

# The Joy of Holiness

*Jerry Bridges*

## I. Introduction.

A. Review of prior sessions on holiness. (Hebrews 12:6-11; Philippians 2:13)

B. The five essentials of holiness: convictions from the Bible, commitment, discipline (obedience), dependence on the Holy Spirit, and motivation. (2 Timothy 3:16)

## II. What will motivate us to become committed to our discipline of holiness? (Philippians 3:4ff, 12-14)

A. The “press on” in this passage is an intense verb indicating that an athlete is currently in competition. Paul is moving and straining toward his goal.

B. Jesus gave himself toward the goal of making us holy. (Titus 2:14)

C. Paul’s motivation was his gratitude for his salvation and relationship with Christ. (Philippians 3:7-9; Hebrews 2:10)

1. The Holy Spirit uses our gratitude to motivate us to want to become more like Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:14-16)

2. We should focus on the price Jesus paid to free us from sin. (Philippians 3:13)

a) Our salvation should motivate gratitude and acceptance of Christ’s goals for us.

b) The prize of our eternal situation in heaven should motivate our holiness. (2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 25:20ff)

1) We want to hear “well done, good and faithful servant” after we are called to account for what God has given us.

2) God’s reward for faithfulness is more responsibility.

3) God invites us to share in His happiness through holiness. (John 10:10; John 15:10-11; 1 Peter 1:15-16)

## III. Question and answer session.

Q: How do we develop a hatred for sin and a love for holiness?

A: It’s the work of the Holy Spirit. He uses our study of scripture to make us sensitive to sin and see God’s holiness. (Psalm 119:36-37)

Q: How can we continue this motivation? Any suggested scripture passages?

A: Focus on two things: the holiness of God and His love for me. (Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 4:8; Hebrews 2:10)

Q: Any practical suggestions for when you don't feel like being holy?

A: Apply the principles of scripture that God will help us and that I can say no- actually mentally say "No" to sin and then ask God for help. (Titus 2:12; Hebrews 4:16)

**Application questions:**

1. Jerry encourages us to focus on Christ's sacrifice for us to motivate our desire for holiness, but this could be misunderstood to imply that we must desire holiness out of obligation to Christ. What is the difference between being motivated toward holy living out of obligation as opposed to out of gratitude and a sense of acceptance?

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2. Why is it important to God that we be holy?

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3. Consider memorizing some of the passages of scripture that make you aware of how much you are loved by God. When you are tempted to sin, how can these scripture passages help you choose holy conduct?

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