

The “BE” Attitudes Series

2nd Encounter/Equip Series written and presented by Gerald Cumby



This is a Bible study of Scriptures imploring us to “BE” a responsible servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. Does our attitude reflect our love for others and Christ?

The Bible implores us to “Be holy”... Living our lives according to the Word of God.

Hebrews 12:14, “Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.”

1 Peter 1:15-16, “But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”

Peter is quoting the Old Testament which says “*You shall be holy, for I am holy*” (Lev 11:44; 19:2).

The Pursuit of Holiness, Jerry Bridges— “We must first consider the holiness of God. 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. To be gripped by that fact is the first step in our pursuit of holiness.” Jerry Bridges

How can we be holy...when the Bible tells us that there is no one righteous, no not one...there is no one good...no, not one?

Romans 3:10,12

With that statement... “Without holiness, no one will see the Lord,” ...do you fear for your soul...for the souls of your precious family members?

Hebrews 12:28, “Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe...”

Romans 6:19, “I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness.”

Romans 6:22, “But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.”

1 Corinthians 1:30, “It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness, and redemption.

2 Corinthians 7:1, “Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

Ephesians 4:24, “...and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

1 Timothy 2:2, “...for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

Hebrews 12:10, “They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness.”

Let’s talk about “Holiness” and “Being Holy.”

- *It is a fact that holy is mentioned 431 times, not counting the word holiness in the Old Testament.*
- *The Hebrew word for holy is “qodesh” which means “apartness, sacredness,” or “separateness” showing that God is altogether holy, sacred, set apart or separate from His creation.*
- *When God mentions that He is holy, the idea is that God is totally different from us as He is spirit (John 4:24) and desires those who worship Him do so in spirit and in truth (John 4:23).*
- *The Greek word used for holy, or holiness is “hagios” and means “pure, morally blameless” or “set apart” as in set apart for holy use, which is what the saints of God have been called to.*
- *The words “holy” and “holiness” are found in the New Testament almost 200 times.*
- *It is obvious from the Scriptures that holiness is important to God and that we should regard Him as holy.*

The holiness of God is one of the most difficult of all of God’s attributes to try and explain.

- *It’s like trying to describe the Shekinah glory cloud in a physical way that accompanies the presence of God. We can understand God’s attributes of love, mercy, and grace, but holiness is an attribute of God that is not shared with humans.*
- ***Again, however, a person who repents and trusts in Christ has Jesus’ own righteousness accredited to their account.***

Note: The Lord knows our hearts and knows if our repentance is real or not, He also knows if we serve Him out of love or hypocrisy.

2nd Corinthians 5:21, “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Shared righteousness or being made holy is not the same as having inherent holiness. (inherent = existing in something as a permanent, essential, or characteristic attribute: vested in someone as a right or privilege),

God is so holy that no one can look at Him and live (Ex 33:20). It would be like looking at the sun and going blind as a result but God’s holiness and being in His presence would do more than that!

The Command to be Holy

The Bible teaches us, from both the Old Testament and the New, to be holy, just as God is holy.

God has called us to holiness (righteousness and holiness in Him). Can we attain “perfection” in this life? NO...But, we must pursue holiness...even pursue godliness.

Just as Jerry Bridges wrote in his book, **“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.”**

We must own up to our responsibility:

- **Part of the growth toward holiness is not being conformed to this world (Rom 12:1-2) and is an ongoing lifetime process called sanctification or to be set apart for holy use.** The Apostle Peter writes, “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy” (1 Pet 1:14-16)
“You yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (1 Pet 2:5).
- **Since we are called to be holy as God is holy, although not to the same extent of course, we should “put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander” (1 Pet 2:1).** The church is “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Pet 2:9).
- So, we should live a life of holiness as the Holy Spirit works with us.

The Holy Spirit

God the Holy Spirit is the One Who works in us to sanctify us and make us more like God over time.

- *The primary work that the Spirit of God does is to make men and women holy by convicting them of their sin, bringing them to repentance and confession of sin, and driving them to the cross for the mercy of God through Jesus Christ while working on their conscience to live a life that is more pleasing to God.*
- *The Holy Spirit then is designated as “Holy” because that is His primary work in the believer’s life. He is making us holy, day by day, and it takes a daily walk with God to stay focused on a Holy God.*

Conclusion

First of all, Holiness is not the way to Jesus; Jesus is the way to holiness.

- *We can’t get holy by our best efforts. It takes the power of the Holy Spirit to make the children of God live holy lives.*
- *We are told to “Go out of the midst of her, my people! Let everyone save his life from the fierce anger of the LORD” (Jer. 51:45).*
- *John heard a voice from heaven say, “Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues” (Rev 18:4).*
- *The Apostle Paul writes to the Corinthians “Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you” (2 Cor 6:17).*

We are not holy by nature but wicked, evil, and even our hearts can deceive us (Jer. 17:9).

God knows we need a heart transplant.

BUT...we have good news, as Ezekiel writes, “I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh (pliable, workable)” (Ezk 36:26).

If you’ve received a new heart from God, Paul would remind us “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Cor 5:17).

1 Timothy 6:11, “But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, and gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

Some of the information used in this study was from <https://www.whatchristianswanttoknow.com/what-is-the-biblical-definition-of-holy/#ixzz7d2HbRqUw>