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# THE PURSUIT *of* HOLINESS

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PRETORIA NORTH  
BAPTIST CHURCH

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**“Holiness is for you!”**

**Rom 6:14**

**Introduction:**

- The Bible has the **EXPECTATION** that those who have been **SAVED** will **GROW** in their Christianity, that they will become more and more **SPIRITUALLY MATURE**.
- **Heb 5:11-6:1; 1 Cor 3:1-3; 1 Tim 4:13-16**
- We will then be using a book from Jerry Bridges entitled: *“The Pursuit of Holiness”* as our study guide in these studies to help us in our **PURSUIT** of becoming **MORE LIKE JESUS**, of being **SANCTIFIED**, of becoming **HOLY**...
- Sanctification is the process of **BECOMING** more and more what we are in Christ, becoming more and more like **JESUS**.
- We have a **ROLE** to play in our **SANCTIFICATION** – **Phil 2:12-13**
- This needs to be our **PURSUIT** – that which we **STRIVE** for, **PLAN** for, **PRACTISE** ourselves in...
- Think about this illustration that Jerry Bridges uses: *“A farmer plows his field, sows the seed, and fertilizes and cultivates – all the while knowing that in the final analysis, he is utterly dependent on forces outside of himself. He knows he cannot cause the seed to germinate, nor can He produce the rain and sunshine for growing and harvesting the crop. For a successful harvest, he is dependent on these things from God... Yet the farmer knows that unless he diligently pursues his responsibilities to plow, plant, fertilize, and cultivate, he cannot expect a harvest at the end of the season. In a sense he is in partnership with God, and he will reap its benefits only when he has fulfilled his own responsibilities... Farming is a joint venture between God and the farmer. The farmer cannot do what God must do, and God will not do what the farmer should do... We can say just as accurately that the pursuit of holiness is a joint venture between God and the Christian. No one can attain any degree of holiness without God working in his life, but just as surely no one will attain it without effort on his own part. God has made it possible for us to walk in holiness. But He has given to us the responsibility of doing the walking; He does not do that for us.”*
- **Q:** How **IMPORTANT** is Holiness...?
- Some may have the mentality that it is only **“radical”** Christians that are striving to be holy...

• But read and think about what these verses teach: **Eph 1:3-4; 1 Thess 4:3+7; 1 Pet 1:13-16; Heb 12:14**

• If you have been saved, **GOD’S PLAN, CALLING and PURPOSE** for you is to become **HOLY!**

• **HOLINES IS FOR YOU!**

• It is **POSSIBLE** to become **HOLY** through your **UNION** with Jesus Christ – **Rom 6:12-14**

• Here is a definition of Holiness: *“To be holy is to be morally blameless. It is to be separated from sin and consecrated, dedicated, to God. The word signifies separation to God, and the conduct befitting those so separated.”*

• The **QUESTIONS** that we are presented with then are:

- *If holiness is so **BASIC** to the Christian life, why do we **NOT EXPERIENCE** it more in **DAILY LIVING**?*
- *Why do so many Christians feel constantly **DEFEATED** in their struggle with sin?*
- *Why does the church of Jesus Christ so often seem to be **MORE CONFORMED** to the **WORLD** around it than to **GOD**?*

### Teaching:

• There are **THREE BASIC PROBLEM AREAS** that help us to answer these questions:

### **1. Our first problem is that our **ATTITUDE** toward sin is more **SELF-CENTRED** than **GOD-CENTRED**.**

• We are **MORE CONCERNED** with our **FAILURE** in not “**CONQUERING**” sin than we are that our **SIN GRIEVES GOD**.

• Our focus is on our **FRUSTRATION** with **OURSELVES** rather than the **HEART OF GOD THAT IS GRIEVED**.

• *“We cannot tolerate failure in our struggle with sin chiefly because we are success-oriented, not because we know it is offensive to God.”*

• Let us consider **TWO EXAMPLES** in the Bible that had a **RIGHT** attitude towards sin and realized that their sin was **CHIEFLY** against **GOD**:

• *David* – **Ps 51:3-6**

• *The Prodigal Son* – **Luk 15:17-19**

- Our **FOCUS** should **NOT** be that **WE** want to be “**victorious**” over sin, but rather that we want to be **OBEDIENT** to **GOD** and **PLEASE HIM** because we **LOVE** Him and understand that He is **GREATLY GRIEVED** by our sins!

## **2. Our second problem is that we have MISUNDERSTOOD the meaning of “LIVING BY FAITH”.**

- Some have taken this to mean that **NO EFFORT** at holiness is required on our part and even that whatever we may do on our part is then considered as an effort “*in the flesh*”.
- There is also a **WRONG** mentality of ‘*let go and let God*’ that some people apply to their **HOLINESS** instead of to **GOD** being at work in all of creation according to His **SOVEREIGN DECREE** in which we must **REST**...
- We need to **FACE UP** to and **UNDERSTAND** that we have a **RESPONSIBILITY** to work out our salvation by being **OBEDIENT**. It is something that we must **DO!**
- **Eph 4:22-24; 1 Tim 4:7**
- Think upon this statement made by Jerry Bridges: “*You can put away that habit that has mastered you, if you truly desire to do so.*”
- You **CAN** be **OBEDIENT** to God and **GROW** in **HOLINESS!**
- You **CAN** implement **Rom 6:12-14, 22**
- To a certain degree and to a certain extent, **YOU CAN BE AS HOLY AS YOU WANT TO BE...!**

## **3. Our third problem is that we do NOT take some sin SERIOUSLY.**

- We have **CATEGORIZED SINS** into that which is **TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE** and that which can be **TOLERATED** a bit.
- We tend to forget the reality that God views **ALL** sin as **AGAINST HIM** and that **EVERY SIN**, even the “**SMALLEST**” of sins according to us, is deserving of the **WAGE** of sin that God has decided – **DEATH!**
- **Jam 2:10; Gal 3:10**
- It is not so much **WHAT** sin we are doing but rather against **WHOM ALL** sin is!
- Just **CONSIDER** the **FIRST** sin – *Eve took a bite of a fruit...!* How ‘**serious**’ can that be...?!
- **GOD** is the One commanding us to **OBEY** Him and we **DO NOT** have the **AUTHORITY** and **LUXURY** to **DECIDE** which of His commands are applicable and important to us and which are not.

• **ALL OF HIS COMMANDS ARE IMPORTANT AND APPLICABLE TO US!**

**Conclusion:**

• Here are **THREE QUESTIONS** you need to answer in order to start understanding that **HOLINESS IS FOR YOU:**

1. Will you begin to look at sin as an **OFFENSE** against a **HOLY GOD**, instead of as a **PERSONAL DEFEAT**?
2. Will you begin to take **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY** for your sin, realizing that as you do, you must depend on the grace of God to put it off?
3. And will you decide to **OBEY** God in **ALL AREAS** of your life, however '**insignificant**' the issue may be?

