

THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS

Message 13: DEPENDENT DISCIPLINE

2 Timothy 2:1 (ESV)

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus ...



The Example of **Nehemiah**:

Nehemiah 4:8-9 (NIV)

⁸ They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble against it. ⁹ But we prayed to our God and posted a guard day and night to meet this threat.

Nehemiah _____ *and* _____!

The Example of **Paul**:

Philippians 4:11b-13 (ESV)

^{11b} I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Paul _____ *and* _____!

There is not a single instance in New Testament teaching on holiness where we are taught to depend on the Holy Spirit without a corresponding exercise of discipline on our part.

- Jerry Bridges, *The Discipline of Grace: God's Role and Our Role in the Pursuit of Holiness*

Colossians 1:28-29 (ESV)

²⁸ Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Paul _____ as _____!

Let us consider what regard we ought to have to our own duty and to the grace of God. Some would separate these things as inconsistent. If holiness be our duty, they would say, there is no room for grace; and if it be the result of grace there is no place for duty. But our duty and God's grace are nowhere opposed in the matter of sanctification; for the one absolutely supposes the other. We cannot perform our duty without the grace of God; nor does God give his grace for any other purpose than that we may perform our duty.

- Paraphrased by Jerry Bridges from John Owen, *The Works of John Owen*

Being sensible that I am unable to do anything without God's help, I do humbly entreat him by his grace to enable me to keep these Resolutions, so far as they are agreeable to his will, for Christ's sake.

- The prelude to Jonathan Edwards list of 70 Resolutions

Some takeaways:

Personal holiness requires ...

God at work in me ...

My dependence on God for holiness is expressed by ...

John 15:5 (ESV)

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for **apart from me you can do nothing**.

Personal Application:

In what areas do I need to “struggle” for holiness?

What disciplines do I need to develop?

What do I need to do to “abide” in Christ better?