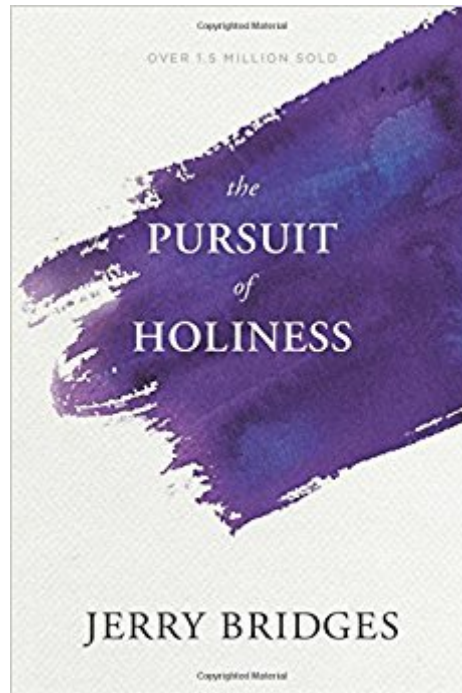




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# The Pursuit Of Holiness



## Synopsis

This new edition replaces both *The Pursuit of Holiness* (ISBN 9781576839324) and the study guide (ISBN 9781576839881) by combining both resources into one volume! “Be holy, for I am holy,” commands God. But holiness is something that is often missed in the Christian’s daily life. According to Navigator author Jerry Bridges, that’s because we’re not exactly sure what our part in holiness is. In *The Pursuit of Holiness*, he helps us see clearly just what we should rely on God to do and what we should take responsibility for ourselves. As you deepen your relationship with God, learn more about His character, and understand the Holy Spirit’s role in holiness, your spiritual growth will mature. The included study guide contains 12 lessons.

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## Customer Reviews

**DISCOVER YOUR HOLY CALLING.** The Bible exhorts us to pursue a life of holiness. But what does that look like in everyday life? We struggle with our sinful nature within and with a morally polluted world around us. How do we live holy lives? In this companion study guide to *The Pursuit of Holiness*, you can discover the Bible’s guidelines for holy living. This guide includes 12 lessons in which you will carefully look at many of the same Scripture passages Jerry Bridges studied to glean the principles he presents in *The Pursuit of Holiness*.

JERRY BRIDGES is an author and Bible teacher. His books include *The Discipline of Grace*, *The Practice of Godliness*, *Trusting God*, and *The Gospel for Real Life* and his most recent title, *Is God*

Really in Control? (all NavPress). Jerry is currently a part of The Navigators' collegiate ministry group, in which he is involved in staff development and serves as a resource to campus ministries. He and his wife, Jane, live in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Jerry Bridges writes a piercing, challenging, and practical charge for Christians to give their lives to be holy as God commands. In *The Pursuit of Holiness* (Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2006), readers will find practical helps, biblical conviction, and realistically high expectations. What I Liked Bridges clearly points Christians toward a higher level of following Christ. Far too many believers fail to live a holy life because they have compromised their understanding of what it means to be holy. The command of God is not for us to be more holy than our neighbors, it is to be holy like God. As Bridges writes, "This is where holiness begins--not with ourselves, but with God. It is only as we see His holiness, His absolute purity and moral hatred of sin, that we will be gripped by the awfulness of sin against the Holy God" (20). One major help for any believer to grow in holiness will be to see God in his true, awesome, terrifying, holiness. Bridges rightly calls believers to seek to be holy by submitting themselves to the word of God. He writes, "We express our dependence on the Holy Spirit for a holy life in two ways. The first is through a humble and consistent intake of the Scripture. If we truly desire to live in the realm of the Spirit we must continually feed our minds with His truth. It is hypocritical to pray for victory over our sins yet be careless in our intake of the Word of God" (75). Bridges also claims, "Obedience is the pathway to holiness, but it is only as we have His commands that we can obey them. God's Word must be so strongly fixed in our minds that it becomes the dominant influence in our thoughts, our attitudes, and our actions" (85). Again, Bridges says, "The Bible speaks to us primarily through our reason, and this is why it is so vitally important for our minds to be constantly brought under its influence. There is absolutely no shortcut to holiness that bypasses or gives little priority to a consistent intake of the Bible" (125). It is good, very good, for Christians to hear authors call them to sanctification through the Scriptures. Though I could point out several other things, I'll only list one more for right now. Bridges does an excellent job of calling Christians to accept the fact their sin is their responsibility. He argues, "We are to do something. We are not to 'stop trying and start trusting

This book thoroughly explains the topic of holiness and why it matters to God. He also gives excellent reasons through the Bible as to why people struggle with sin after they've accepted Christ and what can be done about it. The author backs up all his statements and explanations with scripture upon scripture. He is not flowery or emotional but explains a complicated subject in such a

way that anyone can understand. Reading this book motivates you to not just like the author but to love Jesus in word and deed. Every Christian should read this book.

