

# Motivation for Holiness- Part 7

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Philippians 3:12ff.

B. “Press on” is associated with “persecuting a goal” in Greek. This is an intense word. (Hebrews 12:14; Philippians 3:6)

C. “Straining ahead” has the connotation of a runner during a race competing to cross the finish line first.

D. Paul is intensely motivated and working toward holiness.

E. Desire without discipline is disappointment. Holiness comes at a cost. (Proverbs 13:4)

F. There are several truths from scripture that can provide such intense motivation.

## II. The faithfulness of God ensures success. (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

A. There are three stages of holiness.

1. We are instantaneously declared holy when we accept Jesus Christ.

2. We progressively become more holy throughout our lives.

3. We are made fully holy, both body and spirit, at the culmination of the age when Christ returns.

B. God has already declared us holy and He will make us more holy throughout this life and will make us blameless at the day of Christ.

C. We still have a responsibility to pursue holiness, but we have assurance that we will succeed because God will sanctify us. (Philippians 4:1-5:22)

D. We are not doomed to failure. The guarantee that God will make us successful is motivation to try.

## III. The worthiness of God motivates the pursuit of holiness. (Revelation 4:11)

A. God is worthy of our obedience and discipline.

B. Discipline requires a great deal of effort, difficult environments, and emotional pain. God is worthy of the cost.

C. God is worthy because of who He is and what He has done for us. His love for us should motivate us. (2 Corinthians 5:14-15)

D. Devotion to God is the foundation on which a life of holiness is built.

IV. Pleasing God should be our consuming ambition because there will be a day of accountability for Christians. (2 Corinthians 5:9-10)

A. Devotion to God is the only pleasing motive for our actions.

B. God wants to be able to say “well done” to us at the end of our race.

**Application questions:**

1. What does having a consuming ambition to please God look like in real life?

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2. Why is God worthy of our obedience?

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3. How does knowing that you will succeed in becoming holy through God impact your perspective on the sacrifices that holiness requires?

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