

**1 Peter “Walk the Talk”  
GROW Study: Session 1  
Life Fellowship Church**

▶ **Introductions**

▶ **Who Am I?**

▶ **Who’s in the room today?**

▶ **Why are we here?**

○ **Part of the NEXT step program**

• *GROW classes*

- Starting Point - Foundational
- Walk the Talk – This Class
- Marriage Unveiled
- Financial Peace University

• *Connect*

- Connect Dinner – monthly
- Connect Class – 3 Sundays following dinner

• *Serve*

- Preview – regular serving briefings
- Serve Retreat – 3 times per year

• *Lead*

- Empowering faithful and qualified people to lead in ministry as God directs. Connect with the church staff to get started

▶ **Class: Walk the Talk**

▶ **A 7 week study on 1 Peter**

- *1. The Battle for Holiness: 1 Peter 1: 13-16.....Today*
- *2. When I Don’t Feel Like Being Good: 1 Peter 1: 17-25.....Jan 31*
- *3. An Appetite for Being Good: 1 Peter 2: 1-12.....Feb 7*
- *4. Refuse to Get Revenge: 1 Peter 2: 19-25.....Feb 14*
- *5. Learn to Live in Peace: 1 Peter 3: 8-17.....Feb 21*
- *6. Get Ready for a Rough Ride: 1 Peter 4: 1-19.....Feb 28*
- *7. You’re in Good Hands: 1 Peter 5: 5-11.....Mar 7*

▶ **Study 1: The Battle for Holiness**

▶ **Or: If You Want to Act Holy, You Have to Learn to Think Holy**

## ▶ 1 Peter 1: 13-16 - NIV

- **Be Holy.....<sup>13</sup>Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>14</sup>As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. <sup>15</sup>But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; <sup>16</sup>for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."<sup>[a]</sup>**

## ▶ Why read this book?

- *Wouldn't it be great to be free hardships and trouble?*
- *1 Peter shows us that difficulties and hardships don't have to wear us down*
- *1 Peter teaches us that God can use difficulties to strengthen us*
- *Knowing this brings hope and reassurance for this life and for eternal life*
- *Faith, refined by suffering removes the fog from the mirror of God's face*
- *This is valuable advice for holding firm in difficult times*

## ▶ Who wrote this book?

- *The Apostle Peter wrote this book*
- *Lived in Bethsaida on western coast of Sea of Galilee, worked as a fisherman*
- *Was the son of Jona (Matt 16:17) but his mother is never named in the Bible*
- *Older brother of Andrew, who first brought him to Jesus*
- *Father died while he and Andrew very young, brought up by Zebedee and Salome, and their sons, James and John*
- *Were trained in religious ways including scripture but not in any depth*
- *Had a heavy Galilean "country" accent which betrayed him as a follower of Christ after Jesus' arrest*
- *After having met Jesus and being convinced that he was the Messiah, Andrew and John brought Peter to Jesus*
- *Later during an unsuccessful night of fishing, Jesus appeared in the boat with Peter, Andrew, James and John*

## ▶ Who wrote this book?

- *Jesus entered Peter's boat and told him to cast his nets again, upon which his nets became full. Peter saw this as a great miracle and cast himself at the feet of Jesus crying "Depart from Me for I am a sinful man O Lord"*
- *Jesus told Peter to "Fear Not" and announced to him his call as a disciple, which put him with Jesus continually from that time forward*
- *Drew frequent rebukes from Jesus more stern than other disciples because of Peter's penchant for "speaking his mind"*
- *Chosen by Jesus along with James and John to accompany Him to the "Mount of transfiguration"*
- *Gospels contain many references to the activities of Peter*
- *One of the first disciples to the empty tomb*
- *Acts 3 gives the first account of Peter being imprisoned for being a Christ follower*
- *Acts gives additional accounts of the mission work of Peter*
- *When or where he died is not certainly known, however, there is speculation that he was crucified to death by hanging upside down on a cross until dead. (see article)*

