

BIBLICAL HOLINESS

for the 21st Century

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Biblical Holiness for the 21st Century

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Way of Life Bible College

Biblical Holiness for the 21st Century is a book for reading and a textbook for a Bible course.

The course is part of the *Way of Life Bible College* which replaced the *Advanced Bible Studies Series* in 2023. The course has video classes, textbook, syllabus, review questions, and tests.

The textbook can be read as a book, but it is more effectual to take the material as a Bible course.

The video classes cover the highlights of the course. It is up to the student to go through all of the material so he can answer the review questions and take the tests.

The Student's Responsibility

It is the student's responsibility to learn the course. You can't depend on the teacher and the classes. The teacher's role is to guide, to explain, to help, and to teach highlights of the course. But the teacher can't actually teach you in the sense of putting the Word of God into your mind and heart and life.

The student will get as much from the course as he or she puts into it. For the greatest benefit, the student must do the following: **(1) He must listen actively to the classroom teaching either on the videos or by a teacher.** He must do his best to capture the teaching. He must follow along in the textbook and write down things that aren't in the textbook. He must lean into the teaching, give it his full attention, and refuse to be distracted. **(2) The student must study the textbook on his own, including those sections not covered in the classes.** **(3) The student must use the review questions to prepare for the tests.** This is a very important part of learning the material. The first step in this is for the student to answer as many of the review questions as he can without the textbook. Next, he consults the textbook to check his answers and to find the

answers to the questions he could not answer. Finally, he should access the review question answers and check them against his answers. **(4) *The student must take the tests, then go back and find the answer to every question that is missed.*** The tests are based on the review questions. The tests are taken with the textbook closed.

The Necessity of a Supervisor

If the student is taking the course by himself and not as part of a class, it is imperative that he or she find someone to supervise the studies. The supervisor can be a relative, pastor, teacher, or friend. The individual must be capable, dependable, and committed to the task of supervising the student's progress through the course. This entails (1) making sure that the student completes the studies in a timely fashion, (2) checking the assignments, and (3) overseeing the testing.

- Way of Life Bible College
<https://www.wayoflife.org/bible-college/>

- Courses
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Course Download: Syllabus, Review Questions, Tests, and Score Sheet may be downloaded for free. Look for the green "Download Course" button on the individual description/purchase page for your particular course textbook. Here's a direct link to the courses page:
www.wayoflife.org/courses/

Holiness the Need of the Hour

“... worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness” (1 Chronicles 16:29).

“... worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness” (Psalm 29:2).

“O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness” (Psalm 96:9).

Strengthening the Christian homes and churches in holiness is far more important for America, or any nation, than conservative political action and conversation.

Unregenerate people can engage in conservative political action, but only born again people can engage in holiness.

A fundamental problem in the moral collapse of Western society is the lukewarmness, worldliness, heresy, and complete apostasy of the churches. Unless this is addressed, nothing of substance will change. The underlying spiritual issues must be dealt with, and this is not something that the vast majority of political conservatives understand.

God's redeemed people must not get sidetracked from the business God has given them. “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:18-20).

The headquarters for Christ's Great Commission is the New Testament church. It is “the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Ti. 3:15).

A New Testament church is a holy church, and a holy church has spiritual power, life-changing, home-changing,

even nation-changing power. It is not the size of the church that matters; rather, it is the holiness of the church that matters.

Sample

What Is Holiness?

We must begin by defining holiness. This is a fundamental element of studying the Bible. If you don't understand the words, you can't possibly understand the Bible.

The terms "holy," "holiness," "sanctify," "hallow," "consecrate," "spiritual," and "saint" are all translated from the Hebrew word, *qodes* and from the Greek word, *hágias*.

These words are mentioned nearly 500 times in the Old Testament and 500 times in the New Testament.

God is the standard of holiness.

- God is holy (Le. 20:26).
- God is the Holy One (Isa. 29:23). God is called "Holy One" about 50 times in Scripture.
- God is thrice holy (Isa. 6:3).
- God is glorious in holiness (Ex. 15:11).
- God's name is holy (Le. 20:3).
- God dwells in a holy habitation (Ex. 15:13) and sits on a holy throne (Ps. 47:8).
- God is holy in all His works (Ps. 145:17).
- God's words are holy (Jer. 23:9).

