

Over the last three weeks, the Spirit has given us reason after reason why we can live as an alien in this world; as one who does not belong but is traveling through fulfilling a mission from God. He has pleaded with us to accept the fact that we are important, valuable, and full of worth; after all, we have been indwelt with Jesus' joy that is full of His glory. We also have an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, will not fade away, reserved in heaven; for we are protected through faith by the power of God for a salvation to be revealed in the last days. We are the bride, we are beautiful to Jesus, and He wants us to fully grasp who we are in Him. We truly are the sons of the King. The prophets of old, they served us just like the angels above are assigned to serve us. We are His chosen ambassadors. Our job is to plead with the people of this world to be reconciled with God. There is nothing in this world that belongs to us; we are just passing through and therefore we are to take nothing from this world: not our validation, not our identity, not our purpose, not our glory, not our joy—nothing! With this as our reality, the Spirit brings everything down to a very practical level.

### ***1 Peter 1:13***

Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

This is the language of war. Because of who you are and to whom you belong, you need to prepare your minds for action. The literal Greek says: girding up the loins of your mind. The idea of “girding up the loins” is that before battle a

warrior would bind or secure his clothing with a belt so it did not get in his way. He would tuck in his robes and secure various pieces of his protective armor with the belt. The Spirit is telling us to get ourselves ready for war. Like it or not, because you are a child of the King you are in a war. Your enemies are the unseen forces of wickedness in the heavenly places; and because they hated Jesus, you will also be hated because He chose you out of the world (**John 15:18-19**). Again, you don't belong. The Spirit uses similar language in **Ephesians 6:13-14**: "Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with truth."

The implication is that our minds are weak and are not naturally ready for war. If we are not careful to prepare our minds for action, to tuck in all the loose ends, we may end up tripping over ourselves; and in a battle that could be catastrophic—deadly even. Girding up the loins of your mind with the truth however is not a passive endeavor. Being in the *middle* voice, we know that this is a decision you have to make. No one can prepare you. That means you have to know the truth and be willing to let that truth practically bind all the loose ends of your thoughts and emotions that tend to fight or rebel against the truth.

For example, in **1:1** we are called "aliens." Therefore, the Spirit wants us to internalize all the truths we have been given that would make it possible to practically live like an alien. And since "prepare" or "gird up" is a *participle*, you are to continue on and on and on getting a hold of these truths until they are yours and you are prepared. It is clearly not enough to just come to church, listen to teachings, and then settle back into life. The Spirit wants you to do whatever is

necessary for these truths to always stabilize your mind; and since “prepare” is in the *aorist* tense it is to be how you live: prepared for action is to describe your life from beginning to end.

Most of our worry, anxiety, insecurity, fear, and so on comes from an unstable mind. The voice of the enemy and the cares of this world somehow seem to get the upper hand and take a dominating role in our minds; and we become so worried about the “Me” that we simply are worthless when it comes to war. Remember what we talked about last week. Our choices sit on a fulcrum that always leans to the left or to the right (there is no middle ground). As such, each choice is inspired by either the Spirit of God or our *Old Sinful Nature*. That is a very uncomfortable truth; but the truth none-the-less. Thus, if your mind is not prepared for action, you have already ceded far too much territory to the enemy, which is why fear, insecurity, anxiety, worry, and so on, dominate your mind and emotions.

But the Spirit makes the point that we can change this dynamic around. We can always have our minds girded up and prepared for war. We are only 12 verses into this chapter and already we have learned so much stabilizing truth that if we were to really meditate on these truths and decide to make our choices according to these truths, regardless of how we feel or what we might think, I ensure you that you will find yourself stabilized. Your mind will settle and you will have access to the tools you need to fight the lies and deceptions of the enemy and the demands of this world.

Therefore, prepare your minds with the truth that this world can never satisfy you no matter how much you hope it will meet your needs. This world will never

give to you for real; it will only take from you. Those who make their abode in this world take, use, and manipulate for their advantage, so do not place your soul (your mind, emotions, and spirit) in their hands. Be free from that control. All that this world has to offer is perishable, defiled, will fade away, and will one day be gone forever; even the memory of this place will cease to exist. This is exactly opposite from your inheritance. Mentally and emotionally take hold of what is yours and make the choice to leave behind the desires to be validated, wanted, loved, embraced, cared for and honored, by this world. After all, the world will discard you; it is just a matter of time. It's the way it's always been.

