

from
“The Pursuit of Holiness”
By Jerry Bridges

A farmer plows his field, sows the seed, and fertilizes and cultivates – all the while knowing that in the final analysis he is utterly dependent on forces outside of himself.

He knows he cannot cause the seed to germinate, nor can he produce the rain and sunshine for growing and harvesting the crop. For a successful harvest, he is dependent on these things from God

Yet the farmer knows that unless he diligently pursues his responsibilities to plow, plant, fertilize, and cultivate, he cannot expect a harvest at the end of the season.

In a sense he is in a partnership with God, and he will reap its benefits only when he has fulfilled his own responsibilities.

Farming is a joint venture between God and the farmer. The farmer cannot do what God must do, and God will not do what the farmer should do.

We can say just as accurately that the pursuit of holiness is a joint venture between God and the Christian.

No one can attain any degree of holiness without God working in his life, but just as surely no one will attain it without effort on his own part.

God has made it possible for us to walk in holiness. But He has given to us the responsibility of doing the walking; He does not do that for us.

The Premise:

The heart is more deceitful than all else
And is desperately sick;
Who can understand it?

Jeremiah 17:9

The Paradox:

Watch over your heart with all diligence,
for from it flow the springs of life.

Proverbs 4:23

Delight yourself in the LORD;
And He will give you the desires of your
heart. Psalm 37:4

Let the words of my mouth and the
meditation of my heart be acceptable in
Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my
Redeemer. Psalm 19:14

The Promise:

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they
shall see God. Matthew 5:8

For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

II Cor. 4:6

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

The Process:

Follow peace with all men, and holiness,
without which no man shall see the Lord:

Hebrews 12:14

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 12:2

Study to shew thyself approved unto God,
a workman that needeth not to be
ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

II Timothy 2:15