- ▶ Why did Peter write 1 Peter?
  - *Following the death of Christ there was a period of great persecution and hardship*
  - *Some followers wondered if God had abandoned them*
  - *Peter wrote to encourage these believers*
  - *He offered them hope and meaning in the midst of their suffering*
- ▶ Further background of 1 Peter
  - *Though originally Christians were granted freedom of religion in Rome, tolerance for Christianity faded*
  - *Christianity became a threat to the stability of the Roman empire*
  - *Christians began facing discrimination, acts of violence, arrest, and confiscation of property*
  - *Some believers began to waver in their faith*
  - *Others feared how much they would have to endure*
  - *Peter himself was imprisoned and beaten for his faith*
  - *Through this and other persecution, as a disciple, Peter earned the right to address the subject of suffering and holy living*
- ▶ Keep your eyes on the prize!
  - ***As you study 1 Peter, look for reasons for hope in the face of trouble and suffering***
- ▶ What is the Battle for Holiness?
  - *Tagline: If you want to act holy, you have to learn to think holy.*
  - *Transformation – the process of becoming holy – begins in your mind*
  - *1 Peter challenges us to live holy lives*
  - *Peter shows us that holy living begins with the way we think*
  - *This isn't a "positive thinking" reference. It's a matter of living the Spirit filled life, seeking the mind of Christ in our daily walk.*
  - *Not WWJD (popularized in the 1890's and again in the 90's see supplement)*
  - *but WWJT – What Would Jesus Think!*
  - *Once we win that battle, we begin to see changes in the way we live and things we do*
- ▶ Part I: Identify the current issue (see notes LG p. 4)
  - *Check the Christian Book store for current hot titles/topics*
    - The Holy Spirit
    - Last Days
    - Demonology
    - New Age Movement
    - Novels and Biographies

- Vampires – “New Moon”
- *What topic seems to be missing?* \_\_\_\_\_
- *One commentator said:*
  - “The 21<sup>st</sup> century church seems to be more concerned with being right than living right.”
- *Is holiness out of reach for most of us?*
- *What did Paul warn us of?*
  - “not to \_\_\_\_\_ too highly of ourselves”

▶ **Part I: Identify the current issue** (see notes LG p. 4)

- *What’s the phrase we hear often?*
  - “I’m just a sinner saved \_\_\_\_\_”
- *Instead, what if we change our way of thinking and say:*
- *The fact is: BOTH are true! Or, at least they can be if we are willing to take the step toward holiness*
- *Have you ever claimed these things from God?*
  - Forgiveness
  - Mercy
  - Healing
  - Blessings

▶ **Part I: Identify the current issue** (see notes LG p. 4)

- *In the same way you can claim Holiness!*
  - God said in Leviticus – The Message
  - <sup>22-23</sup>“Do what I tell you, all my decrees and laws; live by them so that the land where I’m bringing you won’t vomit you out. You simply must not live like the nations I’m driving out before you. They did all these things and I hated every minute of it. <sup>24-26</sup>“I’ve told you, remember, that you will possess their land that I’m giving to you as an inheritance, a land flowing with milk and honey. I am God, your God, who has distinguished you from the nations. **So live like it!!**
- *Too often we interpret this passage as:*
  - Live Holy or Else!

