**The Pursuit of Holiness: God’s Provision and Our Responsibility**

**Romans 6:11 (ESV)**So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

1. **God’s Salvation: Escaping the Penalty of Sin**
   1. **Sin creates spiritual slavery.**

**John 8:34 (ESV)**Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.

* 1. **Sin causes spiritual death.**

**Ephesians 2:1 (ESV)**And you were dead in the trespasses and sins

**Ephesians 2:2 (ESV)**in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—

**Ephesians 2:3 (ESV)**among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

**Ephesians 2:4 (ESV)**But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us,

**Ephesians 2:5 (ESV)**even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

**Ephesians 2:6 (ESV)**and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

**Ephesians 2:7 (ESV)**so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

* 1. **Sin brings eternal judgment.**

**Romans 6:23 (ESV)**For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

* 1. **Jesus sets us free from sin.**

**Romans 8:1 (ESV)**There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

**Romans 8:2 (ESV)**For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

* 1. **Freedom from sin creates a desire for righteousness.**

**Romans 6:18 (ESV)**and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

1. **God’s Spirit: Overcoming the Power of Sin**
   1. **The Holy Spirit lives within every believer.**

**Romans 8:9 (ESV)**You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him.

**Romans 8:10 (ESV)**But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

**Romans 8:11 (ESV)**If the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

* 1. **The Holy Spirit desires believers to live holy lives.**

**1 Thessalonians 4:7 (ESV)**For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.

**1 Thessalonians 4:8 (ESV)**Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives His Holy Spirit to you.

* 1. **The Holy Spirit empowers us to be holy.**

**Galatians 5:16 (ESV)**But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

* 1. **Spirit-empowered holiness is the “outworking” of your salvation.**

**Philippians 2:12 (ESV)**Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

**Philippians 2:13 (ESV)**for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.

* 1. **We express our dependence on the Holy Spirit by knowing and obeying God’s Word.**

**Isaiah 66:2 (ESV)**But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at My word.

* 1. **We express our dependence on the Holy Spirit by praying for holiness.**

**Ephesians 3:16 (ESV)**… that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being,

“We cannot live a holy life in our own strength. Christianity is not a do-it-yourself thing.” — Jerry Bridges

1. **God’s People: Avoiding the Practice of Sin**
   1. **A desire for holiness is evidence of salvation.**

**2 Peter 3:13 (ESV)**But according to His promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

**2 Peter 3:14 (ESV)**Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by Him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

**1 John 3:2 (ESV)**Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is.

**1 John 3:3 (ESV)**And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure.

“Holiness is not a series of do’s and don’ts, but conformity to the character of God and obedience to the will of God.” — Jerry Bridges

* 1. **Practical holiness does not happen automatically; we must pursue it.**

**Hebrews 12:1 (ESV)**Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us …

**Colossians 3:5 (ESV)**Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

**Colossians 3:6 (ESV)**On account of these the wrath of God is coming.

**Colossians 3:7 (ESV)**In these you too once walked, when you were living in them.

**Colossians 3:8 (ESV)**But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

**Colossians 3:9 (ESV)**Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices

**Colossians 3:10 (ESV)**and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

**Romans 13:14 (ESV)**But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

“Too often we say we are ‘defeated’ by this or that sin. No, we are not defeated; we are simply disobedient!” — Jerry Bridges

**Dealing with Persistent Sins [List on one slide.]**

* *Recognize your responsibility.*
* *Identify, confess, and forsake the sin.*
* *Apply the Gospel.*
* *Depend daily on the Holy Spirit.*
* *Learn and apply appropriate Scripture.*
* *Cultivate the practice of prayer.*
* *Make yourself accountable to other believers.*

1. **God’s Promise: Vanquishing the Presence of Sin**

**Revelation 21:27 (ESV)**But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s book of life.

**Revelation 22:14 (ESV)**Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.

**Revelation 22:15 (ESV)**Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.