Holiness is a fundamental part of God's character. This is the God that all men must deal with. If your God isn't holy, he is an idol. The ancient gods of the Babylonians and Greeks and Romans were not holy. They were morally filthy. Zeus was an adulterer. The gods of Hinduism aren't holy. Shiva had 1,000 girlfriends.

There are two basic meanings of holiness.

First, holy means to be set apart for God's possession and service.

In this sense, many things other than people are said to be holy.

- holy ground (Ex. 3:5)
- holy sabbath (Ex. 16:23)

- holy mountain (Ex. 19:23)
- holy garments (Ex. 28:2)
- holy offerings (Ex. 29:34)
- holy ark (2 Ch. 35:3)
- holy altar (Ex. 29:37)
- holy oil (Ex. 30:25)
- holy laver (Ex. 40:11)
- holy tabernacle (Ex. 29:44)
- holy convocation (Nu. 29:1)
- holy temple (1 Ch. 29:16)
- holy hill of Zion (Ps. 2:6)
- holy covenant (Da. 11:28)

The Nazarite was holy because he was separated unto God ("All the days of his separation he *is* holy unto the LORD," Nu. 6:8).

Israel is holy because God chose Israel and set her apart for Himself. "For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that *are* upon the face of the earth" (De. 7:6).

The believer's meals are sanctified or made holy by the Word of God and prayer (1 Ti. 4:4-5). This means the meal is consecrated unto God.

The believer is to sanctify the Lord God in his heart in the sense of making God prominent in his thoughts and affections (1 Pe. 3:15).

A holy person or saint or sanctified person is a person who has been set apart for God's possession and purpose by faith in Christ's blood. This is the meaning of "peculiar people" in 1 Peter 2:9-10--"But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God..." "Peculiar" is the Greek *peripoiésis*, which is translated "purchased possession" (Eph.

How I Learned the Fundamentals of Holiness

By the time I came to Christ at age 23, my life was a mess because of sin. I started drinking in high school and using drugs during a tour in Vietnam. After I returned to the States and was discharged from the Army, I worked in a children's psychiatric hospital, sold drugs for a living for a short while, then I traveled across America from Florida to California and back twice, hitchhiking much of the way. I was living the foolish rock & roll lifestyle to the hilt. I joined a Hindu meditation society and dabbled in other philosophies.

Filthy habits, immorality, drugs, liquor, cursing and blasphemy wound the spirit deeply, and they leave moral and emotional scars. You can't play with fire without getting burned, and burns, even when healed, leave scars.

I have struggled with depression throughout my Christian life, and I am convinced that it stems from my former lifestyle, particularly the heavy drug usage and even more particularly the hallucinogenic drugs such as LSD and psilocybin. I believe I was harmed psychically and emotionally by marijuana, too, which was my first drug other than liquor and proved to be the door to other drugs.

By the time I came to Christ, I was deeply depressed. I never had a happy thought. I didn't look forward to anything. My emotions were dead. My feelings were dark and anxious.

I came to Christ in a motel room in Daytona Beach, Florida, in the summer of 1973. I had spent a few days traveling with a Christian brother who patiently taught me the Bible, and the final night together the Lord answered his prayers and the prayers of my mother and father and godly maternal grandmother and others, and I was peacefully but dramatically converted. One hour I was antagonistic toward Christ

and the Bible, believing there are many paths to God and that I needed to follow my own heart, and the next hour I was a Bible believer who was 100% convinced that Christ is the only Lord and Saviour.

I began to grow and I was greatly changed in many ways, but I was still depressed a lot. It wasn't as deep and relentless as before, and now I looked forward to many things and was excited about life and could laugh again; but the depression was still real, and the devil used that. He would whisper to me that God hadn't accepted me, that I was a hypocrite, that I was unloveable and unloved, that there was no hope that I could be changed. Some nights, especially, the battle was terrible. Sometimes I again called out to the Lord to save me!

The problem wasn't limited to depression. The problem was sin. I still got angry a lot. There were impure thoughts. I still doubted and feared. I still loved rock & roll. I was still tempted by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. I had renounced the world for Christ; I understand the world's emptiness and unholiness, and on one hand I didn't want anything more to do with it, but the world still had a hold on me in some ways.