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**PNB Lock Down 2020**

**The Pursuit of Holiness**

(Part 2 of 8)

**“The Holiness of GOD!”**

**1 Pet 1:14-16** (cf. **Lev 11:44**)

**Introduction:**

- We have been called to holiness – **Eph 1:3-4**
- **JESUS DIED** in order that we can be holy – **Eph 5:25-27**
- We need to **PURSUE** holiness, because without it, we will not see the Lord. (cf. **Heb 12:14**)
- To **PURSUE** it means to *chase after it with endurance, to go for it with a single minded focus...!*
- **Q: What is our STANDARD for holiness?**
- **GOD!** – **Lev 11:44, 19:2, 20:26**
- **1 Pet 1:13-16**
- We do not place our **HOPE** in our holiness...! We **HOPE** on the **GRACE** of God!
- While we are **PURSUIING HOLINESS** it is not for the sake of **APPROVING** ourselves before God – it does bring about **FURTHER ASSURANCE OF OUR SALVATION**, but it is not the **FOUNDATION** of our salvation – the **GRACE** of God is!

- It is as **OBEDIENT CHILDREN** that we pursue holiness to which we have been called.
- *We are to be holy, as God, our Father, is holy!*
- We are not called to be holy in light of our **CULTURE** and many times we measure our “*holiness*” against our culture and it makes us look pretty “*holy*” sometimes...
- Jerry Bridges: *“Holiness is nothing less than conformity to the character of God!”*
- To have a true understanding of what we are called to, we need to have a true understanding of the **HOLINESS OF GOD!**
- We need to **BEHOLD** God in His holiness!!

### Study Points:

- To say that God is **HOLY** is to understand **TWO ASPECTS** of God:
  - 1) He is **TOTALLY OTHER** than us – He is **SEPARATE** from His creation in His **OTHERNESS...**
  - 2) He is **MORALLY PERFECT** – He doesn’t just **KNOW** what is right, He always **DOES** what is right! (*“God’s holiness is perfect freedom from all evil.”*)

### **1. He is TOTALLY OTHER than us. (Primary meaning...)**

- God is **MAJESTIC, SUPERIOR, EXALTED**. He is the **TRANSCENDENT, AWESOME GOD!**
- **Exo 15:11; Isa 57:15; 40:9-18, 25**
- **Isa 6:1-3** – God is **HOLY, HOLIER, HOLIEST...**!
- We **CANNOT** become like God in His **OTHERNESS...** not now or **EVER!**
- **BUT** we are to be **TOTALLY DIFFERENT** from those who do not know this holy God!!
- We need to be a **REFLECTION** of His holiness to the world.
- **2 Cor 6:14-7:1**

### **2. He is MORALLY PERFECT. (Secondary meaning...)\_**

- **1 Joh 1:5**
- **Hab 1:13; Ps 11:4-5, 5:4-6**
- God has **NO PART** in **SIN** and He has absolutely **NO DELIGHT** in **SIN... HE HATES IT!**

- God therefore does not accept any **EXCUSES** for sin, He is not **OKAY** with it nor does He **UNDERSTAND** it when we sin...
- We need to **HATE SIN** in the same way that God hates sin!
- This is one reality of a Christian – *his relationship with SIN has changed...* Once he **ENJOYED** it and even **LIVED** for it... now he **HATES** it and wants to **MORTIFY** it... it **GRIEVES** him...!
- God does not turn a **BLIND EYE** to sin or **EXCUSE** it...
- Sometimes we then **STUMBLE** into sin and sometimes we even have this **SHAMEFUL** mentality of thinking about **GIVING IN** to a **TEMPTATION** and that we would just then *repent* of our sin... **RELY** on God's **GRACE** and **MERCY**...
- Now, it is true that God is **FAITHFUL** and **JUST** and that He will **FORGIVE** us our sins if we would **CONFESS** it to Him (cf. **1 Joh 1:9**), if we come to Him with **GODLY SORROW** (cf. **2 Cor 7:8-11**).
- God **FORGIVE** us every time and He **RESTORES** us in our relationship with Him, **BUT** it does not mean that He **RELEASES** us from the **CONSEQUENCES** of our sin in this world...
- **1 Pet 1:17** – God judges impartially because He is **HOLY!**
- Think of these **THREE EXAMPLES**:
  - ✓ *Moses* – **Exo 3** – He was **CALLED** by God; **Exo 32:19** – we read about his **RIGHTEOUS ANGER** against the **IDOLATRY** of Israel; **Exo 33:18** – he wanted to see the **GLORY OF GOD**; **Num 12:3** – here God **DEFENDS** Moses' leadership; **Num 20:10-12** – And then Moses is **DISOBEDIENT** and **NOT HOLY** as God is holy which leads to a **DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCE**... he will **NOT** enter the **PROMISED LAND**...!
  - ✓ *David* – **Acts 13:22**; after his adultery and murder – **2 Sam 12:10-12**...
  - ✓ *Jonah* – the prophet of God that tried to **FLEE** from God and ended in a **FISH**...
- *We are to be holy as God is holy* – We must **FLEE** from **SIN** and **WALK** in **OBEDIENCE!**
- Our **MOTIVATION** is our **LOVE** for God and our understanding that by His **GRACE** He has **CALLED** us to be **HOLY**...!
- But also there is the understanding that He is our **GOD** and that He **HATES SIN** and that there is **NO PARTIALITY** with Him as He deals with our sin...
- Jerry Bridges: *“Frequent contemplation on the holiness of God and His consequent hatred of sin is a strong deterrent against trifling with sin... Granted, the love of God to us through Jesus' Cross should be our primary motivation to holiness. But a motivation prompted by God's hatred of sin and His consequent judgement is no less biblical.”*

### Conclusion:

- *God is calling us to be holy as He is holy.!*
  - It is that **OUR CHARACTERS** are to be conformed to **HIS CHARACTER**.
  - As He is totally **DISTINCT** from this world, we are to become **DISTINCT** of this world in our characters.
  - As He is **MORALLY PERFECT** and **COMPLETELY WITHOUT SIN**, we are to **HATE SIN** and **FLEE** from it, put it to **DEATH** and in so doing **REFLECT** His holiness...!
- **TWO QUESTIONS** to think about:
- *ARE you distinct from this world?*
  - *Do you HATE sin and are you FIGHTING against it? Are you living in simple OBEDIENCE?*

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**The Pursuit of Holiness**

(Part 3 of 8)

**“Holiness is NOT an option!”**

**Heb 12:14**

**Introduction:**

- I don't know if you ever experienced this “*phenomenon*”...
- When I was younger, and even still sometimes today, something very interesting happens to me when I watch any kind of karate or action movie... When I stopped watching the movie, I find myself thinking I am a ninja or some kind of hero – I just want to mimic and act out being a ninja or hero...!
- This happens with many things – *sport, cooking, fitness things*, etc....
- The principle is this: *What we BEHOLD is what we BECOME...!*
- We can even say it in the following way: *What we BEHOLD is what we will WANT to become...!*
- This is **NO DOUBT** true of Christianity as well...!
- We have seen that we have been saved and called to be **HOLY** – **Eph 1:4**

• In the last study we talked about the **STANDARD** of holiness that we are called to – *to be holy as GOD is holy...!*

• Jerry Bridges: *“Holiness is nothing less than conformity to the character of God!”* (cf. **1 Pet 1:14-16**)

• Therefore to be holy we need to **BEHOLD** the holiness of God...