▶ **Part I: Identify the current issue** (see notes LG p. 4)

- *However, it is our birthright!*
  - In Reality, it is a promise
  - “You shall be holy – because God will make you holy.”
  - Philippians 1:6 .....being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.
- *For Christians it is not a matter of wanting to be holy*
  - It’s about the **battle to be holy.....**
  - Most of us are not effective warriors
  - We don’t know what it means to be holy or how to be holy
- *You can be holy in the next 30 seconds if you want to*
- *The word HOLY simply means*
  - “set apart for God’s use”

- *All that is required is a commitment on your part to dedicate yourself to God's use. From this process on you can begin the process of living a holy life*

- *Holiness begins in your mind*

▶ **Part I: Identify the current issue** (see notes LG p. 4)

- *If you want to act holy, you have to learn to think holy*
  - Romans 12:2 . . . . . **Do not** conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. NIV
  - *Transformation – the process of becoming holy – begins in your mind*
  - *In 1 Peter, he challenges us to live holy lives and shows us that the process of holy living begins with the way we think*
  - *Once we win that battle, we will begin to see changes in the way we live.*
  - *Let's discuss:*
    - What comes to your mind when you hear the word *HOLY*?
    - Does it seem impossible to be holy?
    - Describe the life of someone you consider to be a holy person.
      - What makes them holy?

▶ **Part 2: Discover the Eternal Principles**

- *To be Holy, you must prepare your mind for action*
  - 1 Peter 1:13 . . . . .<sup>13</sup>Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.
  - The King James Version says:
    - "Gird Up the loins of your mind"
    - Word Picture
  - When Peter said to "gird up the loins of your mind, he meant "to prepare yourself for strenuous mental activity"
  - "Your mind becomes a battlefield; get ready to fight"
  - Every day we witness hundreds of events and images that attempt to influence the way we think
  - Some are obvious (commercials), some are not (subtle messages in ads)
  - Exposure is important. How are you exposed to God?
  - When the PC age began in the 70's there was a popular expression:

- **"Garbage in, Garbage out"**

▶ **Part 2: Discover the Eternal Principles**

- When we fill our minds with the things of Christ, our lives will reflect the difference
- Holiness begins in your mind, therefore, we must prepare our minds
- Questions to consider
  - What are practical ways to prepare our minds?
  - What does self-control have to do with being holy? (v. 13)
  - What might you need to say no to, to prepare your mind for holiness?
  - According to v. 13, what has God given us to help us be holy? Why would that help?

▶ **Part 2: Discover the Eternal Principles**

- *2. To be holy, you must think differently*

- V. 13 says “...**be self controlled**.  
KJV says to “**be sober**”
- Greek word for sober has two meanings
  - Not intoxicated
  - Clearheaded
- Either way: Peter says to keep your head on straight
- Intoxication means you lose the ability to reason
  - You lose perspective and you tend to be ruled by your emotions rather than sound judgment
- To live holy, we must be free of intoxicating thoughts and emotions.....be of sober mind
- **Illustration**

## ► Part 2: Discover the Eternal Principles

- 1 Peter 1:14-16... <sup>14</sup>As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. <sup>15</sup> But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; <sup>16</sup>for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”
  - Questions:
    - Peter compares us to obedient children. Why should we want to be such? What does parental love instill in us?
      - **Obedience is a conscious act of the will. Christians in conflict need a tough-minded holiness that is ready for action.**
    - What are the evil desires Peter mentions in v. 14? What does it mean to conform to those desires?
      - **OT Holiness called for Israel to separate from everything ritually or morally impure. NT holiness calls for living morally pure lives despite the fact that we must live in a sinful human society.**
    - Why were we in ignorance before? What brought us out of ignorance?
    - What do you think it means “to be holy in all you do”?
    - How can you learn to separate your thoughts from your emotions?

### A definition for LUST:

“Lusts” flow from the original birth-sin (inherited from our first parents, who by self-willed desire brought sin into the world), the *lust* which, ever since man has been alienated from God, **seeks to fill up with earthly things the**

**emptiness of his being**; Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., Fausset, A. R., Brown, D., & Brown, D. (1997). *A commentary, critical and explanatory, on the Old and New Testaments*. On spine: Critical and explanatory commentary. (1 Pe 1:14). Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

# The Battle for Our Minds

Living Holy in an Unholy World

“Sanctification concerns believing the truth and thereby being drawn into a worshipful relationship with the God of truth. It seems simple enough, but it is complicated by three formidable opponents:

1. the flesh,
2. the world
3. and the devil.”