Holiness: The nearly forgotten word of Christianity. If it was happiness, joy, love, grace, or mercy the modern church would be very familiar with it, but holiness is a word foreign to many professing Christians. Jerry Bridges has done an outstanding job in awakening Christians to the fact that God has a responsibility in sanctifying us, and we as the children of God have a major role in our own pursuit of holiness. Jerry Bridges shows you as plain as day from the Word of God that Christ saves people from not only the penalty of sin (hell) but also from the power of sin. So many Christians sit in the church pew thinking how wonderful it will be to go to Heaven, yet their daily life is full of bondage to things that Christ has given them the power to overcome. The Christian life is not just victory over hell through Christ, but also over the sinful habits, addictions, and attitudes that we were enslaved to as sinners. Let Jerry Bridges turn your attention to what God's Word already states plainly. We have God's mercy to forgive us of sin, but we also have God's grace to empower us to live like Jesus did.

I have been a Christian for around 10 years. Many of my friends have been Christians much longer than that. In all the time I have known my Christian friends and known Jesus Christ as my savior I have not seen a more thorough explanation of what it is to put off my sinful nature as I have found in "The Pursuit of Holiness" by Jerry Bridges. Holiness seems to have become almost a forbidden word these days. We can talk about grace, love and forgiveness, but when we talk about sin or holiness we seem to be treading on thin ice in many Christian circles. I have to ask myself why? I was hoping to find out about this in this book. Jerry Bridges explores holiness from a beginner's perspective and builds upon that premise. He explores the holiness of God, the holiness of Jesus and exclaims that holiness is for all of us. It is not just for the super Christian or the pastor and leaders of the church, but for all Christians. To live a holy life is to "live in conformity to the moral precepts of the Bible in contrast to the sinful ways of the world." This is characterized by a life of putting off the old sinful life and putting on the new Christ-like life. Throughout this book the author stresses that the process of living a holy life is a cooperative effort between us and the Holy Spirit. We have a responsibility to obey what God tells us and the Holy Spirit enables us to do just that when things seem impossible. Each chapter of "The Pursuit of Holiness" focuses on a single scripture. It then uses this scripture as a foundation for discussing one aspect of holiness. Chapter seven for instance, focuses on Romans 6:11 "So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and

alive to God in Christ Jesus." The title of this chapter is "Help in the Daily Battle." The author helps us to understand that when Satan comes to us and says "give up! You can never overcome sin." We can honestly say that's true if we are talking about doing it in our own power. But we are strengthened by God in our union with Him through Jesus Christ. We need to count on this fact as being true. Then we will experience the strength we need to fight temptation. In order to do this we must form the habit of continually realizing that we are dead to sin and alive to God. Throughout this book the author stresses our need to learn to hate sin as God hates sin. We tend to make friends with certain sins such as gossip or a judgmental attitude. Somewhere we have a list of things that are OK in our book and a list of things that we would never do. We justify our own sin by looking at people who have committed a sin much worse than ours. We need to hate all sin just as God does. He doesn't make excuses for some sin. All sin has the sin consequence, death. We must see all sin in this way if we ever hope to overcome anything. The Bible often uses the concept of yeast in bread as an example of how sin affects us. If only a very small amount of sin is in us it affects everything. We often don't even see how far our sin really goes. One of the tools that the Holy Spirit uses to help us overcome sin is the use of scripture. A daily Bible reading habit changes the way we think and see things. It changes our outlook and our focus. What we spend our time focusing on becomes what we think about and eventually do. "If we truly want to live in the realm of the Spirit we must continually feed our minds with His truth." We must come to the Word in a spirit of humility. We must recognize that we are sinful and often are blinded to the sinfulness of our own heart. We need the work of the Holy Spirit through God's Word to open our eyes to the truth. Jerry Bridges offers concrete examples of how God uses all the tools that He has to help us to walk in this life of holiness. He focuses on the areas of our lives that we need to work on with the Holy Spirit's help. He helps us to see the habits we need to develop to truly become holy. God would not ask us to do something that He would not help us to do. He also helps us to see that the world will do everything in its power to prevent us from walking in holiness. At times it almost seems impossible to live this life he talks about. Just when I started to get discouraged Mr. Bridges would offer a gem of wisdom from God's word to bring me hope. He helps us to see that one day soon we will be with the Lord in all His glory forever worshipping Him. The joy that we experience here today pales in comparison to the joy we will experience forever. I would recommend this book to any serious student of the Bible. It brings together many aspects of the Bible into an easily digestible format. It focuses on one aspect of Christian living, but without it there would be no life. This book could be used for a small group Bible study. Each chapter would be about right for an hour's study time. There is a workbook that can also be used for this purpose. There are 17 chapters which may be a little long for some

Bible studies, but is well worth the time and effort. At the beginning of this review I asked why people don't like to hear about sin and holiness. After reading this book I think I have an answer. When we are forced to take a good look at ourselves and honestly evaluate the condition of our hearts we find that we are not really all that nice and clean as we might think we are. It is much easier to go through life pretending that everything is alright. When we find that we see ourselves more honestly we don't like what we see. The Bible says in the end times we will seek out teachers who tickle our ears. We want to hear that we are good and worthy. We want to think that we are a wonderful gift to humanity. Talking about sin and holiness forces us to see ourselves as we really are; a sinner and unclean.

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