THE PURSUIT OF HOLINESS by Jerry Bridges

**Chapter Twelve– “Holiness in Spirit” -2 Corinthians 7:1**

**“Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.”**

**(2 Corinthians 7:1ESV)**

*“A number of years ago in campus evangelism, we used an illustration calculated to make our collegiate audiences vividly aware that they were personally sinners. We would say, “If I could flash on a screen before us tonight all of your thoughts of this past week, you would have to leave town.” This remark not only made the point, but always drew a laugh.**But for the Christian, such a charge is* ***no*** *laughing matter.**Our thoughts are just as important to God as our actions, and are known to God as clearly as our actions (Psalm 139:1-4; 1 Samuel 16:7). pg.91*

**H** ave you ever stopped to meditate on Jesus’ soul-searching sermon in Matthew chapters 5-7?

**O** ur Lord’s commands in this sermon intend to not only curb our actions but also our attitudes.

**L** earning to bring our bodies under control and our thought lives under control is critical. pg.92

**I** t’s not enough that we don’t commit adultery; we must not even entertain lustful thoughts.

**N** oticeably the world around us constantly seeks to conform our minds to its sinful ways. pg.93

**E** very day through T.V., movies, books, music, our phones…the world is enticing us to sin.pg.92

**S** adly, when we resist, the world ridicules us as “old-fashioned” and “puritanical” pg.93

**S** o be it! As followers of Christ who know Him and love Him, it should be our joy to obey His commands and to no longer be conformed to the patterns of this world but instead be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Rom.12:1-2; Eph.4: 23-24; 1 Peter 1:13-16).

**I** n guarding what we allow to enter our minds, we must also seek to guard what our eyes see**.**

**N** ot only must we guard our own eyes; we must be careful that we are not the source of temptation to others. For this reason, modesty of dress and actions is required among both men and women (1 Timothy 2:9;5:2). pg.94

**S** eeing that holiness begins first in our minds, we must learn to hide Phil.4:8-9 in our hearts.

**P** aul specifically commands us not only what we are to think on but what to put into practice.

**I** nvariably, ***Right Thinking produces Right Living!*** The Bible commands us in 2 Cor. 7:1 to stop

**R** epeatedly dishonouring God not only with our bodies but with our spirits. Here again we fail.

**I** n harbouring a spirit of envy, jealously, bitterness, unforgiveness, retaliation, a critical spirit,

**T** ogether with a gossiping spirit, we grieve the Holy Spirit of God who lives within us. We must remember that these sins are just as evil as immorality, drunkenness, and debauchery. pg.97

Ladies, so often *“we cloak these defiling thoughts under the guise of justice and righteous indignation. But we need to pray daily for humility and honesty to see these sinful attitudes for what they really are, and then for grace and discipline to root them out of our minds, \*repent of them and replace them with thoughts pleasing to God.” pg.98 (\*added)*

Pressing onward and looking upward,

Christyn

\*\* Based on Jerry Bridge’s question, “Compare your own thought life with the standard set for us in Philippians 4:8”(pg.164), I thought I would help us think this through together by making a separate document “PURE MENTAL ATTITUDES.” Praying this will be an encouragement to you!