• If we **BEHOLD** the holiness of God and see Him for who He truly is, we will then be **TRANSFORMED** into the same image of glory... **2 Cor 3:18**

• *This is the principle:*

*Those who have been **SAVED** by God, by His **GRACE** through **FAITH** in **CHRIST ALONE**, and have **SEEN** Him in the **FACE OF CHRIST** and who are **BEHOLDING** Him, they will have a **LONGING** to **BECOME** like Him and they will be **TRANSFORMED** to be like Him from one degree of glory to the next...!*

• The **HOLY SPIRIT** brings about a **DESIRE** for holiness in the life of a Christian and then the **CORRESPONDING STRIVING** for **PRACTICAL HOLINESS**.

*If you have **NO DESIRE** for **HOLINESS**, you need to **SERIOUSLY QUESTION** whether your **FAITH** in Jesus Christ is **GENUINE**...!*

• Consider **Tit 2:11-14**...!

• For the Christian, **HOLINESS IS NOT AN OPTION!**

• Consider **Heb 12:14**...

• **Q:** *Does our **FINAL SALVATION** depend on some **DEGREE** of holiness?*

1) **Isa 64:6**

2) **Rom 5:19 & 1 Pet 3:18** – Jesus’ **ACTIVE** and **PASSIVE OBEDIENCE** is what makes us to be ‘**SANCTIFIED**’ (***POSITIONALLY** we are **PERFECT** in God’s sight... we now need to become **PROGRESSIVELY** what we are **POSITIONALLY**...*)

• **THEREFORE**, your **FINAL SALVATION** does **NOT** depend on your **DEGREE** of holiness...

• **Q:** *What then is the **IMPORTANCE** of practical holiness?*

### Study Points:

## **1. Holiness is required for FELLOWSHIP with God.**

• Consider **Ps 15**...

• David’s question in this **Psalm** is simply this: *Who **MAY** have **FELLOWSHIP** with God **NOW** and **FOREVER**...?*

- To have fellowship with God **NOW** and for **ETERNITY** requires **HOLINESS!!**
- **1 Joh 1:5-7**... To **WALK** (*practise a LIFESTYLE...*) in **DARKNESS** (*SIN...*) and thinking that you will be able to have **FELLOWSHIP** with the **HOLY GOD**, is to reveal the you are a **LIAR** and **UNSAVED**...
- **Ps 66:16-19** – **WITHOUT HOLINESS**, God will **NOT** answer our prayers because our **FELLOWSHIP** with Him is broken...

## **2. Holiness is required for our own WELL BEING.**

- **Heb 12:6** (cf. **Prov 3:11-12**)
- **DISCIPLINE** is never fun!
- God is **COMMITTED** to us being **HOLY** and He **WILL** and **DOES** discipline us for this purpose! (cf. **Heb 12:11**)
- When we are living **DISOBEDIENT** lives, God then will **DISCIPLINE** us even to the extent of **PHYSICAL** and **BODILY** consequences...!
- **Ps 32:3-4; 1 Cor 11:30**
- God is **ALWAYS LOVING** in His discipline and it is **ALWAYS** for **OUR GOOD** – *rest in that...*!
- But if you live a life of **OBEDIENCE**, discipline won't be necessary...!
- The **REALITY** of **DISCIPLINE** is also in itself a **MOTIVATION** for **OBEDIENCE**...! (cf. **1 Pet 1:17**)

## **3. Holiness is necessary for EFFECTIVE SERVICE to God.**

- **2 Tim 2:20-22**
- **HOLINESS** and **USEFULNESS** is **LINKED** together!
- It is as we **PURSUE** and **STRIVE** for **PRACTICAL HOLINESS** that we are **USEFUL** to God in His kingdom...!
- Those who are used **MIGHTILY** by God for His glory are those who **WALK IN HOLINESS!**
- If you are **LONGING** to be **USED** by God in your family, school, university, and work – you need to **WALK IN HOLINESS!**

## **4. Holiness is necessary for our ASSURANCE OF SALVATION.**

- **2 Pet 1:8-11**

- **1 Joh 2:28-3:3**

- It is as we **LONG** to be **HOLY** and the fruit of righteousness **INCREASES** in our lives that we find **FULL ASSURANCE** in the fact that God did come and do a **SAVING WORK** in our lives...

- **NOTE 2 Pet 1:9** – an **ABSENCE** of **PRACTICAL HOLINESS** in the life of a believer brings about **DOUBT** of salvation...!

### **Conclusion:**

- *Here are a few **QUESTIONS** to meditate on:*

- 1) *Do you **DESIRE** and **STRIVE** after holiness?*

- 2) *Is there any **EVIDENCE** of **PRACTICAL HOLINESS** in your life?*

- 3) *Do you **GRIEVE** over your **LACK OF HOLINESS** and do you **EARNESTLY SEEK** the **HELP OF GOD** to be holy?*

- Jerry Bridges: *“It is not those who **PROFESS** to know Christ who will enter heaven, but those whose **LIVES ARE HOLY...**”*

- Remember what Jesus said in **Matt 7:21-23**...

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**The Pursuit of Holiness**

(Part 4 of 8)

## **“The Holiness of Christ!”**

**2 Cor 5:21**

### **Introduction:**

- The Christian life has been likened with a **RACE** so many times.

- The whole idea of “*pursuing*” holiness carries the idea of **MOVING ALONG, MAKING PROGRESS**, getting from point A to point B...

- To pursue means to “*chase after it with endurance, to go for it with a single minded focus...*”

- One of the most well-known verses concerning this race that we are in is **Heb 12:1-2**...

