

COMPLETING THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOLINESS

TEXT: (II Corinthians 7:1, TPT).

¹ Beloved ones, with promises like these, and because of our deepest respect and worship of God, we must remove everything from our lives that contaminates body and spirit, and continue to complete the development of holiness within us.

INTRODUCTION

A. Holiness Is Not an Option

1. "Work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14, NLT).
2. "Run swiftly toward holiness, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14, TPT).
3. "But because the God who called you is holy you must be holy in every aspect of your life. Scripture says, 'Be holy, because I am holy'" (I Peter 1:15-16, GWT).
4. "They called Peter and John and ordered them never to teach about Jesus or even mention his name.

Peter and John answered them, 'Decide for yourselves whether God wants people to listen to you rather than to him. We cannot stop talking about what we've seen and heard'" (Acts 4:18-20, GWT).

B. Holiness Is Nothing More or Less Than Being a Christian.

1. "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men.

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:13-16, NIV).

I. The Essence of Holiness

A. Holiness Is a Result of the Spirit of God

1. "Don't you know that your body is a temple that belongs to the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit, whom you received from God, lives in you. You don't belong to yourselves. You were bought for a price. So bring glory to God in the way you use your body" (I Corinthians 6:19-20, GWT).

B. Holiness Demands Separation

1. "You are a holy people, who belong to the LORD your God. He chose you to be his own special possession out of all the nations on earth.

The LORD set his heart on you and chose you" (Deuteronomy 7:6-7, GWT)

C. Holiness Does Not Mean Isolation, but Rather Insulation.

1. "I'm not asking you to take them out of the world but to protect them from the evil one. They don't belong to the world any more than I belong to the world" (John. 17:15, GWT).
2. "Ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (I Peter 2:9, KJV).
3. "But you are God's chosen treasure —priests who are kings, a spiritual 'nation' set apart as God's devoted ones. He called you out of darkness to experience his

marvelous light, and now he claims you as his very own. He did this so that you would broadcast his glorious wonders *throughout the world*" (I Peter 2:9, TPT).

II. HOW HOLINESS IS OBTAINED

A. Begins with the New Birth

1. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:6, KJV).
2. "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age" (Titus 2:11-12, NIV).

B. Maintained by Walking after the Spirit

1. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Romans 8:14, KJV).

C. Includes Assent to Authority

1. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7, KJV).
3. "Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you" (Hebrews 13:17, NIV).

III. HOLINESS IN HEART AND ACTION

1. "Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me" (Psalms 51:10, NLT).

A. A Clean Heart and Loyalty to God

1. "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:1, KJV).
2. "I long to drink of you, O God, *to drink deeply from the streams of pleasure* flowing from your presence. My longings overwhelm me for more of you! My soul thirsts, pants, and longs for the living God. I want to come and see the face of God" (Psalm 42:1-2, TPT).
3. "In thy presence *is* fulness of joy; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore" (Psalm 16:11, KJV).

B. Inward Holiness Is Manifest Outwardly

1. "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies (outward) as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind (inward). Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Romans 12:1-2, NIV).
2. "Beloved friends, what should be our proper response to God's marvelous mercies? To surrender yourselves to God to be his sacred, living sacrifices. And live in holiness, experiencing all that delights his heart. For this becomes your genuine expression of worship" (Romans 12:1-2, TPT).
3. Beloved ones, with promises like these, and because of our deepest respect and worship of God, we must remove everything from our lives that contaminates body (outward) and spirit (outward), and continue to complete the development of holiness within us" (II Corinthians 7:1, TPT).