But God who is the blessed Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has promised so much better for you. In fact, your Lord is actively busy in your life all the time taking you through various distressing trials so you can learn how to disconnect from this world and how to trust yourself to Him. Every little bit of what happens in your life is architected by our Lord who is so good and so loving. It still blows my mind that we can have total confidence that since He is the Lord then nothing in our lives is random or an accident. It is all purposeful. He who has promised such magnificence to us and promised to give us, in our now, His joy that is full of glory, works endlessly so you will give Him more and more space in your soul such that you can enjoy His joy and experience His glory. He is constantly giving you the attention you need—every single day. You are never forgotten; you are never skipped over; and you are never ignored. Rather, you are so precious to the Father and to Jesus that everything in your life has been handcrafted just for you. And more than that, by His mighty power, He is personally protecting you for a salvation to be revealed in the last days.

Gird your mind with the truth that your worth and value is so extensive that all the Old Testament saints heard of the promise but could not obtain the promise without you—for without you they could not be perfected. And why was that? Because God said He planned something better for you. In all their turmoil, faithfulness, suffering, endurance, and sacrifice, they were serving you. Likewise, the angels are so enthralled with the love, mercy, and grace that Jesus has given you that they just long to look into these things in order to gain even a little understanding of this grace. Remember, that your life is on display for all the heavenly hosts to observe so that through your life they can come to understand the manifold wisdom of God. Yes, through your life God's wisdom will be made know. And that is why He sent His Holy Spirit from heaven to ensure that you would be one of those, chosen from before the foundations of the earth, to waken from the dead and to know Him and love Him.

Gird your minds with these truths. And these are just the things we have talked about through the first 12 verses; there is so much more to come. But these are truths with which you need to constantly gird up your mind so you can be prepared for action. Imagine, if we were to even try and review the list of truths we have learned from ***John, Ephesians, Hebrews, Jude, Revelation, and Haggai*** it would be a very, very long night. But the point is you are well equipped with a complete arsenal of truth about Jesus, about you, about who you are to Him and your place in this world. You have what you need, but now the girding up has to come from deep within your soul as you decide to bet your lives on these truths and risk everything on what God has said. After all, that is true faith: actively believing the truth.

Prepare your minds for “action.” The word “action” is not in the original Greek. The translators added it so we could better grasp the cultural context. You only gird up your loins if you are going into battle. You see, as an alien, you do not belong to this world. In fact, you are living in dangerous territory controlled by an enemy of God; and, whether you like it or not, you are in a war. In **John 15:20** Jesus said, “If they persecuted me they will also persecute you.” We must be prepared for this kind of opposition. This fight will be at the hands of the spirits of darkness, but it will be played out through those who have made their abode in the world (both believers and unbelievers)—people unwittingly incepted by spiritual forces to oppose those who truly walk by faith. That is why Paul reminds us in **Ephesians 6:12-14** that “our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.” He does not want us to make our battle about people, but about the lies and deceptions and ploys of the enemy that come from these demon spirits.

In **2 Corinthians 10:3-6**, Paul exhorts us: “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.” This gives us even more practical understanding of girding up or preparing our minds. We can know the truth, but unless we take our thoughts captive, compare them to the truth, and discard what is “disobedient,” then our knowledge of the truth will be

just knowledge and we will simply be a captive religious person not free at all, overcome by the battle waged against our lives. Be prepared!

Prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit. Since “sober” is in the *present active participle*, it should read, “Prepare your minds for action, being sober in spirit.” It is something that the Spirit assumes you are doing and will continue to do. What does being continually sober communicate? I believe the Spirit wants us to always be alert and never overcome by the delusions of darkness and the seductions of this world. Again, this is about the spiritual war for our minds and our emotions fought day-in-and-day-out. We must be alert. The enemy loves for us to love this world; he wants us to find our validation, our purpose, our worth, our comfort, our security, and our abode in this world. He wants us to be attached to the things of this world and live as one who belongs and is a friend. He is always tempting us with these seductions. He seems to relish the opportunity to capture unsuspecting believers in these deceptions and enjoy the fruits of his labors as believers—yes, sons of God—squirm in doubt, pain, fear, loneliness, insecurity, distress, anger, depression, and disappointment, when he (the enemy) fails to fulfill a single promise.

We need to be sober, alert, and aware of the game the enemy plays with our minds and emotions. The best way to be alert and aware however is not to focus on what the enemy is doing; rather, it is to be so familiar with the truths we have learned that we can easily identify the lies and the deceptions. If our minds are prepared with the truth, then with the help of the Holy Spirit that abides within our souls, we will be able to battle the lie. If you take your thoughts captive as a matter of practice, knowing that this war is constant and never ceasing, then the

enemy will have little ground to gain in your mind. If you decide that you are in fact an alien in this world, if you decide that you are going to disconnect from all those places of emotional attachment, then you will have victory in this war. It is guaranteed. However, in order to have this victory, the main fight that needs to be battled in our mind and emotions goes to the core of our faith. Are we going to believe that God is who He says He is and that we are who He says we are?