- In our *Pursuit of Holiness*, we need to constantly **LOOK TO JESUS!**
- In this study we will then look to Him and we will be looking at *The Holiness of Jesus...!*
- *Why is it so IMPORTANT to look to JESUS in our PURSUIT OF HOLINESS?*
- In this study I want to give you **TWO REASONS** why it is **IMPORTANT:**

**Study Points:**

**1. We need to look to Jesus in order to be FIRMLY GROUNDED in our SECURITY in Christ.**

• Jerry Bridges: *“As we study more fully the implications of “Be holy because I am holy,” we will see more of our own sinfulness. We will see the wickedness and deceitfulness of our hearts and how far we miss the mark of God’s perfect holiness. As this happens, the true Christian will in his heart flee for refuge in Christ. It is important therefore that we understand the righteousness of Christ, and the fact that His righteousness is credited to us.”*

• **2 Cor 5:21**

• **JESUS KNEW NO SIN!**

• **Heb 4:15; 1 Pet 2:22; 1 Joh 3:5**

• Jesus’ own testimony about Himself is **ASTONISHING** – **Joh 8:42-46**

• **JESUS PLEASED HIS FATHER IN EVERY WAY!**

• **Joh 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; 8:29; 17:4**

*EVERYTHING that Jesus did was in OBEDIENCE to His Father with  
the ATTITUDE and MOTIVE to PLEASE HIM.*

• This is **TRUE** holiness and Godliness – *“having a proper attitude and proper conduct before God...”*

• As we **PURSUE** Holiness, meaning as we **STRIVE** to be holy as He is holy, we will be **CONFRONTED** with our own **SHORTCOMINGS** and **SINFULNESS CONSTANTLY** as we see that we **FALL SO TREMENDOUSLY SHORT** of being holy as He is holy...

• We have the same reaction as Isaiah had when He saw God in all His holiness – **Isa 6:1-5...**

• But then we see **Isa 6:6...**

- We need to **REMEMBER** what Paul said in **Rom 3:21-26** – that we have a **RIGHT STANDING NOT** because of how holy we are, but because of our **FAITH** in Jesus and how holy He is!

- Later in **Rom 4:7-8** he quotes **Ps 32:1-2** and points out that being **RIGHTEOUS** in Christ means that our **SINS ARE FORGIVEN!**

- **Rom 8:1 = NB!!**

- The reason why it is so **IMPORTANT** to be **FIRMLY GROUNDED** in our security in Christ, meaning that we are grounded in **HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS** and **NOT** our **PERFORMANCE**, is that when the Holy Spirit reveals our lack of holiness, we will handle it in the correct way...

- Jerry Bridges points out that: *“The Holy Spirit makes us more aware of our lack of holiness to stimulate us to deeper yearning and striving for holiness. But Satan will attempt to use the Holy Spirit’s work to discourage us.”*

- Satan will try and use your **CONVICTION** of sin to **CONVINCE** you that you are **NOT TRULY A CHRISTIAN...**

- He will stir this thought: *“A true Christian wouldn’t think the evil thoughts you have been thinking today, or do the things you have been doing today...”*

- Don’t think this way about your sin, but **CONFESS** it, **REPENT** and **KNOW** that you are **DECLARED RIGHTEOUS** by your **FAITH** in Christ and **NOT BY YOUR PERFORMANCE...!**

- As you come **CLOSER** to God, you will see **MORE AND MORE SIN** in your life in the **LIGHT** of **HIS PERFECT HOLINESS**.

- This is the work of the **HOLY SPIRIT** to bring about your **SPIRITUAL MATURITY...!**

- Remember **1 Tim 1:15**... **ALWAYS! THROUGHOUT** your Christian life!

## **2. We need to look to Jesus because HIS LIFE is meant to be the EXAMPLE of holiness for us.**

- **1 Pet 2:21-22** – **JESUS** is our **EXAMPLE** in **SUFFERING...**

- **Eph 5:1-2** – **JESUS** is our **EXAMPLE** in **LOVING...**

- **1 Joh 2:6** – **JESUS** is our **EXAMPLE** in **OBEDIENCE** to the **FATHER...**

- **Joh 13:15-17** – **JESUS** is our **EXAMPLE** in **SERVING...**

- **1 Cor 11:1** – The **GREAT CALL** that we have is to **FOLLOW CHRIST...!** (cf. **Luk 9:23**) We should **ONLY FOLLOW** after those who are **TRULY** an **EXAMPLE** of following Christ.

- We are to **FLEE FROM SIN** and **SEPARATE OURSELVES** from sin as we look to Jesus who **NEVER** sinned, no matter how **DIFFICULT** the circumstances...! (cf. **Matt 4:1-11; 26:39**)
  - We are to strive to **PLEASE** God in **EVERYTHING** that we do...!
  - **Rom 14:7-8; 2 Cor 5:9; Eph 5:10; Phil 1:20-21**
  - **THIS IS HOW JESUS LIVED!**
- Jerry Bridges: *“This is the example we are to follow. In all of our thoughts, all of our actions, in every part of our character, the ruling principle that motivates and guides us should be the desire to follow Christ in doing the will of the Father (cf. **Heb 7:10**). This is the high road we must follow in the pursuit of holiness.”*

### Conclusion:

*Here are **TWO QUESTIONS** to meditate on today:*

- 1) ***ARE** you trusting **COMPLETELY** in Jesus for your **SALVATION**, for your **RIGHTEOUSNESS** before God? (cf. **Phil 3:7-9**)*
- 2) *Are you **FOLLOWING JESUS** in the **EXAMPLE** He set for us namely **TO DO THE WILL OF OUR FATHER**...? (cf. **Joh 6:38**)*

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**The Pursuit of Holiness**

(Part 5 of 8)

## “A Change of Kingdoms...!”

**Rom 6:1-14**

### Introduction:

• One thing that is very disheartening today is to see the lack of **ZEAL** that students have in their school work or studies and that many people have in their jobs; to see how many people are functioning way **BELOW** their potential...

**Q:** *WHY* are so many performing **BELOW** their potential?

• **LAZINESS** and **ILL DISCIPLINE** must surely be on the top of the list with things like **ENTITLEMENT**, **ARROGANCE** and **DISCONTENTMENT** following closely...

• This is then also **SADLY TRUE** of **MANY CHRISTIANS** – they are functioning **BELOW** their potential...

• Jerry Bridges: *“Many Christians have a basic desire to live a holy life, but have come to believe they simply cannot do it. They have struggled for years with particular sins or deficiencies of character. While not living in gross sin, they have more or less given up ever attaining a life of holiness and have settled down to a life of moral mediocrity with which neither they nor God are pleased.”*

• I believe this is the **EXPERIENCE** of **MANY CHRISTIANS** and the reason for it is this:

*When it comes to **PRACTICAL HOLINESS**, we **MISUNDERSTAND** what **CHRIST HAS DONE** for us and what **WE NEED TO DO**...!*

• We don't get the **BALANCE** between our **POTENTIAL** to **RESIST SIN** and our **RESPONSIBILITY** to **RESIST SIN**!

• *There are two extremes:*

1) Trying to live a holy life by one's sheer **WILLPOWER**...!

2) Trying to live a holy life on a **FAITH** that remains **ALONE** – all **PRAYER** and no **ACTION**...!

• The experience of many **YOUNG** Christians are that they want to and decide they **WILL** simply **START OBEYING** everything they see in Scripture. They then become **DISHEARTENED** as they see how they **FAIL** to “*simply obey*” everything...

