*THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS* by Jerry Bridges

**Chapter Five– “A Change of Kingdoms” -Romans 6:6-7**

**“For we know that our old self was crucified with Him so that the body of sin might be rendered powerless, that we should no longer be slaves to sin because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.” (Romans 6:6-7NASB)**

“Many Christians have a basic desire to live a holy life, but have come to believe they simply cannot do it. They have struggled for years with particular sins or deficiencies of character. While not living in gross sin, they have more or less given up ever attaining a life of holiness and have settled down to a life of moral mediocrity with which neither they nor God are pleased. The promise of Romans 6:6-7 seems impossibly beyond them. The strong commands of Scripture to live a consistently holy life only frustrate them.” pg.33

**A** re you frustrated in your pursuit to live a consistently holy life as commanded by Scripture?

**C** ould it be that in your pursuit of holiness you have sought to do it *in your own willpower*?

**H** ave you considered that seeking to live a holy life *solely by faith* has only ended in defeat?

**A**  troublesome question arises in our search for answers to our sin problems**.** pg.33

**N** amely, *“What should I look to God for and what am I responsible for myself?”* pg.34

**G** radually over the years many “views” on our battle against sin have been taught which has

**E** ventually created confusion with statements like: “stop trying and start trusting”, “let go and let God”, “turn your sin problem over to Christ and rest in His finished work on Calvary…” pg.34

**O** ut of these unbiblical views of sanctification, many have experienced failure and frustration

**F** rom what they “have been told” they find themselves continually experiencing defeat in their battle against sin at the hands of their own sinful flesh. *Has this been you?* pg. 34

**K**  nowing what God has done for us helps us in our understanding what we must do ourselves.

**I**  ndeed God has made provision for us to live a holy life, but also gives us responsibilities to do.

**N** ow we must remember that our old self was crucified with Christ. When Christ died, we died.

**G** od’s Word urges us to embrace by faith what God has revealed to be true- “We died to sin”

**D** aily we must remember, through our union with Christ, we have died to sin’s power over us.

**O** ur lives before being redeemed, lived in the kingdom of Satan and sin. We were slaves of sin.

**M** ercy from God and His love rescued and delivered us out of the kingdom of darknessand

**S** pecifically placed us in the kingdom of light and realm of righteousness… Satan has been defeated and the reign of sin in our lives has been overthrown. pg.38

“Now that we are in fact dead to sin—to its rule and reign—we are to count on that as being true. We are to keep before us this fact that we are no longer slaves. We can now stand up to sin and say no to it. Before we had no choice; now we have one. When we sin as Christians, we do not sin as slaves, but as individuals with the freedom of choice. We sin because we choose to sin… Therefore we are to guard *and renew* our minds so that sin does not reign in us.”pg.40

Ladies, we need not be confused anymore on *what we should look to God for* and *what we are* *responsible for* in our daily battle with sin. “The experience of holiness is not a gift we receive like justification, but something which we are clearly exhorted to work at.” pg.35

“Through Christ He has delivered us from sin’s reign so that we now can resist sin. But the responsibility for resisting is ours. God does not do that for us. To confuse the *potential* for resisting (which God provided) with the *responsibility* for resisting (which is ours) is to court disaster in our pursuit of holiness.” pg.41

Praise God for what He has done for us and for how He works in us because of **A CHANGE OF KINGDOMS**!

Blessings, Christyn