I have been thinking so much about this and have simplified our monumental battle down to three things that we need to believe—the three things which the enemy works ceaselessly at perverting in our minds. 1) We need to believe that Jesus is our Lord. That He truly is master of everything that pertains to our lives. That everything is prescribed by His hand. If that is not the truth, we should not call Him Lord. 2) We need to believe that Jesus is good; that everything He does in our lives, to our lives, through our lives, is an expression of His great love for us as it is all intended to shape or conform us into the image of the Son and release within us His joy that is full of glory. 3) We need to accept the fact that we are aliens and strangers in this earth. If we disconnect from the sources of affirmation and control to which we cling, then we will be ok with whatever our Lord has for our lives since our hope will not be based on what we can get out of this world; rather, our hope will be set on the grace that is to be brought to us in the revelation of Jesus Christ.

That is it. There are only three simple things that we must cling to in order to have victory over the enemy. That is why this life of faith is not heavy or burdensome; it is actually quite simple. It just happens to be the simplest hardest thing there is. We are so attached to the tangible that we have found it hard to



bet our lives on the intangible—on the living Word of God. But that is our pathway to victory.

Now this next phrase, “fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ,” is fascinating. It ties to our study last week in terms of experiencing eternity in our now. Again, our eternal experience is rarely presented as a future event, but as a present experience to be lived in our now. Let’s start with the technical. The word “fix” is not in the Greek; it was added. The Greek literally says: “hope completely or without wavering upon the grace that is now continually brought to you by God in the revelation of Jesus Christ.” The verb “brought” is in the *present passive participle*. It is happening in your now (*present* tense); God is doing it (*passive* voice) and He is continually doing it (the *participle*). The grace of the Lord experienced through or in the revelation of Jesus Christ is where you are to fix your hope. And since “brought” is in the *present* and not the *future* tense, the Greek should be translated “in” the revelation of Jesus Christ, not “at” the revelation of Jesus Christ. It is not pointing to something that will be in the future, but something that is. Finally, “hope” is in the *aorist active imperative*. Thus, you are hereby commanded (the *imperative*) to constantly actively live (from beginning to end) fixated on this present hope of God’s grace poured over your life.

So stepping back from the technical jargon, we have learned that grace is about our receiving something that on our own we could never deserve. So it applies to our entire relationship with Jesus. He gives us Himself, He has revealed Himself to us (the revelation of Jesus Christ), and He shares with us what is His (for instance His joy that is full of glory). All that is His is ours. And He no longer deals with us

on the basis of our sin, but on the basis of His mercy and compassion. We are surrounded by an ocean of grace. Therefore, truly consider who you are in Jesus, how important you are, how much mercy He has extended you, how He intervenes every moment of your life for His purposes, how you were served by the saints of old and even now are served by the hosts of heaven, accept it and let it be the filter through which all your decisions are made. Compare every thought you have with these truths and punish anything that stands in opposition to the true knowledge of Jesus Christ. Yes, you are to punish any opposition, actively reject it, hate it even; that is what it means to put your hope in the grace of Jesus Christ and to bet your life on it. Prepare your minds with this truth and be ready for action because you are a son of God and that is not just a nice catchy religious phrase; it is your reality and the Spirit wants you to choose to live as if this is true.

***1 Peter 1:14-16***

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

I have to say, this is one of those passages that always messed me up. I would read this and be bound in so much failure that I eventually just started skipping it. I could not imagine how this was even possible. In fact, it used to make me very mad. I read a book once, way back when, on the pursuit of holiness that was centered on this verse and it buried me in legalism, duty, and obligation. I tried so

hard to obey and I failed miserably. As such, I did not do a very good job of putting my hope in the grace of Jesus Christ; rather, I was paralyzed by what seemed to be the impotence of my Christianity. It was horrible. So when I was reading *Peter* I would quickly jump from verse **13** to **17** and suddenly everything seemed a whole lot better. Well, not really, I was still writhing inside over this verse. We are going to unpack this a bit so you do not travel down the same futile journey of legalism, bondage, and failure; it is entirely unnecessary.

