gratitude for their blessings. They listened to the Scriptures and stopped their everyday routines to focus on God, offering praise for divine provision and care.

Like God's chosen people, I want to remember all the times God has guarded me from harm. I long to recall the countless prayers God has answered. I want to remember everything about my spiritual walk. I say with the psalmist: "Let me abide in your tent forever. . ." (Psalm 61:4a). There I find peace and freedom from life's distractions that keep me from honoring and praising God.

PRAYER: God of deliverance, create in me a thankful heart. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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