I wanted complete, abiding, unchanging victory, but I couldn't find it.

I am reminded of Harry Ironside's description of his early Christian life.

"As nearly as I can now recollect, I was in the enjoyment of the knowledge of God's salvation about a month when, in some dispute with my brother, who was younger than I, my temper suddenly escaped control, and in an angry passion I struck and felled him to the ground. Horror immediately filled my soul. I needed not his sarcastic taunt, 'Well, you are a nice Christian!' ... From this time on mine was an 'up-and-down experience,' to use a term often heard in 'testimony meetings.' I longed for perfect victory over the lusts and desires of

The Fundamentals of Holiness

Following are some of the fundamental Bible principles of holiness, spiritual victory, and fruit bearing.

In truth, the whole Bible is necessary for the practice of holiness. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness [or holiness]: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2 Ti. 3:16-17). The way of holiness is found in the law and the prophets, in the Psalms, in the Gospels, in Acts, and in every Epistle.

No one "key" to holiness

Perfectionist and "higher life" teachings focus on one "key" or "secret" by which the believer can enter into an abiding experience of victory, blessing, and near perfection. Many "keys" have been proposed, such as the baptism of the Holy Spirit, a second touch or blessing, the crucified life, the abiding life, the resting life, and joy in God.

Lewis Sperry Chafer said, "Romans 6:1-10 ... is the foundation as well as the key to the possibility of a walk in the Spirit (*He That Is Spiritual*, p. 154).

While Romans 6:1-10 is a very important passage, what about all the other passages about sanctification? What about the rest of Romans 6 and Romans 7 and Romans 8 and Romans 12 and Ephesians 4-6 and Colossians 2-3, etc.?

If there were such a key, the New Testament Epistles would present that key very clearly and it would be described as the one necessary element in spiritual victory. Everything else would be relegated to a lesser thing.

daily prayer closet. He has seasons of prayer. He intercedes in prayer. He prays without ceasing. He is in communion with his God throughout the day. He prays with his wife and family. He loves corporate prayer. He loves praying with the brethren. He has prayer partners ("brethren, pray for us," 1 Th. 5:25; 2 Th. 3:1).

Born again salvation is essential to holiness. This must be settled.

The New Testament church is essential for holiness. It is so important that it is worth relocating for.

Position and Practice (Ephesians)

There are two aspects of the believer's sanctification or holiness, and it is essential that the child of God understand this foundational truth.

There is position and there is practice. There is sanctification as an unchanging position in Christ, and there is sanctification in a practical sense of growing in Christ in this present world. The believer can say, "I *am* sanctified in Christ, and I *am being* sanctified in Christ." Ultimately, the child of God *will be* completely sanctified at the resurrection.

If you don't understand this, you will be confused. Consider Ro. 6:6-7; Gal. 5:24; and Col. 2:11.

Position and practice is the theme of the epistle to the Ephesians.

Ephesians chapters 1-3 describe the believer's new *position or standing* in Christ.

Here, the key words are "in Christ" (Eph. 1:1, 3, 10, 12, 20; 2:6, 10, 13; 3:6, 11).

In God's eyes, the born again believer is

- blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places (Eph. 1:3)
- holy and without blame before him in love (Eph. 1:4)
- accepted in the beloved (Eph. 1:6)
- forgiven of sins (Eph. 1:7)

- redeemed (Eph. 1:7)
- in possession of an eternal inheritance (Eph. 1:11)
- sealed and indwelt by God's Spirit (Eph. 1:13-14)
- seated in the heavenly places (Eph. 2:6-7)

Jesus Christ is the believer's holiness.

In the Old Testament, the high priest wore a holy golden crown attached to a mitre made of fine white linen (Ex. 28:36-39). The mitre and crown represent Christ as having all authority in heaven and in earth. The fine white linen represents Christ's perfect holiness. Upon the front of the mitre was attached a golden plate engraved with the words "Holiness to the Lord." Christ is holy before the Father and the believer is holy "in Christ." Christ's holiness is the believer's holiness (2 Co. 5:21; Heb. 9:24). Believers are not accepted before God because of their own holiness, but because of the holiness of their High Priest, Jesus Christ ("But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us ... righteousness, and sanctification," 1 Co. 1:30). As the crown of holiness was always upon Aaron's forehead (Ex. 28:38), the believer is accepted always and forever (Heb. 9:28)!