Let's start with the phrase: "As obedient children." It is important to understand that "obedient" is a noun and not a verb. It is not something you do but it is something you are. You became obedient when you trusted Christ and this obedience is realized in a couple of ways. First, *Romans 16:25-27* speaks of the gospel of Jesus Christ which has led the nations/gentiles to the obedience of faith (the reference to the gentiles would be to me and you). Then in *John 6:28-29* there is a discussion between Jesus and some Jews. They said, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God" or what does it mean to be obedient to God. Jesus replied: "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent." The obedience of faith is when we make the choice to believe in Jesus whom the Father sent. And that is not just a casual concept; if you read the rest of text of *John 6* it is about betting your life on the full implication of what it means that Jesus was God in the flesh. So if you truly believe that Jesus is the Lord your God Almighty and have received Him into your heart as the Lord your God Almighty—your Savior, then you are an obedient child.

Second, we are obedient children because when we place our faith in Jesus He reconciles us to God and literally condemns sin in the flesh so that the

requirement of the law (which is perfect obedience) is fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit (**Romans 8:3-9**). Jesus in us is our obedience. Therefore, we don't have to be intimidated by his phrase "As obedient children." I know for me, when I would read it I would stop dead in my tracks knowing all the places in my mind, heart, emotions, and actions that were not "obedient" and not "holy." However, now that I know my obedience is not about my behavior but about what Christ has done for me (that unmerited grace we discussed), I can rest in confidence knowing that I am an obedient child.

This next phrase, "do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance" follows nicely our study in verses **8-12**. Do not be conformed is in the *present passive participle*; hence, it can be phrased: "no longer let the world conform you into its image, as it is now doing, according to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance." Last week we discussed how **Romans 12:2** ("And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind") makes it clear that our lives are always on that fulcrum: every choice sits on the pivot point of either faith or sin. At any given point in time we are either leaning to the left or to the right; there is no middle ground of "goodness" in between. We are always either being transformed into the image of Christ or conformed into the image of the world. One way or the other it is happening to us as both "transformed" and "conformed" are in the *passive* voice. So when it says "do not be conformed" we have to ask, what can we do about it since this is being done to us? The answer comes in **Romans 12:1**. As always, there is a beautiful intersection between our choice and God's hand.

***Romans 12:1***

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

The construct of **12:1** is critical to our understanding. First, “holy” and “acceptable” are adjectives merely describing who you are and not something you must go do. This is not telling you to go out and be holy and live acceptably to God. It is describing who you are. In His eyes you are holy and you have been accepted. Second, “living” is a verb. The point is you are no longer dead in your sins, but you are alive in Jesus Christ. He wants you to come to Him knowing this is true, knowing you have been set free from sin and death. Thus, this can be a willing and joyful act. Third, “sacrifice” is a noun; it is what you are and how you are to come before God. You are to come knowing that your life is His. He redeemed you and you can now give yourself to Him without restraint. Fourth, the only real word of action is the verb: “*present.*” Your job is to present yourself to God as a living sacrifice—as one who knows they are holy and acceptable. It is a willing surrender which can only be done if you make the choice to believe that Jesus is the Lord your God Almighty confident that all He does with and in your life is by definition good since it comes from His wisdom for your life. Just present yourself. Just say here I am regardless of how you might otherwise feel or think. That is your job. And since “present” is in the *aorist active*, from beginning to end this is to be your life. And if you present yourself to Jesus, the Lord will transform you by the renewing of your mind (by teaching you through the various and

distressing trials we discussed in **1:6-7** why you can trust yourself to Him) and you will by definition **not** be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance.

Let's think about these "former lusts." Given the context of what we have been studying, I think the lusts are to be all that drives us to live like one whose abode is in this world. Once again, this captures the temptation to find our validation, our worth, our identity, our purpose, our strength, our provision, our protection, our love, our friendship, our comfort, our family, and so many other things, in what this world has to offer us. The implications of what this means is staggering. There was a time in our ignorance where we lived for this world that is passing away. We spent so much time, money, and energy trying to keep alive a corpse, all the while hoping that others would not notice how powerless and lifeless we actually were. But now we know that is foolish, it is a waste of time, it is a waste of effort since everything, and I mean everything, in this world is going to burn. Besides, everything this world tempts us with is temporary. It takes as fast as it gives. As soon as you no longer meet their needs, you are discarded. The world's promises are a lie—a wisp of smoke that vanishes as quickly as it appears.

"But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior." I love this verse. Again, this is where I was once bound in frustration and failure; yet, when you understand it, this verse is liberating. There are only three key concepts in this verse and they are derived from the words "called," "be" and "shall be." First, "called" is in the *aorist active participle*. That means that you were not just "called" sometime in the past, but you are one who is continually called (hence, the *participle*). Jesus is continuing to call you and He

never stops. He wants you fully; and every single moment of every day He is calling your name wanting you to present yourself to Him as that living sacrifice so He can do His work in you.

