

FUNDAMENTAL FACTS FOR FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS

Lesson Nine **HOLINESS**

The word **holy** is found in the entire Bible **596** times; **holiness** **45** times; **righteous** **236** times; **righteousness** **300** times; and **sanctify**, **sanctified**, and **sanctification** a total of **136** times.

Holy, holiness, righteous, righteousness, sanctify, and sanctification all mean basically **THE SAME THING**:

“Perfection, spiritually pure, **SET APART** to a sacred purpose or to religious use, consecrated, dedicated, innocent, just, lawful, cleansed.”

Some will differ with me as to the difference between righteousness and holiness. I will not quarrel with that for I respect their opinion. But, basically it still comes back to **BEING RIGHT WITH GOD**, and we **CANNOT** be right with God without being **holy**.

We must realize, however, that there is a difference between **HOLINESS** and **JUSTIFICATION**. Some are making a shipwreck of their faith by believing the lie that **justification** places them in the position of **holiness** to the extent they **NEED NEVER** do any more to **PERFECT** holiness after they are **justified**, or **saved**. (See Chapter Four, “The Big Lie,” in my book, **What Is Holiness?**)

God commanded those in the Old Testament to be **holy**.

*For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore **SANCTIFY YOURSELVES**, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

Leviticus 11:44

The Apostle Peter reminds us of this in the New testament.

*But as he which hath called you is holy, so **BE YE HOLY** in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, **BE YE HOLY**; for I am holy.*

1 Peter 1:15-16

If you will notice the context of both of these passages, you will find there is something the **READER MUST DO** to be **holy**.

Therein lies the grave mistake many teachers and preachers are spreading today, and that is that **holiness** is **GIVEN** to us automatically and there is **NOTHING WE CAN DO** to make ourselves **holy**.

Obviously, they are not seeing clearly enough to understand the difference between **holiness** and justification.

As a class, read Romans 4:1-5.

The words **justified** and **justification** mean “to be acquitted, to be innocent, free from sin.”

When Abraham was **justified** by faith it brought him to a place of “acquittal,” “freedom” from his past sins, or as so many like to define **justified**, JUST-AS-IF-I’D never sinned.

But you see, **justification** only brings you to **THE STARTING LINE** of your Christian experience. As great as **justification** or salvation is, it is **not the end of the race**, it is **only the start**.

The argument that you can never be any more perfect than when you arise from the place of prayer where you are made clean by the blood of Jesus Christ is a **GOOD ARGUMENT**. Truthfully, we are redeemed, justified, or born again because of faith in Christ’s work on the cross, and **NOT BY OUR OWN** good works.

*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.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Fundamental Facts-Lesson 9 -Page 2

But let's not stop there.

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus UNTO GOOD WORKS, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. **Ephesians 2:10**

It is true, you can **NEVER** make yourself good enough to be accepted into the family of God, you **MUST** be born into that family by the Spirit of God.

But it is just like the little baby who is born, and the doctor comes out to tell us the baby is perfect. All it can do is cry, throw up, and make messes. Yet, that baby **IS DECLARED PERFECT**. However, if in a certain period of time that baby does not begin to pull itself up, or walk, or talk, we know that the baby has not retained its state of perfection, **BECAUSE** it has **CEASED** to **GROW** and make **NORMAL** progress.

We take that baby to the doctor and want to know what is wrong. How do we know something is wrong? We can easily determine that the baby is no longer perfect because it is not making normal progress. Perfection in this instance means growth, improvement, and coming to maturity.

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.

Matthew 5:48

These words of Jesus are talking about **LABOR**, **GROWTH**, and completeness as we mature and make **FORWARD** progress. So you see, if we do not **CONTINUE** to grow, to labor and mature, we who were once perfect **BECOME** imperfect.

Many have been misled into believing that if they try to make themselves better by living a holy life, they are in danger of falling from (or at least frustrating) grace.

How can those teachers ignore such scriptures as the following?

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, WORK OUT your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Philippians 2:12

The preceding verse, by the way, is written by the Apostle Paul, **THE SAME MAN** who, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote Romans 4:1-8.

There is no contradiction here, none at all. You see, in one place, Romans 4:1-8, he is talking of **BEING SAVED**; in the other, Philippians 2:12, he is talking about necessary **GROWTH** after **SALVATION**, or justification.

Again, there is **NO** contradiction or discrepancy in the two teachings: ONE, that there is absolutely **NOTHING YOU CAN DO** to make yourself good enough to be saved; TWO, that you yourself **MUST DO SOMETHING** if you are to stay in the grace of God.

The **problem** arises either when the **sinner TRIES TO EARN his** salvation, or when the **Christian** ignores **his** responsibility to **KEEP HIMSELF** in the grace of God and perfect holiness in his life.

What is so amazing is that so-called Bible teachers and expositors not only cannot see this truth, they fight against it.

Many loudly proclaim there is nothing we can do to keep ourselves. We are kept by His grace and His love. The truth is that **WE MUST keep ourselves in His grace**, and in **His love**.

In the next lesson we will consider a wide range of Bible authors on this subject.