The new position described in Ephesians 1-3 is not based on the believer's works; it is God's free gift in Christ. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9). Christ paid the full price by His blood ("we have redemption through his blood," Eph. 1:7). "Redemption" means to purchase, to liberate by paying the ransom price.

Therefore, the believer's new position is sure and unchanging. It cannot be improved, and it cannot be lost.

The believer is predestinated to be conformed to the image of Christ (Ro. 8:28-29). Complete sanctification is God's plan for every believer, and it is sure! Nothing can stop it. God's Word guarantees that we *will* bear the image of the heavenly, which is Christ (1 Co. 15:49).

- Fellowship requires separation from the world (1 Jo. 2:15-17).
- Fellowship requires separation from false teachers (1 Jo. 2:18-27).
- Fellowship requires watching for and being prepared for Christ's return (1 Jo. 2:28 - 3:10).
- Fellowship requires effectual prayer (1 Jo. 3:19-24; 5:14-15).
- Fellowship requires a biblical testing mindset (1 Jo. 4:1-6).
- Fellowship requires knowing the love of God (1 Jo. 4:7-21).
- Fellowship requires keeping God's commandments (1 Jo. 5:1-3).
- Fellowship requires faith in Christ (1 Jo. 5:4-13).
- Fellowship requires being aware of chastisement and the sin unto death (1 Jo. 5:16-18).
- Fellowship requires knowing that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness (1 Jo. 5:19-20).
- Fellowship requires keeping oneself from idols (1 Jo. 5:21).

Relationship and fellowship can be illustrated by human relationships. I was born into my father's family and I am his son. Nothing has ever changed that. There were times when I was disobedient and foolish and I displeased my father, and we did not have good fellowship during those times. My father still loved me and yearned for my fellowship, but I had to repent and honor him before that could happen. The same is true in God's family.

Immersion in the Scriptures

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

After salvation, nothing is more important for a life of holiness than becoming a serious, lifelong Bible student.

This major passage on the divine nature and power of Scripture (2 Ti. 3:16-17) is at the heart of the major passage warning of end-time apostasy (2 Timothy 3-4). Scripture is the victory in the midst of apostasy.

Scripture is the quick and powerful Word of God (Heb. 4:12); it is pure truth (Joh. 17:17); it is light in a dark world (2 Pe. 1:19-21); it is “able to build you up” (Ac. 20:32).

Being immersed in Scripture is the path of holiness and the victory over apostasy. No matter how dark the times, Scripture is the victory. God’s people must be Bible people.

- They must not entertain *any* doubt about the Bible’s *absolute* authority.
- They must set out to be serious Bible students. This must be a major commitment. They must learn to read it, study it, rightly divide it, and memorize it.
- Their hearts and minds must be filled with God’s Word (“in his law doth he meditate day and night,” Ps. 1:2).
- The Christian homes must be filled with God’s Word (De. 6:4-9). Learning to be a Bible student should begin in childhood and increase throughout one’s entire life. (We deal with how to do this in *Keeping the Kids in the Social Media Age*, www.wayoflife.org.)
- The churches must be serious Bible institutes with the goal of building up every member in God’s Word to the utmost of his or her ability. The church should *have* a Bible institute to train preachers and full-time workers, and it should *be* a Bible institute to train every member. This requires expository Bible preaching, Bible classes, Bible courses, Bible conferences, an educational web site, a good bookstore, a lending library, etc.
- This requires education in how to study the Bible. It requires Bible surveys to get a grasp of the entire Scripture, learning Bible study methods, learning the rules of Bible interpretation, learning how to do word studies, learning how to use sound Bible study tools, learning to rightly interpret Bible prophecy, learning how to interpret figurative language, learning about Bible times and the ancient nations surrounding Israel, Bible geography, Bible customs, etc. (The *Way of Life Bible College* has a large selection of courses designed to help believers of all ages become serious Bible students, www.wayoflife.org.)

and take priority over my relationship with the Lord can choke the seed of God's Word so that I become unfruitful.