Second, “be” as in “be holy” is in the *aorist passive imperative*; how glorious is that. Being an *imperative*, we know this is a command. However, being in the *passive* voice, we know that it is not something we can do; this is something that Jesus does in us as a fruit of presenting ourselves to Him as that living sacrifice. Therefore, this is not a command that we are to go and try really hard to be holy. That is what I always thought and the more I tried to be holy the more I realized I was condemned to failure by the perfect law of God. Thank God in Christ Jesus there is no condemnation for those who believe. Accordingly, this is a command to believe and give yourself to Jesus so He can transform you into His image, renew your mind, resulting in behaviors that will flow from His life in yours.

Another way of saying this is: walk in the Spirit of God and not in the flesh; then your behavior will be a fruit of Spirit and not the flesh. This And we know the only way we can walk in the Spirit is if we truly bet our lives on the fact that Jesus is the Lord (the one who is in control of all the details of our lives), our God (the one who knows the beginning from the end and therefore can determine good in and through everything He prescribes for our lives), the Almighty (the one who can do everything He says He will do). Let’s look at both **Romans 8** and **Galatians 5** to expand on this command to let Jesus cause us to be holy in all our behavior.

#### **Romans 8:5-14**

Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but

those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit [*this is what it looks like to present yourself to God as that living sacrifice—to set your mind on Him and prepare your mind for action*]. So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.) [*This point is more fully described below when it says we are no longer obligated to our flesh; this is not saying our flesh can't control if we let it, but that it is no longer forcibly in control.*] And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God. The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, **you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do**. For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

This explains why God wants to renew our minds and teach us why we can trust Him in and through everything; the alternative is living death. This explains



why He takes us through those various and distressing trials. He wants us to choose to set our minds on the things of the Spirit and not the things of our flesh. Again, this is how we present ourselves to Him. We crucify, or ignore, and consider ourselves dead to the cries and yearnings and lusts of our flesh and instead we tune our ears and draw near to the leading of God in our lives. His pathways are always good; we just have to by faith follow Him down those paths.

### ***Galatians 5:16-26***

To you I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. [*Our choices are never free from this conflict between the Spirit and the flesh; hence the fulcrum we talked about.*] But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses. [*You are not required to perfectly carry out the law of God; you have already been deemed "holy" by Jesus, which is why this is not at all about trying to control your behavior.*]

When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. [*These are the unholy behaviors or the fruit of setting our mind on the*

*flesh instead of the Spirit, i.e. letting the flesh control our lives when we should let the Spirit.]*

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

Do you get it? This command to “be holy in all your behavior” is about our surrendering to the Spirit and following His voice and leading in our lives and not the voice and leading of the flesh (our *Old Sinful Nature*) via those lusts which were ours in our former ignorance. This is powerful. If we present ourselves to Jesus He makes our behavior holy for the fruit of His life in ours is holy because that is His very nature. That is why it says: “like the Holy One” and “for I am holy.” He is holy; therefore, when we give Him access in our lives we have holy behavior.

Third, “shall” in this last phrase perfectly supports this concept: “because it is written, “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.” This is actually a quote from **Leviticus** which is repeated in **11:4**, **19:2**, and **20:7**. Now the reason I say this supports this idea of God demanding our belief and willingness verses our trying really, really hard to be holy, is that “You shall be holy” is in the *future* tense, *middle voice*, and *indicative* mood. Meaning, this was not a command for the Israelites to go out and keep the law (which they kept trying to do). This was a prophetic promise that was fulfilled in you and me. God wanted them to

understand that one day things would change so completely for they **shall be** holy because He is holy. It is a promise of relationship; a promise of what God would in man. It pointed to His Son who makes us holy. Being in the *middle* voice, this holiness wells up from within our being as God takes up His abode in our hearts. And being in the *indicative*, we know that it is a statement of fact guaranteed by the Lord's character and nature of holiness.

Praise Jesus. This is such a powerful and life giving passage. There is absolutely nothing about this passage that even remotely binds us in legalism, failure, and what we cannot do. This passage is a beautiful expression of what our life is in Him and another reason why we can confidently set our minds on the things of the Spirit, take our thoughts captive, and gird up the loins of our mind with truth and not with the things of this fallen world. We are to present ourselves to Him as that living and holy sacrifice and live as aliens in this world who are ready for battle. We are the chosen, called, and forever loved ones. Our lives are to demonstrate His holiness so the world will know that He lives. And all He asks of you is to believe and receive His life. Therefore, fix your hope on the grace that is now brought to you in the revelation of Jesus Christ; for by His grace you have been made holy. Trust that He is the Lord. Trust that He is good. He will take care of the rest.

Let's pray