

the pursuit of holiness jerry bridges

the pursuit of holiness jerry bridges is a seminal work in Christian literature that addresses the vital theme of living a life set apart for God. Jerry Bridges, a respected author and Bible teacher, explores the biblical concept of holiness and the believer's call to pursue it diligently. This book emphasizes the importance of spiritual growth, sanctification, and the practical outworking of holiness in everyday life. The pursuit of holiness jerry bridges offers readers a clear understanding of how grace and obedience work together in the Christian life. This article delves into the core teachings of the book, its theological foundations, and its practical applications for believers seeking spiritual maturity. The following sections provide an overview of Jerry Bridges' approach, key themes, and the transformative impact of this influential work.

- Overview of The Pursuit of Holiness by Jerry Bridges
- Key Themes in The Pursuit of Holiness
- Theological Foundations of Holiness
- Practical Applications for Believers
- Impact and Legacy of The Pursuit of Holiness

Overview of The Pursuit of Holiness by Jerry Bridges

The pursuit of holiness jerry bridges is a comprehensive guide aimed at encouraging Christians to live lives that reflect God's holiness. First published in 1978, the book has become a classic resource in evangelical circles for understanding sanctification. Jerry Bridges approaches holiness not as an unattainable ideal but as a practical, daily commitment empowered by the Holy Spirit. The book is structured to address both theological principles and the everyday challenges believers face in their spiritual walk. Bridges emphasizes that holiness is both a gift from God and a responsibility for every Christian, underscoring the necessity of obedience, confession, and growth in grace.

Author Background

Jerry Bridges was a well-known Christian author and speaker, highly regarded for his clear teaching on spiritual growth and Christian living. His background as a ministry leader and his extensive study of Scripture informed his writing style and content. Bridges' pastoral heart and practical insights have made *The Pursuit of Holiness* a trusted source for believers seeking deeper understanding of sanctification.

Structure and Content

The book is divided into several chapters that systematically explore the meaning of holiness, the obstacles to pursuing it, and the role of God's grace. Each chapter combines biblical exposition with practical advice, making it accessible to a wide audience. Key topics include the nature of sin, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the believer's responsibility in spiritual growth.

Key Themes in The Pursuit of Holiness

The pursuit of holiness jerry bridges highlights several key themes that are essential for understanding and living a holy life. These themes are centered around the biblical call to holiness and the practical steps necessary to pursue it effectively.

Holiness as God's Will

One of the foundational themes of the book is that holiness is God's will for every believer. Bridges stresses that Scripture repeatedly commands Christians to be holy because God Himself is holy. This theme underscores that holiness is not optional but a vital aspect of the Christian life.

The Role of Sin and Repentance

Bridges addresses the reality of sin in the believer's life and the necessity of ongoing repentance. He explains how sin hinders the pursuit of holiness and how confession and turning away from sin are essential steps toward spiritual growth.

Grace and Obedience

A balanced understanding of grace and obedience is central to Bridges' teaching. He clarifies that holiness is not achieved by human effort alone but through God's grace working in the believer's life. At the same time, obedience to God's commands is presented as the practical expression of faith and dependence on God's power.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit's role in sanctification is emphasized throughout the book. Bridges explains how the Spirit empowers believers to overcome sin and live in accordance with God's will. The pursuit of holiness is thus seen as a cooperative process between the believer's effort and the Spirit's enabling power.

Theological Foundations of Holiness

The pursuit of holiness jerry bridges is deeply rooted in biblical theology

and evangelical doctrine. Understanding these theological foundations helps clarify the significance of holiness in the Christian worldview.

Sanctification Defined

Sanctification, or the process of becoming holy, is central to Bridges' teaching. He distinguishes between positional sanctification, which is God's declaration of the believer as holy through Christ, and progressive sanctification, the ongoing process of spiritual growth. This distinction highlights that while believers are declared holy, they must actively pursue holiness in daily life.

Imputed and Imparted Righteousness

Bridges explains the concepts of imputed and imparted righteousness as they relate to holiness. Imputed righteousness refers to Christ's righteousness credited to the believer, while imparted righteousness is the actual transformation of the believer's character. Both concepts are essential for understanding how holiness is both a status and a lived experience.

The Interplay of Law and Gospel

The book explores the relationship between God's law and the gospel message. Bridges teaches that the law reveals God's standards and the believer's need for Christ, while the gospel provides the grace and power to fulfill those standards. Holiness is thus the fruit of living under grace, not legalism.

Practical Applications for Believers

The pursuit of holiness jerry bridges offers numerous practical guidelines for believers seeking to grow in holiness. These applications focus on daily spiritual disciplines and attitudes that foster sanctification.

Confession and Repentance

Regular confession of sin and heartfelt repentance are emphasized as ongoing practices. Bridges encourages believers to maintain a humble and contrite heart, recognizing sin's destructive effects and relying on God's forgiveness.

Spiritual Disciplines

Engagement in spiritual disciplines such as prayer, Bible study, worship, and fellowship are presented as essential tools for pursuing holiness. These disciplines nurture the believer's relationship with God and provide strength to resist temptation.

