

THE LIGHT

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HOW HOLY ARE YOU?

Do you like to take those silly quizzes on Facebook that tell you how intelligent, or unusual you are? You spend five minutes answering a few questions and it will tell you that you are as smart as Albert Einstein or as wise as Abraham Lincoln. Flattery and affirmation disguised as an innocuous quiz.

Well Caryl Diana recently posted the results of a quiz that promised to tell her, "How Holy Are You?" Caryl discovered that she is 82% Holy and that "You are kind, gentle and a blessing to those who meet you. You're well on your way to becoming a saint!" I tried to take the quiz but for some reason the program wouldn't let me. I wonder if God is trying to tell me something!

I think Caryl would tell you that she has a long way to go before she approaches sainthood. Indeed, there is no human way to measure your own holiness. Only God can measure your holiness and he isn't sharing that information with anyone.

The better question to ask is, How can I grow in holiness? What is the next step God wants me to take in order to become more like Jesus? To ask, "how holy am I?" means that you are looking backwards and not to the future. But if you are looking backwards, not only is it easy to become prideful but you also you can't see where you're going. Therefore, sooner or later you're going to trip and hurt yourself.

Here are three practical things you can do to grow in holiness:

1. **Pray.** Use the words of Psalm 139: 23-24 as your prayer. "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."
2. **Listen.** Take some time for self-reflection, listening to the Holy Spirit, the scripture and your own conscience. Some questions you can use are (to name just a few)
 - * Is there a character flaw in my life God wants to change?
 - * Is there someone God wants me to forgive
 - * Is there someone God wants me to reach out to and serve?
3. **Obey.** Take what God has showed you and do something with it. Right now I am working on a character flaw that God has shown me. Whenever it crops up, I turn to God in prayer and release the negative attitude and replace it with reliance on the Lord.

I have so much more that I would like to say, but I'm out of space. If you'd like to make an appointment with me to talk about this, give me a call. Let's see if we can grow in holiness.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Mike