*THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS* by Jerry Bridges

**Chapter Six– “The Battle for Holiness” -Romans 7:21**

**“So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me.”**

**(Romans 7:21)**

*“Through our union with Christ in His death we are delivered from the dominion of sin. But we still find sin struggling to gain mastery over us, as Paul depicted so vividly: “When I want to do good, evil is right there with me” (Romans 7:14-25). We may not like the fact that we have this lifelong struggle with sin, but the more we realize and accept it, the better equipped we will be to deal with it. The more we discover about the strength of indwelling sin, the less we feel its effects. To the extent that we discover this law of sin within ourselves, we will abhor and fight against it.” pg. 43*

**T** here is no doubt in my mind that we all understand the ongoing struggle we have with sin.

**H** ow humbling it is that God the Holy Spirit within us maintains a prevailing desire for holiness.

**E** ven though we are still prone to sin, God by His grace enables us to see our sin and despise it.

**B** elievers in Jesus Christ as we learn in 1 John 3:4-10 cannot habitually practice sin. pg.43

**A**  born-again believer with a new nature hates his sin in contrast to an unbeliever who loves it.

**T** hough the indwelling sin in us has been dethroned & weakened, it’s nature has not changed.

**T** he reality is that the nature of sin is still hostile to God and it cannot submit to His law. pg.44

**L** et’s review sin’s nature and its tactics so we can wage a successful war against this enemy.

**E** ven though we are tempted to blame our sin on Satan, someone else, our circumstances, our childhoods, our physical ailments, even our trials…we must remember that Scripture says the seat of indwelling sin is in our own hearts (Mark 7:21-23, Genesis 6:5, Luke 6:45). pg.44

**F** or we must take responsibility for our own sin and stop shifting the blame on our pasts

**O** r on our present circumstances. The enemy is us – it’s within us! The heart is deceitful and

**R** ationalizes, makes excuses, and justifies our sinful thoughts and actions. It blinds and thinks mental assent to the Word of God is the same as obedience to the Word of God. (James 1:22).

**H** ardening our hearts against our King and His commands is a dangerous place to be, ladies.

**O** how we need to ask God to daily search our hearts for sin that we cannot see (Ps.139:23-24).

**L** ike David, desiring God to root out any unrighteousness helps us deal with sin & not deny it.

**I** ndwelling sin also largely works through our desires. Sin is not an individual act, it is a process.

**N** ever more has the Word of God been clear on this. James says we are tempted when we are

**E** nticed and dragged away by our own evil desires (James 1:14). **DESIRE** (lust) wants to be

**S** atisfied. If not satisfied – **DECEPTION** happens and you think you have the right for that thing.

**S** adly, you now **DESIGN** a plan how you are going to feed your flesh. You now follow through with **DISOBEDIENCE** and the act occurs and **DEATH** follows. It may not always lead to a physical death, but it can lead to death of your influence, death of relationships, death of your usefulness to the Lord…especially if you refuse to repent.

Ladies, we just learned that indwelling sin also tends to deceive our understanding and our reasoning (the ability to think through the consequences of feeding into our flesh-our own evil desires). *If you are in the grip of temptation today, then take the* ***FIRST STEP*** *by admitting that* ***YOU*** *are to blame and no one else.* If there is an area of temptation that you are facing today, open the living Word of God and allow the Holy Spirit to search your heart and convict you of your sin. Confess and repent of your sin to the Lord right now and determine to change by the enabling grace of God and if necessary, share with someone who will hold you accountable.

Well did Jesus say, *“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.” (Matthew 26:41)*

***“For since He Himself (Jesus) was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.” (Hebrews 2:18)*** Praise God, that He can come to our aid in the hour of temptation and help us to “deal swiftly and firmly with the first motions of indwelling sin.” (pg.49)

Grace be with you all,

Christyn