



**Rice Memorial MBC**

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## **A Holy People**

Definitions printed in **bold letters** are from  
**Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible  
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition,  
or Roget's Thesaurus – **November 1, 2009**

## **1 Peter 1:13-25**

**Introduction:** Through the work of **Christ**, a great **new covenant** community has been formed. The New Testament is full of instruction about what this covenant community should be like. There is no more fundamental question for the Christian church that **holiness**, a spiritual condition that reflects the fact that God's people **have been set apart for him**.

In the New Testament, we see **Peter's** progression. In the gospels, we see him as an impetuous (*moving rapidly; furious*), mercurial (*full of fire*) personality who ended up denying he even knew the Lord. In Acts, he becomes an imperfect, yet dynamic **preacher** and **leader** of the early church. Finally, in his epistles, we find a **wise** gentle shepherd of his (*God's*) flock as he conveys God's **truth** through the prism of his hard earned experience.

Peter had **GROWN** in **holiness** (*purity [cleanliness, integrity of moral character; freedom from sin]*) over the **years**, and he set before his (*God's*) **flock** its importance. He had experienced God's grace in powerful ways, and what stands out in Peter's teaching is holiness should flow **NOT** out of a **grudging obligation**, but rather out of a heart of gratitude. Holiness is not a **dreary** thing, but an experience of **joy**.

**Source: The Bible Expositor and Illuminator**, Union Press Publication- Christian Life Series.

**Thought 1.** As the author of the introduction stated, **holiness** is an experience of **joy**; but it is still an **obligation**, nonetheless. Once we get a good understanding of the goal of living as God has commanded, we'll experience the **true joy** of just doing right as commanded! We'll be **aware** of the fact the only way to be truly happy is to **GROW** and **live** in **holiness**.

**Proverbs 21:15**, It is **JOY** to the **just** to DO **judgment** (**right** [accordant to the will of God.]): but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

**1 Peter 1:13**, Wherefore gird up the **loins** of your **mind**, be **sober**, and **hope** to the **end** for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the **revelation** (**appearing, coming**) of Jesus Christ...

**NOTE:** The admonition to gird up the **loins** has reference to the long, **gown-like** shirt that was worn in first century Israel. This garment reached to the knees or ankles. When a man was about to undertake a task, he would gather up the **lower end** of this garment and put it under his **belt** so that he was **able** to move about more freely. In the same way, we are to **clear away** any impediment that would **hinder** us in the pursuit of **holiness**.

**Source: The Bible Expositor and Illuminator**, Union Press Publication- Christian Life Series

**Hebrews 12:1-3** ...seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let **us** lay aside **every weight**, and the **sin** which doth so easily beset us, and let us RUN with **patience** (**cheerful** [**or hopeful**] **endurance**.) the race that is set before us, **Looking** unto Jesus the author and finisher of our **FAITH**; who for the **joy** that was set before him **endured** the cross, **despising** (**2706, to think against**.) the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For **CONSIDER** him that **endured** such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be **wearied** and **faint** in your **minds**.

**Consider defined 357, contemplate** (to view with continued attention).

**Acts 24:16**, And herein do I **exercise** myself, to have always a conscience void of **offence** toward God, and toward men.

**Thought 1.** The only way to get good at running, or anything, is to exercise. The people that say it can't be done won't even **attempt** to, since they **BELIEVE** it can't be done! But these same people **obey** their boss on their good paying job! Why? They **want** to!

**Mark 9:23** ...If thou canst **believe**, all things are **possible** to him that **believeth**.

**1 Peter 1:14**, As **obedient** children, *not fashioning yourselves according to the **former** lusts in your ignorance...*

**Thought 1.** The lusts or desires to which he's referring pertain to the **flesh**, the old nature, we used to have as humans born of Adam's seed. But, since we have God's Spirit, we are **NO longer** IN the **flesh**, but IN the **Spirit**. So, we should **conform** to our new **father!**

**Romans 8:8-9**, So then they that are IN the **flesh** **CANNOT** please God. But ye are **not** in the flesh, but IN the **Spirit**, if so be that the Spirit of God **dwelt** in you.

**Ephesians 2:1-3**, And you hath he quickened, who **were** **dead** in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time **past** ye **walked** according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the **spirit** that now worketh in the children of **disobedience**: Among whom also we ALL had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the **FLESH** and of the **mind**; and were by **nature** the children of wrath, even as others.

**1 Peter 1:15-16**, But **AS** he which hath called you is holy, so **be YE holy** in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am **holy** (**pure** [clean], **morally blameless**).

