



CHAPTER THIRTEEN

Love in Action

Your actions matter. No action or voice is too small to make a difference. Vanessa Nakate

Holiness

...let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God (2 Corinthians 7:1b NLT).

Vincent knew the Scriptures by heart, yet holy always felt like a word meant for someone else. It sounded like something spoken over others – those whose prayers were steady and whose faith never passed through a single shadow of doubt.

Holiness felt distant – a realm for saints, not for one still growing in the ways of The Lord.

Because of God you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God. In Christ we are put right with God, and have been made holy, and have been set free from sin (1 Corinthians 1:30 NCV).

Holiness is not a quality we strive for or put on display. Instead, it is the brilliance of The Lord's character made visible in the routine of life. We are invited to share in who He truly is.

With the break of morning came a verse that refused to let go.

Be holy, because I am holy (1 Peter 1:16 GW).

The words felt alive, pressing upon his soul with gentle weight. Eyes closed, he prayed, Lord, I don't yet see what You mean, but I want to.

When he arrived at work that morning, he saw that someone else had been given the recognition for his work. A surge of frustration rose, but then a gentle, unmistakable thought interrupted it – I will be your defender. Vincent began to see that each test, however small, is a seed of The Lord's work within the heart.

Holiness is often misunderstood – it's not about earning notice or acclaim but exalting the name of The Lord. It is the Spirit working internally, sculpting His likeness into our very being. God does not desire our status but our surrender – so that our lives may echo with the voice of His Spirit.

The unfolding continues in Chapter 13 of The Journey Made New by Russell D. Ward