Don't allow anything whatsoever to become a lust that chokes the Word so that you aren't fruitful for Christ.

Consider the pleasures of this life.

This can refer to anything, even innocent things like sports or physical fitness or chess or a simple video game or fishing or reading.

I met a young man in a Bible college in Singapore who was a regional chess champion. After the Lord called had him to preach and led him to pursue full-time training, he was offered a part-time job writing a chess column for a newspaper. He thought it would be a good way to help support himself, but he found that he couldn't get the chess moves out of his mind. Chess was crowding out God's Word. He wisely cut off this activity so that he could meditate effectively upon the Scripture and the things of God. If you find anything whatsoever in your life that is becoming a lust to choke the Word, cut it off!

I think of an elderly preacher who grew up near South Africa's Kruger Park where he spent a lot of time with his grandfather and fell in love with the scenery and wildlife. He told me that after the Lord called him to pastor, he had to be careful not to spend too much time in the park. He had to guard his heart and priorities to keep God and God's Word preeminent.

A Biblical Testing Mindset

(Hebrews 5:12-14)

The biblical testing mindset is the companion practice to being immersed in Scripture.

A biblical testing mindset has three elements:

- First, a biblical testing mindset is to know that this present life is filled with spiritual, doctrinal, and moral danger and it is necessary to be vigilant, cautious, and watchful.
- Second, a biblical testing mindset is to learn the Scripture well so as to be protected from the danger.
- Third, a biblical testing mindset is to use the Scripture to test everything in life to see if it is right or wrong, true or false, good or evil, acceptable or unacceptable in God's will.

The biblical, testing mindset is a major teaching of Scripture.

Proverbs 14:15 "The simple believeth every word: but the prudent *man* looketh well to his going."

Matthew 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits.

Acts 17:11 "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

2 Corinthians 10:5 "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

Ephesians 5:10 "Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord."

Philippians 1:10 "That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ."

Colossians 2:8 "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

1 Thessalonians 5:21 “Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.”

1 Timothy 6:20 “O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called.”

Hebrews 5:14 “But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

1 Peter 5:8 “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”

1 John 4:1 “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

This is a very strict manner of living. This instruction puts the believer in mind to be more concerned about avoiding sin and error than about having “liberty.” It puts the believer in mind that he is a pilgrim in a foreign and dangerous world, and he must be constantly on guard.

Hebrews 5:11-14 is a summary of the biblical testing mindset. It requires becoming skillful in God’s Word and using it to exercise the spiritual senses to discern both good and evil.

“Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

This is the path of maturity. It is the path of becoming “of full age.” This is a truly biblical Christian lifestyle.

be able to witness to them. He put evangelism before money. This is pilgrim Christianity.

- I think of a lawyer friend who had a good private practice and lived a high lifestyle with a home in a gated community. He had a spiritual revival and made a decision to spend a large portion of his time in street preaching and tract distribution, and toward that end he downgraded his economic lifestyle so he could spend less time with his business. This is pilgrim Christianity.

- I think of C.T. Studd, the son of a wealthy man and a cricket champion who surrendered to be a missionary in China. He gave away his large inheritance to various missionary works and lived by faith in God's promises. He said "the bank of Heaven is safer than the Bank of England."

- I think of William Borden, the son of a wealthy man. He surrendered to be a missionary and gave away his inheritance but died in Egypt at age 25 while studying the language. When he gave up his fortune, he wrote in his Bible, "No reserve." When his father was unhappy with his decision to be a missionary, he wrote, "No retreat." When he learned that he was dying at age 25, he wrote, "No regrets."

- I think of R.G. Letourneau, who invented and sold heavy equipment and gave 90% of his income to the Lord. He built the biggest machines on earth in the 1940s to the 1960s. His machines helped America win World War II against Germany and Japan. Letourneau's equipment also helped America build its interstate highway system. He gave the vast majority of his income to evangelism and missionary work. Inscribed on Letourneau's grave is Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Putting Off and Putting On

(Ephesians 4:22-25)

"But ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conver-

sation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another" (Eph. 4:20-25).

This passage describes holiness in terms of putting off the old man and putting on the new.

It is a process, not an event. There is no hint here that the believer can ever get beyond or fly above this process.