• Then they are maybe **COUNSELLED** and **REMINDED** that **CHRIST** has **DONE EVERYTHING** for us and that we are only to **REST** in His finished work – that is like hearing the Gospel all over again and they **LET GO AND LET GOD**...!

• Moving from the **ONE EXTREME** to the **NEXT** only leaves us **DISILLUSIONED**, **FRUSTRATED**, in **DESPAIR** and even **DEPRESSED**, because we still find that we **STILL STRUGGLE WITH SIN** – with *pride, jealousy, materialism, gossiping, impatience, lust...* we still *eat too much, waste our time, criticize each other, shade the truth a little and indulge in all kinds of sin...*

• We look at other Christians and what **SEEMS** to be an **EASY GOING, VICTORIOUS LIFE** and wonder why **WE** can't experience **VICTORY** over our sins...

• Therefore, it is important to know the **PROVISION** God has made through Christ to live a holy life and the **RESPONSIBILITIES** He has given us...!

### **Study Points:**

#### **1. Understanding the **PROVISION** God has made in Christ.**

• To know the **PROVISION** He has made in Christ requires that we understand a very important **FACT** or **REALITY**: *WE DIED TO SIN!!*

• **Rom 6:5-7**

• *Two observations:*

- 1) Our dying to sin is because of our **UNION** with Jesus.
  - ✓ It is not something we **DO**, but what Christ has **DONE**...!
- 2) This is a **FACT**, whether we realize it or not...!
  - ✓ **ALL** who are united to Christ, **DIED** to sin! (cf. **Gal 2:20**)

**Q: What is the MEANING of being “dead to sin”:**

- It is **NOT** that sin is unable to touch us, **BUT** that sin has no more **DOMINION** over us!
- We were born into the Kingdom of **DARKNESS** where we **ALL** were slaves of sin, **BUT** In **CHRIST** we are saved into another **KINGDOM** – we are now under a new **KING**, in another **KINGDOM**, in another **REALM** of **AUTHORITY**!

• **Eph 2:1-3; Acts 26:18; Col 1:13-14**

• In Christ, we are **SET FREE** from being slaves of sin – **Joh 8:31-36**

**Q: WHY do we keep on sinning?**

1) Our **RESIDING SINFUL NATURE** – The flesh...

- When one country are taken over by another country, very often there is still a **RESISTANCE** that is trying to overthrow the new governing authority – that is how our flesh is!

• **Gal 5:16-17**

2) Our **ENGRAVED SINFUL HABITS**...

- We are born sinners and we have been **PRACTISING** how to sin up until we died with Christ – came to **SALVATION** and **CONVERSION**...
- These **OLD HABITS** must **GO**, but old habits **DIE HARD**! We very easily fall back into how we are used to respond to certain circumstances and people...

3) The **CORRUPTED WORLD SYSTEM** we live in...

- We are still **IN** this world with all of its sinful practises on which our **FLESH** loves to feed and it **TEMPTS** us to revert to our old man – our sinful habits...

• **Martyn Lloyd-Jones:**

*“Sin cannot reign in us, that is, in our essential personality, it can, if left unchecked, reign in our mortal bodies.”*

- **THEREFORE...** – **Rom 6:12...**!

## **2. Understanding the RESPONSIBILITY that we have.**

- 1) Make **NO** provision for the flesh – **Rom 13:14** – Availability...
  - 2) Walk in the **LIGHT**, exposing your own battles with sin – **Eph 5:11-13; Jam 5:16** – Accountability...
  - 3) Put **OFF** the **OLD HABITS** and practise **NEW HABITS** of obedience – **Eph 4:22-24** – Affections...
  - 4) Exercise strict **SELF CONTROL** over your body – your fleshly desires – **1 Cor 9:24-27**
  - 5) **DO NOT** partner up with the world and try and be in **FELLOWSHIP** or **FRIENDSHIP** with the world – **2 Cor 6:14-7:1; 1 Joh 2:15-17**
- We are **NO** longer **SLAVES** of sin and God has **PROVIDED** for us in Christ the **ABILITY** to stand and say “**NO**” to sin...!
  - We are not **VICTIMS** of our sin as if we have no control over it...!

*When we **SIN**, we do **NOT** do so as **SLAVES**, but as individuals **CHOOSING** to sin...!*

### **Conclusion:**

• Jerry Bridges: *“So we see that God has made provision for our holiness. Through Christ He has delivered us from sin’s reign so that now we can resist sin. But the responsibility for resisting sin is ours. To confuse the **POTENTIAL** for resisting (which God provided) with the **RESPONSIBILITY** for resisting (which is ours) is to court disaster in our pursuit of holiness.”*

*Consider these questions:*

- Have **YOU** died with Christ?
  - In what areas are you still making **PROVISION** for the flesh?
  - Do you have someone who is keeping you **ACCOUNTABLE**?
  - Are you **PRACTISING** new habits with **SELF CONTROL**?
  - Are you in any way **PARTNERING** with this world?
- **Gal 6:7-9** is our **WARNING** and our **ENCOURAGEMENT**...
  - Other passages for our **ENCOURAGEMENT** – **Heb 12:1-4; 2 Tim 4:7-8**

## “The BATTLE for Holiness...!”

### **Rom 7:21-25**

#### Introduction:

- Very few things in this life come without a **STRUGGLE!**
- Being **BORN** is a struggle... **GROWING UP** is struggle as you battle against *sickness* and *siblings* and being *socially acceptable*... as you get to the age of going on your own you join the struggle for **SURVIVAL** – getting enough *money* to buy *food*, pay the *rent*, keeping your *job*, etc.... and then when you get **OLDER** you struggle *sickness*, *lack of strength* and just *physical survival*...!
- **JUST BEING ALIVE IS A STRUGGLE!**

***PROGRESS** in any area of life also doesn't come without a **STRUGGLE**, without a **FIGHT**.*

- Doing good at *school*, *sport*, *university* or your *job* – it takes **EFFORT**, it's a **STRUGGLE**, it's a fight against **LAZINESS** and **MEDIOCRITY** and **COMPLACENCY**...

***HOLINESS** doesn't come without a **STRUGGLE** either...!*

- In this study we will focus on *The BATTLE for Holiness...!*
- **WE ARE AT WAR!**
- The question is: *WHO IS THE ENEMY...?*
- We have an enemy from **WITHOUT**... **Eph 6:10-13**
- But we have **ANOTHER** enemy...an enemy from **WITHIN**... **YOU**... your **FLESH**...!!
- We read about this **BATTLE**, this **WAR** in **Rom 7:14-25**

#### Study Points:

### **1. The Reality of the Flesh...**

- **The Flesh defined:** It is our *unredeemed human nature*; our *corrupted humanness* that is still *liable to temptation* and *sin*...

