

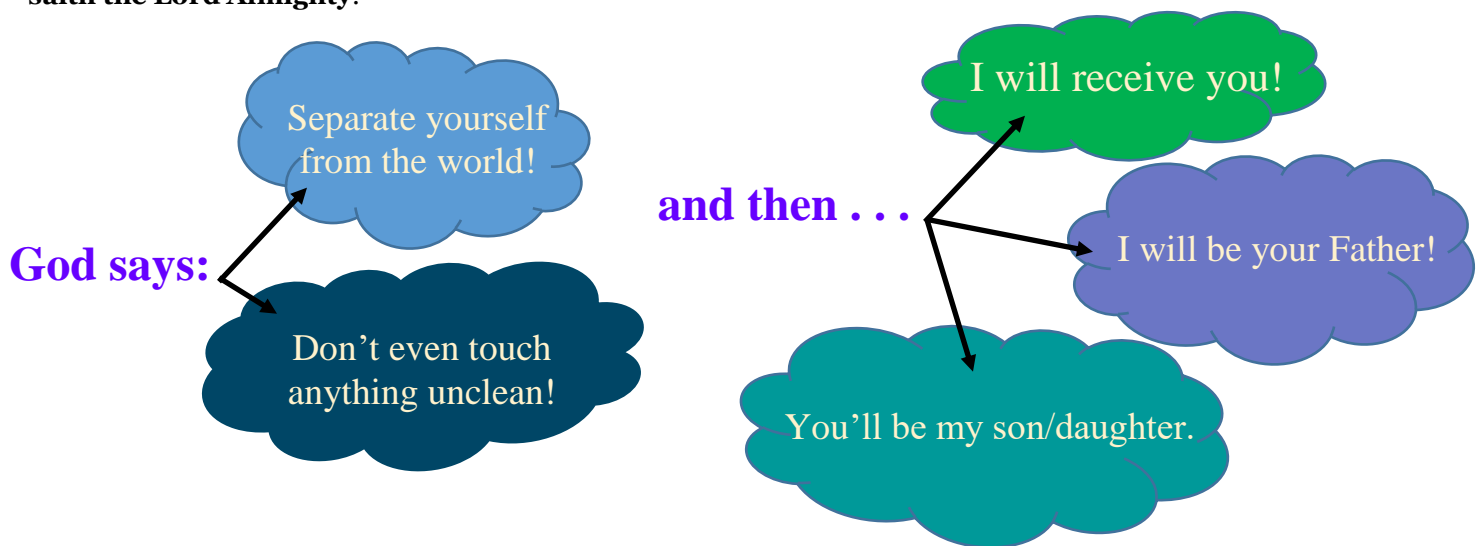
# Nip It, Zip It, and Grip It: The Key to Holiness

II Corinthians 7:1

“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

## NIP IT!!!

Obviously, Apostle Paul is referring to some sort of promise here. In II Corinthians 6:17-18, we read: “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”



The promise from God: “If you will separate and purify yourself for Me, I will receive you! I will be a Father unto you! You will be my son or daughter!”

This contingency – “separating oneself from the world” – is not an option!!! As a follower of Jesus Christ, we must make a permanent and clean break from sin (**NIP IT!**) morally and spiritually.



— Make a clean break

This does not mean that you will never commit another sin. It simply means that you get such a desire for God that *you never want to intentionally displease Him again*. Then, if you make a mistake, you simply ask God to forgive you and keep moving forward with Him.

“Coming out from among them” means **deliberately** separating yourself from evil.

“Separating yourself from evil” means separating yourself from anything that contradicts, opposes, or defies God’s character, standards, or purposes.

- Vs. 14 Don’t be unequally yoked together with unbelievers.
- Vs. 14 What fellowship has righteousness with unrighteousness?
- Vs. 14 What communion does light have with darkness?
- Vs. 15 What agreement, or harmony, has Christ with Belial (satan)?
- Vs. 15 What portion does a believer share with an unbeliever?
- Vs. 16 What agreement does the temple of God have with idols?

Unbelievers (i.e. the world) do not have the Spirit of God within them. Therefore, they cannot know what pleases God. They cannot know what brings real joy, peace, and blessings into life. Furthermore, they cannot understand you when you try to explain any of this to them. So, as a child of God, you have no business fellowshiping with them.

If you fall into a muddy pit, you’re gonna get dirty. Likewise, if you constantly hang out with people having ungodly values and standards, you will suffer spiritually. They will eventually influence you away from God. Even if they don’t cause you to turn your back on God, they will **sorely disturb your relationship with Him** by:

- Promoting ungodly thoughts, ideas, and desires.
- Distracting you from God’s values and standards.
- Encouraging you (by association) to compromise your standards and boundaries.

This does **not**, however, mean that you can’t spend time with them to witness to them. Jesus, Himself, gave the command to go and win them to Him. But, when it comes to being “best buddies”, God has already set the boundaries.