“The goal of each is to take our minds captive so that we neither believe the truth nor worship God.”

Source: *Warfare: The battle for the mind*  
by Scott Grant

## ▶ Part 2: Discover the Eternal Principles

- Which of the following best describes a holy life?
  - *A. Never indulging in anything pleasurable*
  - *B. Never sinning*
  - *C. Only thinking about spiritual things*
  - *D. Being passionately in love with Christ, which colors the way you think and act*
- Which statement did you pick? Why?

## ▶ Part 2: Discover the Eternal Principles

- What’s wrong with choices a, b, and c?
  - *A. Never indulge in anything pleasurable.....God created pleasure and delights in our enjoyment of the good gifts he has given us, as long as our pleasure doesn’t lead us to sin.*
  - *B. Never sinning.....Although we should avoid sin, we will still sin and need to ask forgiveness.*
  - *C. Only thinking about spiritual things.....Although we should be consumed with pleasing God, we will necessarily have to think of earthly things to survive.*
  - *D. Being passionately in love with Christ.....As we fall in love with Christ, we will naturally want to please him. Love is a far greater motivator than fear.*

## ▶ Part 2: Discover the Eternal Principles

*So far, we have learned.....*

- 1. *To be holy, you must prepare your mind for action.*
- 2. *To be holy, you must think differently.*
- 3. *To be holy, you must learn to concentrate on God rather than your own efforts*
  - Coach-pitch ball story (run don't stop)
  - This kind of concentration should characterize our approach to holy living
    - Peter said in v. 13: "set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed."
  - The word **Grace** translated from the Greek word "**Charis**" means "**kindness shown to one who is undeserving.**" Or, in life, it meant the kindness a master might show to a slave.
  - It is the same picture of the kindness God shows to us
  - He shows us kindness NOT because we are good, but because HE is good.
  - Our hope is in his goodness, not our own.
  - Common evangelistic question: "If you were to die tonight and stand before God and He asked you, "Why should I let you into my heaven?".....what would .....you say?"

## ▶ Part 2: Discover the Eternal Principles

- What you say reveals where you have your hope fixed
  - **Your own goodness?**
  - **Or, God's grace?**
- We cannot learn to live holy until we take our eyes off ourselves and concentrate on God
- **Questions:**
  - **Why must we have God's grace to live a holy life? Why are our own efforts doomed to fail?**
    - We need God's power, strength, and mercy to live a holy life. Our own efforts are as weak as we are.
  - **How can we learn to depend on God's grace, rather than our own efforts?**
    - By admitting our inadequacy and asking God for power. For example, if you cannot love someone, admit it to God. Ask Him to love that person through you.

## ▶ Part 2: Discover the Eternal Principles

- **How is the example of the Coach-Pitch baseball story similar to how we should focus on Jesus?**
  - We should be running toward Christ with all of our might, without being distracted by the world around us.
- **Why do you think God said, "Be holy, because I am holy"?**
  - He knows we can never be perfect. Instead He wants us to do what we've covered in this study – prepare our minds, think differently, and concentrate on Him.
- **In 1 Peter, he spent much of the chapter talking about hope. How does this help you in your effort to lead a holy life?**

## ▶ Part 3: Apply Your Findings

- *There is a story about a college professor who told his students on the first day of class, "I've given you all an A. Now, learn all you can about the subject." In a sense, that is what God does for us. Hebrews 10:10 says, "**We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**"*
- *He has already made us holy. Our sins are forgiven, and we are clean. It is now up to us to apply holiness to our lives. Holiness begins in the mind. We have to prepare our minds for the battle for holiness, separate our thoughts from our emotions, and fix our eyes on God's grace.*
- **Action Point:** *Has this study changed any of your ideas about holiness. If so, what do you most need to rethink?*
- *Pray together for each individual that God will retrain each person's thinking.*

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