- **OUTSIDE** of Christ we are **ENSLAVED** to sin and our flesh reigns freely...
- When we are **SAVED**, we are **TRANSFERRED** into a **NEW KINGDOM** and sin has **NO MORE DOMINION OVER US**.
- Our flesh is **DETHRONED** and **CHRIST** is now the Lord of our lives...!
- Our **OLD NATURE** that was oriented toward **SIN** is changed in to a **NEW** nature where we now have a **NEW ORIENTATION** towards Christ, towards what is **PLEASING** to Him! – **Rom 7:18b, 22, 25**
- But the **FLESH** is still present...! **Rom 7:18, 21**
- Paul refers to this in **Rom 7:17, 20, 23** as “*Indwelling sin*”
- It **RESIDES** in me, **SQUAT** in me – although **UNLAWFULLY**, but it is **STILL THERE**...!
- Furthermore, it lies “*close at hand*” – it is **READY** to **POUNCE** at any opportune moment...!
- The **FACT** and the **REALITY** is that **INDWELLING SIN** brings about evil actions... **SIN!!**
- **Facts about the Flesh:**
  - ✓ It defines a Christians **IMPERFECTIONS!**
  - ✓ The flesh cannot be **SANCTIFIED!** **Rom 7:18a, 25b**
  - ✓ The flesh cannot finally be **PUT TO DEATH!** The flesh never rolls over and dies...!
  - ✓ You will only be free from your flesh **THE DAY YOU DIE!!**
- Therefore, in the true believer **THERE IS A WAR!** **Rom 7:23**
- To fight this war **SUCCESSFULLY**, we need to know **HOW** our enemy **OPERATES**...

## 2. The Operation of the Flesh...

### ☞ The HEADQUARTERS of our flesh: our HEARTS!

- **Mark 7:21-23**
- Jerry Bridges: “*Heart in Scripture is used in various ways. Sometimes it means our reason or understanding, sometimes our affection and emotions, and sometimes our will. Generally it denotes the whole soul of man and all its faculties, not individually, but as they all work together in doing good or evil. The mind as it reasons, discerns and judges; the emotions as they like or dislike; the conscience as it determines and warns; and the will as it chooses or refuses – are all together called the heart.*”
- **Jer 17:9-10; 1 Cor 4:3-5**
- We need to ask **GOD** to **SEARCH** our hearts – **Ps 139:23-24**

- We need to **EXPOSE** our hearts to **SCRIPTURE** as much as possible – **Heb 4:12**
- The **HOLY SPIRIT** is then the One who **ENABLES** us to make an **ACCURATE DISCERNMENT** of our hearts by **APPLYING** the Bible to our hearts and **EXPOSING** our sin.

### ☞ The **TARGET** of our flesh: our **DESIRES!**

- Jerry Bridges: *“Ever since his fall in the Garden of Eden man has listened to his desires more than his reason. Desire has come to be the strongest faculty of man’s heart.”*
- In temptation the war is between our **DESIRES** and our **REASON** and it is when our desire **OVERCOMES** our reason that our **WILLS** are influenced to **ACT** in a sinful way...
- **Jam 1:13-15**
- **ALL TEMPTATIONS** comes from **WITHIN** us... you are the **SOURCE** of **ALL** your temptations and it comes as your flesh aims at your desires in order to **LURE** and **ENTICE** you into sin, into doing what you **THINK** will make you **HAPPY**...

### ☞ The **STRATEGY** of the flesh: **DECEPTION!**

- To win against our **REASON**, the flesh then presents sin through our desires in such a way that we are sold on the idea that this “*sin*” will actually be **GOOD** for me, or I **DESERVE** this, or I have been so **FAITHFUL** this one time **WOULD NOT MATTER**...
- **Eph 4:22; Tit 3:3** reminds us that this is how we **USED** to live and the **REALITY** is that this is still the **STRATEGY THE FLESH** uses to bring us to sin – it **PROMISES** us *joy, pleasure, prosperity, fulfilment, fame* but **DELIVERS** *sorrow, pain, poverty, emptiness and shame*...
- We do sin because we think it will be *good, fun and profitable* – we are **DECEIVED** because we are not **WATCHFUL**...!

## **3. The Conquering of the Flesh...**

- Here are **THREE SUMMARY TERMS** to **HELP** us in our moments of **TEMPTATION**:

### 1) Reckon... (**Rom 6:11**)

- You are **DEAD** to sin and **ALIVE** to God...!
- This is **REALITY**; this is what is **TRUE** about you.
- Even when you sin, your **POSITION** in Christ doesn’t change.
- This is not something that you must **DO** but what has been **DONE**...!

- In temptation you must **THINK!**
- True spiritual growth starts with **GROWTH IN THINKING... Eph 4:23...**

## 2) Remember... (**Rom 6:21-22**)

- Think about the consequences of you sin...!
- Remember your **GOAL** – to **PLEASE** Christ! **Phil 1:20; 2 Cor 5:9**

## 3) Run... (**Rom 6:13**)

- Flee from sin! **Gen 39:12; 2 Tim 2:22; Rom 13:14**
- Run to God – Bible and prayer...
- Run to His people – fellowship and counsel...

### Conclusion:

- To be **HOLY** is a **BATTLE!** It is a **WAR!**
- We must **NEVER** consider that our fight against our **FLESH** and **SIN** is at and **END!**
- May we be **DILLIGENT** to **FIGHT** this **BATTLE** everyday nothing that our **SAVIOUR**, our **CAPTAIN** and **COMMANDER** has won the **WAR** for us...!
- In the end, **WE WIN!**

**PNB Lock Down 2020**

**The Pursuit of Holiness**

(Part 7 of 8)

**“Help for the Daily Battle...!”**

**Rom 6:11**

### Introduction:

- In our previous study we looked at the **REALITY** that although we are not under the **DOMINION** of sin anymore, we have an **ENEMY** from within that is **WAGING WAR** against our desire to be holy as God is holy – the **FLESH!!**

- Therefore, we are in **BATTLE FOR HOLINESS** for the rest of our lives...!
- This can be very **INTIMIDATING!**
- But we need to learn to fight this battle **ONE DAY AT A TIME!** (cf. **Matt 6:33-34**)
- We also need to understand what **PROVISION** God has made for our daily battle – what **RESOURCES** He has provided to enable us to **SUCCESSFULLY FIGHT THIS BATTLE FOR HOLINESS...!**
- This study is aimed at giving you **HOPE** in this battle that you are engaged in...!
- It starts with the **TRUST** that it is **POSSIBLE** to fight this battle successfully...!
- **1 Cor 10:13** is NB!!
- Take the **TRUTH** of **2 Pet 1:3-4** to **HEART...!**

### Study Points:

- **FOUR RESOURCES** that God has **PROVIDED** for our **DAILY BATTLE:**

#### **1. Our UNION with JESUS CHRIST.**

- **Rom 6:8-11** – If we **DIED** with Christ, we were made **ALIVE IN HIM!**
- **Phil 4:11-13** – **CHRIST** is your **PROVISION** to **ENABLE** you to **ACCOMPLISH** what God has **CALLED** you to.
- **Eph 1:13 & 2 Pet 1:3** – We have **EVERYTHING** we need in Christ! We do **NOT** believe in a **JESUS PLUS** Gospel where Jesus is enough to **SAVE** us, but then we have need of “**SOMETHING MORE**” to be holy... **NO! JESUS IS ENOUGH!** (cf. **1 Cor 1:30**)
- **Joh 15:1-5** – We need to **ABIDE** in Him! (cf. **verse 9-11**) We need to stay **CONNECTED** with Jesus throughout each day. Jesus **CAN ENABLE** us to **PROGRESS** in **BEARING** the **FRUIT** of **HOLINESS**, but if we do **NOT** stay connected with Him, we have **NO ABILITY** whatsoever to bear fruit...