**Thought 1.** For God to **command** a thing means, it **can** be **accomplished**; with his **help!**

**1 John 5:3-5**, For this is the love of God, that we **keep** his commandments: and his commandments are not **grievous** (**heavy** [oppressive, difficult]). For **whatsoever** is **BORN** of God overcometh the **world**: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our **FAITH**. Who is he that **overcometh** the world, but he that **believeth** that **Jesus** is the Son of God?

**Thought 2.** Oh! I really like the **wisdom** of God John is showing here in this last part of his letter! Notice how smoothly he sets up a train of thought to convince Christians of what **can** be done through our Father's **Nature** and **Spirit**; if only we **KNEW** of it! He reaffirms how we were born again, then says what Father expects of us: his children. He follows suit with the fact God's commandments **aren't** difficult, FOR: because whosoever is **BORN** of God **overcomes** the temptations of the **world**.

Notice, he did not say whatsoever has been **FILLED** by the Spirit overcomes the world. Remember, Jesus was born of God and lived holy (pure, doing right) for about thirty years **BEFORE** he was **filled** by the **Spirit!** How did he do it?

First, he was born of God's Spirit. Next, out of **FEAR: reverence** for his Father and his word, **he studied**; and got a good understanding, which produced strong **faith**. As you know, **faith** comes by understanding: Romans 10:17. Therefore, he overcame temptations with the strength he had because of **reverence** and **faith** in his Father's written and spoken **words**. Even **after** he was **filled**, he lived by faith!

**Proverbs 14:2**, He that walketh in his uprightness **FEARETH** the Lord...

**Luke 2:52** ...Jesus **increased** in wisdom (knowledge gained by study)...

**Thought 3.** John 1:14, says, the **Word** was **made** flesh: a human being without any of the attributes he had when he "**was** God." So, being human, he had to **learn** God's word. God **taught** him; being IN him, by **nature!**

**John 8:28-30** ...I do **nothing** of myself; but as my Father hath **taught** me, I speak these things.

**1 John 2:27**, But the **anointing** which ye have received of him **abideth** IN you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing **teacheth** you of **all things**, and is truth, and is no lie...

**Matthew 4:1-11** ...the tempter came to him (*Jesus*), he said, **If (forasmuch [SINCE].)** thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, **It is written**, Man shall not **LIVE** by bread alone, but by **every word** that proceedeth out of the mouth of **God**.

**1 Peter 1:17**, And if ye call on the **Father**, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in **FEAR** (reverence)...

**Thought 1.** As we've seen, **REVERENCE** for God is the only reason a person does right! So, as long as we're traveling on earth, we should **fear** God! To be **happy**, we do it **always!!**

**Proverbs 28:14**, Happy is the man that **feareth** (reverences) **always...**

**1 Peter 1:18-21**, Forasmuch as ye **know** that ye were not **redeemed** with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious **blood** of Christ, **as** of a **lamb** without blemish and without spot: Who verily was **foreordained** before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who **by him** do **believe** in **God**, that **raised him up** from the **dead**, and gave him **glory**; that your faith and hope might be in God.

**Thought 1.** So, we see that **Father** raised up Jesus from the dead. He didn't raise himself. Father God also **glorified** Jesus to be a **God** AGAIN, and sit at his right side on a throne!

**John 17:5**, And now, O Father, **glorify** thou me with thine own self with the glory which I **HAD** with thee BEFORE the world **was**. (*As a man, he didn't have it.*)

**Philippians 2:8-9**, And being found in fashion as a **man**, he humbled himself, and became **obedient** unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore (*for which reason*) God also hath highly **exalted** him, and given him a name which is above every name...

**1 Peter 1:22**, Seeing ye have **purified** your souls in **obeying** the truth through the Spirit unto **unfeigned (without hypocrisy) LOVE** of the brethren, see that ye **love** one another with a pure **heart fervently (intently [with eagerness or earnestness])**...

**Thought 1.** Since our love isn't hypocritical. We **should** eagerly love from a **pure** mind.

**1 John 3:23** ...this is his **commandment**, That we should **believe** on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and LOVE one another, **AS** (just like) he gave us **commandment**.

**Thought 2.** God gave us an "**unconditional love**", but we need our minds **renewed** to know how he said to use it! Otherwise, we'll do things that we call love, but is **not loving** "AS he **commanded**." Jesus said we should **love** **like he loved us!** Anything **LESS** than what Jesus would **do** is **NOT** love!

**John 13:34**, A new commandment I give unto you, That **YE** love one another; **AS** (just like) **I have loved you**, that ye also love one another.

**1 Peter 1:23-25**, Being **born again**, not of corruptible **seed**, but of **incorruptible**, by the **WORD** of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the **word** of the **Lord** endureth for ever. And this is the **word** which by the **gospel** is **preached** unto you.