The "old man" is mentioned three times in the New Testament. See also Ro. 6:6 and Col. 3:9. It is the "sin nature" that we inherited from Adam. It is "corrupt according to the deceitful lusts" (Eph. 4:22). It is also called the "flesh" (Gal. 5:17), the "body of sin" (Ro. 6:6), and "the body of this death" (Ro. 7:24).

The old man is present in the Christian life. God does not remove it. The old man can be "put off" but not "put out." John taught emphatically that if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves (1 Jo. 1:8). Any teaching of sinless perfectionism is false. Some claim that the old man is not the sin nature, but that is exactly what it is.

The old man does not refer to everything in the former life. It refers to everything which is corrupt (Eph. 4:22).

The lusts of the old man are deceitful (Eph. 4:22). They promise life but bring death; they promise happiness but bring depression; they promise liberty but bring bondage.

Putting off the old man means to cease to do the evil things associated with the old man: lying (Eph. 4:25), selfish anger (Eph. 4:26), stealing (Eph. 4:28), corrupt speech (Eph. 4:29-31), fornication and every form of moral filthiness (Eph. 5:3-4).

Putting on the new man means to live according to Christ's character: truth (Eph. 4:25), honesty and labor and giving

(Eph. 4:28), edifying speech (Eph. 4:29), kindness and forgiveness (Eph. 4:32), walking circumspectly (Eph. 5:15), redeeming the time (Eph. 5:16), being filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18), singing hymns (Eph. 5:19), giving thanks for all things (Eph. 5:20), wives submitting to their husbands (Eph. 5:22), husbands loving their wives (Eph. 5:25), children obeying and honoring their parents (Eph. 6:1-2), fathers nurturing their children (Eph. 6:4), servants obeying their masters (Eph. 6:5-8), masters treating their servants in a godly manner (Eph. 6:9).

This is the life of the new man in Christ. It is the life of holiness.

If the believer focuses his attention on these things and fills his life with these things, he grows in righteousness.

Both aspects--putting off and putting on--are required for holy sanctification, not only one or the other. The popular "focus on the positive" philosophy is not scriptural. There must also be a focus on putting away sin, on separation from sin and error. In fact, "putting off the old" is mentioned first by way of emphasis (Eph. 4:22).

Renewal in the spirit of the mind is an essential part of this process (Eph. 4:23).

- The mind is the chief battleground. What the believer meditates upon is what will control his life.
- The instrument of renewal is God's infallible Word. It has the power to renew the mind. It is the Spirit's quick and powerful sword that pierces to the innermost depths of the soul and spirit and brings renewal and change (Heb. 4:12). The Word of God changes our thinking so that we learn to think God's thoughts. It changes our attitude. It changes our character.
- The life is transformed by the renewing of the mind (Ro. 12:2).

The more zealous the believer is about obeying this process, the more he will grow and have fruit. Half-heartedness in this produces a lukewarm Christian life. "On the

completeness of such renunciation depends our future health and soundness of spirit. If our repentance does not go deep, if the grace of God does not search and purify the very grounds of our life, we shall never enjoy soundness and strength. If any of the vicious element is left, it will work and spoil the sweetness of our soul” (*Biblical Illustrator*).

This is the path of spiritual protection. By putting off the old man and putting on the new man, the believer puts distance between himself and his old life and that is the path of protection. Those who don’t get very far away from the old life and don’t make good spiritual progress are in great danger of backsliding. After he came to repentance, the Prodigal Son was wise to put a long distance between himself and the “far country” (Lu. 15:13).

Adding to Your Faith

(2 Peter 1:3-11)

This passage describes holiness in terms of adding new things to the Christian life.

Consider some important lessons from this fundamental text on holiness:

1. Growth in holiness flows from salvation (2 Pe. 1:1).

There can be no growth until there is life. This comes by faith in Jesus Christ.

2. Christian growth flows from abundant salvation (2 Pe. 1:3).

At salvation the believer has everything he needs to grow and be fruitful. All he has to do is use it. He doesn’t need a “second blessing,” “second baptism,” or “second touch.”

3. Growth in holiness is a process of adding to one’s faith (2 Pe. 1:5-7).

At salvation, the child of God has only one thing, and that is faith in Christ as only Saviour. “For by grace are ye saved