#### **2. The INDWELLING of the HOLY SPIRIT.**

- **Rom 8:9-11** – The **INDWELLING SPIRIT** is the **AGENT** of our union with Jesus. He is **GOD IN US!**
- **Rom 8:14** – The Holy Spirit is the One who is **LEADING** us to put to death the **DEEDS OF THE BODY** so that we can **SHARE** in the character of our **FATHER...!**

• **1 Thess 4:3, 7-8** – The Holy Spirit works in us the desire to be **HOLY**, for this is the **WILL OF GOD** that He implants in our **HEARTS**.

• **Gal 5:16-17** – The **DESIRE** of the **SPIRIT** is against the **DESIRE** of the **FLESH** and **HE STRENGTHENS US**... take great **COMFORT** in the **REALITY** that the **HOLY SPIRIT** is **GOD** and that He is **ALMIGHTY!** He is **MORE POWERFUL** than the **STRONGEST DESIRE** that your flesh can muster up! We need to **SUBMIT** to the **SPIRIT** by **PRAYING** for help in our time of **WEAKNESS** and **TEMPTATION** and then **CHOOSE** to **OBEY** Him over and against our **SINFUL DESIRES**... I

• **Joh 16:8** – He brings **CONVICTION** of sin... He will work in us to **REVEAL** our hearts to us so that we can **CONFESS** our sins and **REPENT**.

• **1 Pet 1:1-2 & 2 Thess 2:13-14** – His **ROLE** is to bring about **OUR SANCTIFICATION**... He is the **HOLY SPIRIT** and He is the One who even **CAUSES** us to walk in obedience... (cf. **Ezek 36:27**)

### **3. Disciplined BIBLE INTAKE and PRAYER.**

#### **3.1 The Bible:**

• **Joh 17:17** – Not only did Jesus **PRAY** for our **HOLINESS**, but also made it **CLEAR** that to be **HOLY** comes through being in the **TRUTH** and the **WORD**, the **BIBLE** is the **TRUTH** that we need to **BE IN** and that needs to be **IN US**...!

• **Ps 119:9-11** – The **BIBLE** can teach us have to live a **PURE** life, a life that is a **JOY** for God to behold and it can **GUARD** and **PROTECT** us from the **DESTRUCTION** and **SHAME** that sin brings. We therefore need to **SEEK** its truth with **ALL OUR HEARTS** and **STORE IT UP** in our hearts so that it is **AVAILABLE** for the **HOLY SPIRIT** to use in **REMINDING** us and **LEADING** us in the **TRUTH** and in **HOLINESS**...! (cf. **Col 3:16** – to “ *dwell* ” means to be “ *at home* ”... God’s Word must be “ *at home* ” in our hearts...)

• **Jam 1:19-21** – We need to **RECEIVE** the Word of God with **meekness** and without trying to **ARGUE** against the **CLEAR TRUTHS** that it teaches. If we **DO** it will be **IMPLANTED** in our hearts and bring about the **ULTIMATE GOOD** in our lives namely the **SALVATION** of our souls! **SALVATION** in the **FULLEST** sense namely our **JUSTIFICATION**, our **SANCTIFICATION** and one day our **GLORIFICATION**...!

• **2 Tim 3:16-17** – The Bible is **SUFFICIENT**, it is **ENOUGH**, to teach and instruct and correct us in **EVERY AREA** of our **LIVES** so that we can do the **GOOD WORKS** that God has called us to. We do not need to **FEAR** that there is a **SIN** or **AREA** of **WEAKNESS** that the **BIBLE** is not enough to **ADDRESS** and **EQUIP** us for. God **MADE** us and **CALLED** us and **ALL** that we need to know in how to **LIVE OUT** His call to **HOLINESS**, we will find in the **BIBLE**...! He has **REVEALED** it to us...!

### 3.2 Prayer:

- **Heb 4:16** – The **GOD OF THE UNIVERSE** has done **EVERYTHING** through **JESUS** to reconcile us to Him so that we can at **ANY TIME** draw near to His **THRONE** with great **CONFIDENCE** in the **RIGHTEOUSNESS** of our **SAVIOUR** to find the **GRACE** and **MERCY** we need in our **SPESIFIC TIME** of need... to find **HELP** in **OBEYING** Him and **PLEASING** Him...!
- **Col 4:2** – We are to be **DEVOTED** to prayer and we need to **CONTINUE** in prayer... specifically for our **HOLINESS**...!
- **Phil 4:6-7** – We have the **COMMAND** to bring **ALL** of our **ANXIETIES** and our **WEAKNESSES** to the **LORD** and in so doing we are **ASSURED** of His peace that will **GUARD** our hearts...!
- **Jam 1:5** – God **PROMISES** us that he will **GIVE** to us the **WISDOM** we need in **ANY TRIAL** that we may be facing...! We need to **SIMPLY ASK** with a **HEART** that is **COMPLETELY TRUSTING** in Him and His wisdom...!
- **Jam 4:2b** – Very often we **STRUGGLE** and **FALL** into **SIN**, simply because we are **NOT PRAYING** and **ASKING**...!

### 4. FELLOWSHIP with other believers.

- **Heb 10:23-25** – God has given us the **CHURCH**, the **BODY OF BELIEVERS**, who can stir us up to **LOVING** God and others and to live a life of **OBEDIENCE** to God. We must simply make **USE** of it by **GATHERING** with them... **MANY** Christians are **WEAK** in the **HOLINESS** simply because they are **NOT** using this **PRECIOUS RESOURCE** that God has given us for our **DAILY BATTLE** in **HOLINESS**...!
- **Eph 4:11-16** – **JESUS** has **GIVEN** His Church all the **DIFFERENT ROLES** and **GIFTS** needed so that as we are **MINISTERING** to one another we can **GROW UP INTO HOLINESS**...! There **CAN** and **WILL** be no **SIGNIFICANT** growth in **PRACTICAL HOLINESS** without being a **PART** of the **LOCAL CHURCH** and being in **MINISTRY** to the local Church...!
- **Gal 6:1-2** – It is through other **BELIEVERS**, those who are **SPIRITUAL**, that we can be **PICKED** up, **HELD** up and **BUILD** up...

