THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS by Jerry Bridges

**Chapter Fifteen– “Holiness and Faith” -Hebrews 11:8**

**“By faith Abraham when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.”**

**(Hebrews 11:8NASB)**

*“Though we often think of holiness in a more narrow sense of separation from impurity and moral evil, in its broader sense holiness is obedience to the will of God in whatever God directs. It is saying with Jesus, “Here I am . . . I have come to do Your will, O God” (Hebrews 10:7). No one can pursue holiness who is not prepared to obey God in every area of his life. The holiness described in the Bible…calls us to obey God even when that obedience is costly, when it requires deliberate sacrifice and even exposure to danger. (pg.110)*

**H** ave you ever been in a situation where you have been tempted to lie to protect yourself?

**O** r have you ever been in a situation where you feared the consequences for telling the truth?

**L** ittle do we realize that holiness calls us to respond in obedient faith when temptations arise.

**I** don’t have to lie to protect myself, I don’t have to fear the consequences for telling the truth.

**N** othing should deter us from walking in obedient faith to the revealed will of God in His Word.

**E** xamples of this abound in Hebrews 11 of faithful OT saints who chose to obey God *by faith*.

**S** ince obedience is the pathway to holiness—a holy life being essentially an obedient life—we

**S** urely can say that no one will become holy apart from a life of faith. (pg.111)

**A** nd we know that faith is not only necessary to salvation, but necessary to live a life pleasing

**N** o one else other than God. Faith enables us to claim the promises of God—and enables us to

**D** elight in Christ and to show our love for Him by obeying His commands. (pg.111)

**F** aith enables us to obey when obedience is costly or seems unreasonable to the natural mind.

**A** bel for example *by faith* offered to God a better sacrifice than his brother Cain (Heb.11:4).

**I** n this biblical account both brothers knew what God required. Abel obeyed and Cain did not.

**T** hough they likely didn’t understand why sacrificing a lamb was the only acceptable sacrifice,

**H** ere in this situation, Abel acted in faith and Cain acted in unbelief and failed to obtain God’s blessing (Genesis 4:1-15). (pg.111)

In this chapter we also saw other powerful examples of men like Noah and Abraham (Heb. 11:7-19) who were put in situations that perhaps didn’t appear reasonable to them. BUT *by faith* they not only believed in God’s revealed Word but were also convicted to obey Him and were confident in His promises. “**We must** have *conviction* that it is God’s will that we seek holiness—regardless of how arduous and painful the seeking may be. And **we must** be *confident* that the pursuit of holiness results in God’s approval and blessing, even when circumstances make it appear otherwise.” (pg.113)

Ladies, let’s consider our own lives. How often do we fail to obey God’s clearly revealed will because we do not exercise faith? Do you believe that humility is the path to God’s exaltation (1 Peter 5:6)? Do you believe that God takes note of and will in His time avenge all wrongs done to you (Romans 12:19)? Are you convinced of the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:13)? Do you have a firm conviction that “without holiness no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14)? Are you seriously pursuing holiness as a priority in your own life? (pg.115)

“Without faith it is impossible to please God” (Hebrews 11:6). If we would pursue holiness, we must have faith to obey the will of God revealed in the Scripture and faith to believe that the promises of God will then be ours.” (pg.116)

Pressing onward and looking upward,

Christyn