Dependence on God's Power

Believers are urged to depend continually on the Holy Spirit's power rather than their own strength. Bridges highlights the importance of yielding to the Spirit's guidance and cultivating sensitivity to His leading.

Practical Steps to Pursue Holiness

- Examine personal attitudes and behaviors regularly
- Confess and repent promptly when sin is identified
- Engage consistently in prayer and Scripture reading
- Seek accountability through Christian community
- Practice obedience as a response to God's grace

Impact and Legacy of The Pursuit of Holiness

The pursuit of holiness jerry bridges has had a lasting impact on Christian thought and practice regarding sanctification. Its clear articulation of holiness as both a divine command and a practical pursuit has influenced countless believers and ministry leaders.

Influence on Christian Discipleship

Many churches and Christian organizations have incorporated Bridges' teachings into their discipleship programs. The book's emphasis on grace-filled obedience has helped Christians develop a balanced approach to spiritual growth.

Continued Relevance

Decades after its initial publication, The Pursuit of Holiness remains relevant, offering timeless insights into the believer's call to holiness. Its focus on the interplay of God's grace and human responsibility continues to resonate in contemporary Christian spirituality.

Encouragement for Spiritual Growth

The book has served as a source of encouragement for believers struggling with sin and spiritual complacency. By presenting holiness as attainable through God's power, Jerry Bridges inspires ongoing commitment to sanctification and Christlikeness.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'The Pursuit of Holiness' by Jerry Bridges?

The main theme of 'The Pursuit of Holiness' is the Christian's call to live a holy life by growing in Christlikeness through reliance on the Holy Spirit and obedience to God's Word.

How does Jerry Bridges define holiness in his book 'The Pursuit of Holiness'?

Jerry Bridges defines holiness as being set apart for God, growing in personal moral purity, and reflecting the character of Christ in everyday life.

What practical advice does Jerry Bridges offer for pursuing holiness?

Bridges advises believers to depend on the Holy Spirit, consistently read and apply Scripture, practice spiritual disciplines like prayer and confession, and maintain a humble and obedient heart.

Why is the pursuit of holiness important according to Jerry Bridges?

According to Bridges, pursuing holiness is essential because it honors God, strengthens the believer's relationship with Him, and reflects the transformative power of the gospel in a Christian's life.

Does 'The Pursuit of Holiness' address struggles with sin?

Yes, the book acknowledges the ongoing struggle with sin but encourages believers to rely on God's grace and the Holy Spirit's power to overcome sin and grow in holiness.

Additional Resources

1. *The Pursuit of Holiness*

This classic work by Jerry Bridges explores the biblical call to holiness and the practical steps believers can take to grow in Christlikeness. Bridges emphasizes the importance of relying on the Holy Spirit and God's grace rather than self-effort. The book challenges Christians to live a life set apart for God, rooted in obedience and faith.

2. *Respectable Sins: Confronting the Sins We Tolerate*

In this insightful book, Bridges addresses the subtle sins that often go unnoticed or unconfessed but hinder spiritual growth. He highlights how these "respectable sins" damage our relationship with God and others. The book encourages sincere self-examination and repentance as a vital part of pursuing holiness.

3. *The Discipline of Grace*

Jerry Bridges explores the balance between God's grace and personal responsibility in the Christian life. He explains how grace empowers believers to pursue holiness without falling into legalism or complacency. The book offers practical guidance on living a disciplined yet grace-filled life.

4. *Transforming Grace: Living Confidently in God's Unfailing Love*

This book focuses on the transformative power of God's grace in overcoming sin and growing in holiness. Bridges shows how understanding grace leads to confidence in God's love and motivates believers to live obediently. It provides encouragement for those struggling with guilt and spiritual failure.

5. *The Joy of Fearing God*

Bridges explores the biblical concept of the fear of God, presenting it not as a dread but as a joyful reverence that leads to holiness. The book explains how fearing God inspires worship, obedience, and a deeper relationship with Him. It challenges readers to embrace this essential aspect of the Christian life.

6. *Holiness Day by Day: Growing in Christlikeness through the Devotional Life*

This devotional guide offers daily readings and reflections aimed at helping believers grow in holiness. Each entry connects Scripture with practical application, encouraging consistent spiritual growth. It is designed to complement Jerry Bridges' teachings on pursuing a holy life.

7. *Faithful Followers: Discipleship in an Instant Society*

In this book, Bridges addresses the challenges of discipleship in a fast-paced world, emphasizing the need for patience and perseverance in the pursuit of holiness. He encourages believers to develop deep roots in Christ through intentional spiritual disciplines. The book is a call to commitment and faithfulness in the Christian journey.

8. *Growing Your Faith: How God Works in You to Produce Lasting Fruit*

Bridges explains how spiritual growth is a cooperative work between God and the believer, focusing on the process of sanctification. The book outlines practical ways to nurture faith and develop Christlike character. It emphasizes the importance of trust, obedience, and dependence on the Holy Spirit.

9. *The Practice of Godliness: A Way of Life for Today*

This work presents godliness as an attainable and essential aspect of the Christian life, not reserved for a spiritual elite. Bridges provides biblical insights and practical advice on cultivating godly habits. The book serves as a comprehensive guide for those committed to living a holy life daily.

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