

Holiness

But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:15-16

Our focus this month is on holiness...the holiness of God and His command we be holy. God's holiness reflects His perfection. We are imperfect, so how can we successfully obey His command to be holy? Consider these passages from Jerry Bridges' *The Pursuit of Holiness*:

"Many Christians have what we might call a 'cultural holiness.' They adapt to the character and behavior pattern of Christians around them. As the Christian culture around them is more or less holy, so these Christians are more or less holy. But God has not called us to be like those around us. He has called us to be like Himself. *Holiness is nothing less than conformity to the character of God.*" (emphasis added)

"Holiness is not only expected; it is the promised birthright of every Christian."

"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."

Our standard comes not from this world, but from God's holiness. Our ability to be holy comes not from our worthiness, but from His Perfect Son and our yielding to the power and control of the Holy Spirit. We are told not to conform to this world, but to renew our minds with God's Word. Christ is our perfect goal.

*If you or your group has already read <u>The Pursuit of Holiness</u>, you can also read <u>The Saving Life of</u> <u>Christ by: Major Ion Thomas</u>

Current Month Assignments

- Read one of the following books on holiness:
 - o <u>The Pursuit of Holiness by: Jerry Bridges</u>
 - o The Saving Life of Christ by: Major Ion Thomas
- Prepare a book summary (approximately one page) with the following info:
 - List the big ideas.
 - List your key takeaways.
 - o Discuss how you will apply to your life now.
 - Email this summary to each DM in your group prior to this month's meeting.
- Because of the "weight" of this month's subject: holiness, we are encouraging you to keep a journal and for a minimum of 14 days. You will journal daily and reflect on any areas of your life that God brings before you mind out of your personal quit time, or book reading.
 - Here's a great resource on the discipline of journaling that we encourage you to check out: <u>5 Ways to Flourish in Journaling</u>
- Memorize the verses attached. Be prepared to quote each verse and reference. *Review your verses from previous months to ensure they become deeply rooted!*
- Man-date: When you meet, *discuss your progress and struggles of practicing daily worship in your life,* along with your memory verses.

Memory Verses

1 Peter 1:15-16

But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

2 Corinthians 7:1

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from ever defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.

1 Timothy 4:12

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

Exodus 15:11

"Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is live you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?