And then, just **give up anything that causes you to resist The Holy Spirit's direction for your life**. Once you've experienced the presence of The Holy Spirit, you will be miserable without Him. Avoid doing anything that could bring sadness to the heart of God.

The best way to do this is by **focusing on what pleases God**. When you focus on what you cannot have, or where you cannot go, or what you cannot do, you continually invite temptation for those things. When you stop thinking about those things and, instead, focus on what you can do and have, you will find that your desires will begin to change. Sin's control over you will begin to decrease.

## ZIP IT!!!

The next step is to clean up your conversation and vocabulary.



Too often, we tend to concentrate on what we need to do/not do in order to clean up our lives, but fail to consider the damage that can be done by the tongue. To be holy, we must take note of what we are saying. If it can cause the listener to conjure up an ungodly image or desire, then it shouldn't be said. If it can hinder another person in their walk with God, then zip it. If it could influence the listener to do or say something inappropriate, then don't say it. If your words could be a negative reflection of Jesus, then they do NOT belong in your vocabulary or conversation.

To do this, clean up your mind. Whatever goes into your heart and mind determines what comes out of your mouth. Be careful of the books you read, the movies you watch, the music you listen to, your communications through social media, and the things you allow on your computer screens. If the input is positive, then the output will be much more appropriate for a child of God.

## GRIP IT!!!

The third step is to get a grip on things of eternal value by purposely pursuing a deeper and closer relationship with God. To do this, you need to . . .

- a. **Spend time in prayer – serious prayer.** (Better still, practice the attitude of constant prayer. I Thessalonians 5:17)
- b. **Read God's Word for Study.** (Read it to learn how to live as a follower of Christ Jesus.)
- c. **Read God's Word for Pleasure.** (Read it to just enjoy having God speak to your heart.)
- d. **Worship God from your heart.** (Make sure that absolutely nothing comes before God in your life – that every decision and every action revolve around His desires for you.)
- e. **Go to church regularly and worship with His other kids.** (You may consider it old-fashioned, but regular church attendance, where God's Word is taught in truth, will strengthen you far more than you realize.)
- f. **Serve God by serving others.** (Jesus did it – and it's still good for today. As you serve others, you will find your joy increasing more and more.)

By doing these things, you will take on the character traits of Christ Jesus. Eventually, you will see yourself being further and further removed from evil. You will begin to see God's promise from II Corinthians 6:17-18 come to fruition in your life.

**Finally**, let's consider the final words from II Corinthians 7:1.

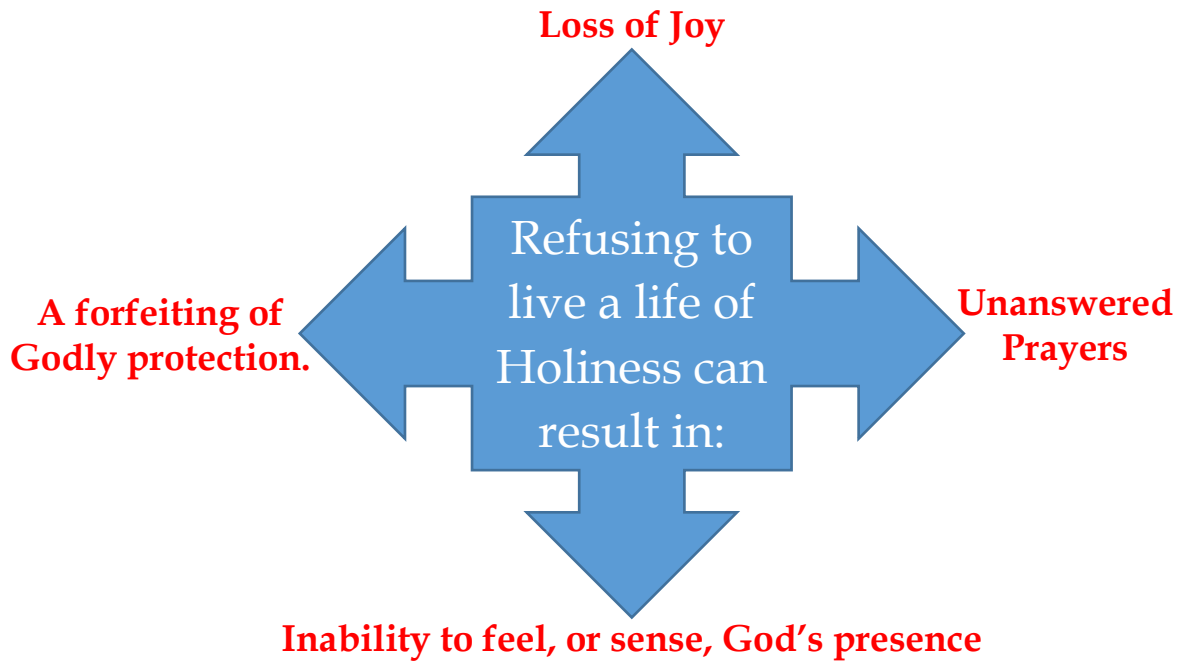
II Corinthians 7:1  
“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us  
cleanse ourselves from **all filthiness of the flesh**  
**and spirit,**  
perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

“Cleansing ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh **and spirit**” means that we must be careful to not allow certain things into our spirits . . .