### Conclusion:

- **GOD HIMSELF** is **COMMITTED** to make you **HOLY** as **HE IS HOLY**...!
- God Himself is **MORE COMMITTED** to **YOUR HOLINESS** than you are...!
- Take **GREAT COMFORT** in these **TRUTHS**: **Phil 1:6; 1 Thess 5:23-24; Heb 13:20-21**

- Some **QUESTION** to then think about concerning how you are **USING** these **RESOURCES**:
    - Are you **IN CHRIST** and are you **ABIDING** in Jesus...?
    - Are you **SUBMITTING** to the **HOLY SPIRIT** with simple **TRUST** and **OBEDIENCE**...?
    - Are you **READING, STUDYING, MEMORIZING** and **MEDITATING** on God's **WORD**...?
    - Are you **QUICK** to **RUN** to God in **PRAYER**...?
    - Are you **being PART OF** and **INVOLVED IN** the **CHURCH**...?
- 

## PNB Lock Down 2020

## The Pursuit of Holiness

(Part 8 of 8)

**“Obedience – NOT Victory...!”**

**Rom 8:13**

### Introduction:

- Many Christians very easily fall into the **TRAP** of thinking that they are **VICTIMS** of sin.
- That is **NOT** the case!
- Remember that we have been **FREED** from the dominion of sin by Jesus (cf. **Joh 8:36**) and we are no longer **SLAVES** of sin, but rather **SLAVES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!** – **Rom 6:15-18**
- Our pursuit of Holiness is not about **CONQUERING** sin or being **VICTORIOUS** over sin, because **WE ARE NO LONGER CONQUERED BY SIN...**
- We must always remember the **BALANCE** concerning our **SANCTIFICATION** – we are in **PARTNERSHIP** with God regarding our **SANCTIFICATION** – **Phil 2:12-13**
- **Q: HOW** do we work out our own salvation with fear and trembling?  
*Do we need to have **VICTORY** over sin...?*
- **NO! JESUS DID THAT!!** – **1 Cor 15:54-57**
- **Phil 2:12a** gives us the answer to how we must work out our salvation – **OBEDIENCE!**

- We don't have **VICTORY** over sins – we must simply walk in **OBEDIENCE**...!
- We are not **CONQUERED** by sin – we are simply **DISOBEDIENT** when we sin...!
- Jerry Bridges: *“It is time for Christians to face up to our responsibility for holiness. Too often we say we are “defeated” by this sin or that sin. No, we are not defeated; we are simply disobedient! It might be well if we stopped using the terms “victory” and “defeat” to describe our progress in holiness, Rather we should use the terms “obedience” and “disobedience”. When I say I am defeated by some sin, I am unconsciously slipping out from under my responsibility. I am saying something outside of me has defeated me. But when I say I am disobedient, that places the responsibility for my sin squarely on me. We may, in fact, be defeated, but the reason we are defeated is because we have chosen to disobey. We have chosen to entertain lustful thoughts, or to harbour resentment, or to shade the truth a little.”*
- **Rom 8:13** is clear that we, by the power of the Holy Spirit, needs to put to **DEATH** the deeds of our body... we need to **WALK** in **OBEDIENCE**...!

### Study Points:

- **FOUR CLARIFICATIONS** regarding **Biblical Obedience**:

#### **1. The NECESSITY of Obedience.**

- **1 Joh 2:3-6; Jam 1:22-25; 2:17, 26; Rom 1:5**
- Obedience stands as the **EVIDENCE** of **SAVING FAITH**...!
- Faith is the **ROOT** of our salvation and **OBEDIENCE** is the **FRUIT** of it...
- We are **NOT** saved by our obedience, but we **CANNOT** be saved **WITHOUT** obedience...

#### **2. The PRIORITY of Obedience.**

- **1 Sam 15:22; Jer 7:21-23; Isa 1:11-17; Amos 5:21-24; Hos 6:6; Mic 6:6-8**
- God **DESIRES** your **OBEDIENCE** over your **SACRIFICES** – whatever they may be!
- We may very easily fall into a **MENTALITY** of that we will “*make it up*” towards God when we **KNOW** we are **WALKING** in **DISOBEDIENCE** in an **AREA** of our lives.
- God doesn't want you to “*make it up*” to Him; He wants you to be **OBEDIENT**...!
- **ULTIMATELY**, **OBEDIENCE** is a **HEART** issue, and God wants our **HEARTS**...!

#### **3. The MOTIVE of Obedience.**

• **Joh 14:15; 1 Cor 13:1-3; Gal 5:6; 1 Joh 5:2-3**

• When you **LOVE** God with **ALL** of your **HEART, SOUL, MIND** and **STRENGTH**, **OBEDIENCE** becomes your **JOY** and your **DELIGHT** because you know you are living a life that is **PLEASING TO GOD!**

• We do not obey out of a **FEAR** of **PUNISHMENT** – **1 Joh 4:18-19**

*When you **BEHOLD** the **LOVE OF GOD** manifested on the **CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST**, the **NATURAL RESPONSE** for the Christian is to **OBEDY** God in **WHATEVER HE DESIRES** of him...!*

• It is when we lose our **FOCUS** on the **CROSS** that obedience becomes **BURDENSOME...!**

#### **4. The RESULTS of Obedience.**

• **2 Pet 1:8-11** – **ASSURANCE** of your salvation! **OBEDIENCE** and **ASSURANCE** goes **HAND-IN-HAND!**

• **Joh 13:17** – the experience of **TRUE JOY!** **JOY** flows from **OBEDIENCE!** (cf. **Joh 15:9-11**)  
The **DESIRE** of **JESUS** is that we will have **JOY**. His commands are **GOOD** for us and brings about the **GREATEST JOY!**

• **Heb 5:13-14** – we become **SPIRITUALLY MATURE!**

• **Joh 14:21-23** – **INTIMACY WITH GOD!** This is the **GEATEST BLESSING** of **OBEDIENCE...!**

#### **Conclusion:**

• In your pursuit of holiness, you need to realize that you are **NOT** a **VICTIM** of sin and you don't have to **CONQUER** sin, but rather you need to live in **DAILY OBEDIENCE** to God out of your **LOVE** for Him!

• Your **LOVING OBEDIENCE** is your **RESPONSE** to God's **LOVING SACRIFICE** in the form of His Son **JESUS CHRIST**, who **DIED** to set you **FREE** so that you can now be **OBEDIENT** to your Father...!

• Your **OBEDIENCE** in all of your life is the **SACRIFICE** that **GOD'S MERCY** towards you **DESERVES!** (cf. **Rom 12:1**)

***May we be HOLY because God is HOLY...!***