

The Need for Cleansing

"Healing" series- Part 04

Use the next few minutes to connect and fellowship with other members of the group by discussing the following: What is the worst job that you ever held and why was it so bad for you?

Let's get on the same page -

A man used to visit a tiny general store in the country. The owner had a clerk named Jake, who seemed to be the laziest man in the world. One day the man noticed that Jake was gone. He asked the owner, "Where's Jake?" "Oh, he retired," was the answer. "Retired? Then what are you going to do to fill the vacancy?" The owner replied, "Jake didn't leave no vacancy."

Ouch! That is not a legacy that most of us want to leave behind. Yet, when it comes to the church, a body of believers, where every member has been divinely designed to serve a purpose (1 Cor. 12:12-27), a very personal question arises. *"What kind of vacancy would there be in your church if you left?" FYI: This question is to be prayerfully and honestly contemplated and not addressed in this group setting.*

In our "Healing" series we discovered that a key element in spiritual healing is to feel clean or cleansed. Through God's power and to His glory, this cleansing is available: *He has made you clean...He is making you clean...and He will keep you clean!*

In our study today, we will examine how cleansing is not only needed for healing but is necessary to serve and honor God with our lives.

Book: 2 Timothy 2:19-26

2Ti 2:19 But God's truth stands firm like a foundation stone with this inscription: "The LORD knows those who are His," and "All who belong to the LORD must turn away from evil."

2Ti 2:20 In a wealthy home some utensils are made of gold and silver, and some are made of wood and clay. The expensive utensils are used for special occasions, and the cheap ones are for everyday use.

2Ti 2:21 If you keep yourself pure, you will be a special utensil for honorable use. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work.

2Ti 2:22 Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts. Instead, pursue righteous living, faithfulness, love, and peace. Enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts.

2Ti 2:23 Again I say, don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights.

2Ti 2:24 A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people.

2Ti 2:25 Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will learn the truth.

2Ti 2:26 Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants.

Let's get into the Word:

Paul states that God has truths that are "*foundational*" in verse 19. How would you re-write the inscription so as to make it personal?

Discussing each verse of 2 Timothy 2:20-26, create a list of qualities of someone that God can greatly use:

What aspects of Godly character must a person pursue, as mentioned in 2 Timothy 2:22? Share an example of how a Christian can pursue each of these aspects.

Which Godly character trait is the most difficult one for you to develop and why?

What did Paul command Timothy to flee?

Read verses 23-25. Which of these passions are the greatest battle for you? What are some general principles to help us flee and stay free from sinful desires?

How much time and effort should we invest in seeking peace with a fellow Christian? Is there a time to move on, even if reconciliation has not taken place?

If God totally forgives all our sin the moment we trust in Christ, why do we need to confess our sins to be forgiven and experience healing?

Let's get real (with self!)

How should we pursue relationships with Godly people?

What steps should we take?

How have you grown spiritually and in usefulness through relationships with other mature believers?

What do you believe that God wants you to do or become so as to be an "honorable vessel"?