*THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS* by Jerry Bridges

**Chapter Eight– “Obedience—Not Victory” -Romans 8:12-13**

**“So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh, for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live.”**

**(Romans 8:12-13NASB)**

“God has made provision for our holiness and He has also given us a responsibility for it…Through the power of the Holy Spirit and according to the new nature He gives, we are to put to death the misdeeds of the body (Romans 8:13). Though it is the Spirit who enables us to put to death our corruptions, yet Paul says this is our action as well. The very same work is from one point of view the work of the Spirit, and from another the work of man. In the previous chapter we emphasized the “by the Spirit” part of this verse. In this chapter we want to look at our responsibility—“you put to death the misdeeds of the body.” (pg. 61)

**O** bedience *to* and dependence *on* the Holy Spirit are inseparable in our pursuit of holiness.

**B** alancing our wills (expressed by obedience) and our faith (expressed by our dependence) is

**E** specially important for us who are *in Christ* to come to understand from the scriptures. pg.58

**D** iving into the Word of God prayerfully and humbly, we can see how faith & obedience work.

**I** n this chapter we learned that God puts responsibility for living a holy life *firmly* on us. (pg.62)

**E** ven though we may think that any effort on my part to live a holy life is “of the flesh” it is not!

**N** aturally we may conclude that if I come to Christ by faith then I seek a holy life only by faith.

**C** learly this is not true. “We are to do something” (pg.62). We are to “die to sin” 1 Peter 2:24.

**E** xhortations abound not only in the letters written by Paul, but by the other apostles as well who command us to accept our responsibility for a holy walk. (pg.62)

**N** ever are we to *“stop trying and start trusting”* when it comes to our daily fight against sin.

**O** bserve once again Paul’s command in Rom.8:13 “…you put to death the deeds of the body.”

**T** he command comes once again in Col. 3:5 “Put to death” the remaining sin in your flesh…

**V** ictory comes when we rely on the Spirit of God in our putting to death the deeds of the body.

**I**  ndeed this is true, but our reliance on the Spirit must never foster an attitude of “I can’t do it”

**C** onversely, reliance on the Spirit says, “I can do it through Him who strengthens me” (pg.64)

**T** ime for us to face up to our responsibility for holiness! *We sin because we choose to sin*. p.64

**O** ften we say we’re “defeated” by our sin. No! we are **not** defeated we are simply disobedient.

**R** ather than using terms like “victory” & “defeat” to describe our growth in holiness, we must

**Y** ield rather to the fact that we are choosing to be “obedient” or “disobedient” to the Lord. pg.64

*Jerry Bridges summarizes this chapter by saying, “We need to brace ourselves up and to realize that we are responsible for our thoughts, attitudes, and actions. We need to reckon on the fact that we died to sin’s reign, that it no longer has any dominion over us, that God has united us with the risen Christ in all His power, and has given us the Holy Spirit to work in us. Only as we accept our responsibility and appropriate God’s provisions will we make any progress in our pursuit of holiness.” (pg.64)*

What powerful truths to ponder together and to put into practice by God’s enabling grace,

Christyn