- a. False doctrines and teachings
- b. Anger
- c. Hatred
- d. Ungodly imaginations
- e. Bitterness
- f. Unforgiveness
- g. Lustfulness
- h. And the list goes on . . .

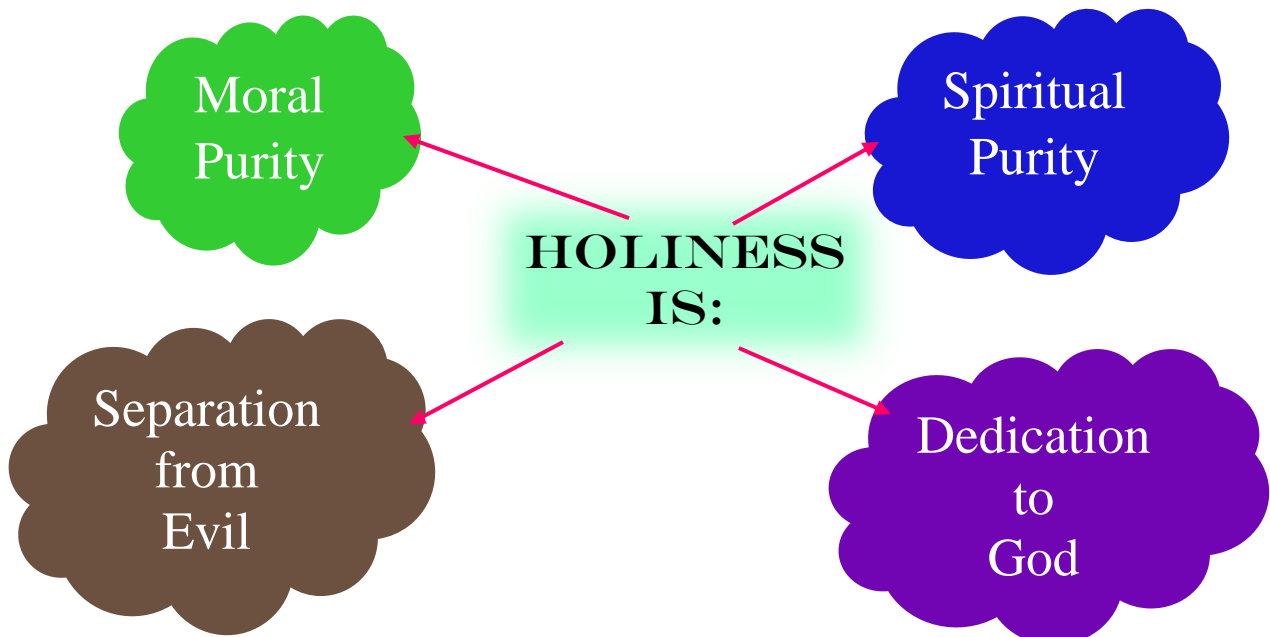
Anything ungodly that gets into your spirit will have the capacity of hindering your relationship with God, or turning you away from Him. Bad thoughts will come, but **you** determine whether or not they take root. Temptations will come, but **you** make the decision to get rid of them and not act them out – or to allow them to control you.

**You have a choice.** You can refuse to make the sacrifice and live the life of holiness. But, it will be YOUR loss. You will suffer spiritually. However, you may not recognize the reason for things that are happening in your life.



**“Perfecting holiness** in the fear of God”.

You can **choose** to live a life of moral purity, spiritual purity, separation from evil, and dedication to God.



The difference is that, for these things, there are no regrets. Their value is eternal.

Any true follower of Christ can tell you, from experience, that there is no better way to live life than living and walking in holiness. Abiding in Christ provides joy beyond human understanding, even in the midst of devastation.

Maybe you do not know Jesus as your Lord and Savior. Well, now is the time! Romans 10:9-10 says, “If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Won't you pray this prayer:

Lord Jesus, I realize that I'm a sinner. I believe You are God's Son, that you died on the cross for ME, and that You rose from the dead and ascended back to Heaven. I believe You have the power and authority to give me new life. Would you please have mercy on me and forgive me of my sins? I surrender my life to You. Please lead me in this new way of life. By Your Holy Spirit, give me the boldness to tell others of my faith in You.

I ask this in Your name, Jesus.  
Amen!

**Congratulations! If you prayed this prayer, and meant it, then you are now a child of God.** Would you let us know of your decision by either:

- Calling us at (307)433-9999
- Emailing us at [miraclevalleyministries@gmail.com](mailto:miraclevalleyministries@gmail.com)
- Contacting us through the “**Contact**” page on this website.

We will add you to our prayer lists and have others praying for you in your new walk.