



# HOLINESS

A Divine Way of Living



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## LESSON 2

**PRACTICAL** Holiness is the by-product or result of **POSITIONAL** Holiness.

In Christ, we are:

- Made complete and whole (Col. 2:10).
- Our spirit has been quickened and awakened (Eph. 5:14).
- God has sealed our salvation (Eph. 1:13).

Eph 4:24 declares that: "We have put on the new man, which after God is created in :

....."

- We are a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17).

Positionally, we are perfect; that is **Holy in Christ Jesus** our Lord. In Christ we are a new creation, whereas before we were created in the old creation of Adam's sin and fall. Now that our position is secure, we have all the blessings of God at our disposal to live out in practice what we are in position.

Spiritual growth has nothing to do with our spiritual position, but everything to do with **how we respond and live** in practice. We have everything we need in terms of living Godly lives. 2 Pet. 1:3.

Write out 2 Peter 1:3 :

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- Practical Holiness is a **process** positional Holiness is an **event**.
- Our salvation is an **act of God**. Our service is an act or response of **faith and gratitude**.

Far too many Christians suffer from "stunted growth". They remain children of God and fail to grow up into men and women of God. Some Christians were saved ten to twenty years ago, but are spiritual midgets in terms of living out their new life in Christ.

Some believers are like straight pins point one way and head the other way.

The renowned and ageing Bible teacher, John MacArthur says:

*"We don't hear much about spiritual growth these days. Many Christians in our society have been diverted by various teachings that promise power, spiritual energy, and success without the process of growth into spiritual maturity. They look for dramatic experiences, climactic turning points, instant solutions to their spiritual problems, but real, lasting victory doesn't come through those means. God's design is that we be seasoned to maturity through a continual process of growth.*

*The contemporary church's de-emphasis of spiritual growth has reaped a bitter harvest. Millions of professing Christians suffer from arrested development. Churches are filled with people who are spiritually immature, undiscerning, weak and fragile. Spiritual underdevelopment is the rule, no longer an exception. Thousands – perhaps millions – are now addicted to "therapy," evidently preferring the dependency of a counselling relationship to the rigors of true discipleship and growth in grace. (Others are addicted to praise and worship that feeds the ego and excites the flesh.)*

*This is a severe threat to the church. Frankly, it may be a sign that something is terribly wrong, for growth is one of the essential signs of life – in both the physical and the spiritual realms. Where there is no growth, no true life exists. Where there is no spiritual growth, no true life exists. Where there is no spiritual growth, there is good reason to question whether spiritual life exists".*

Are you growing? If you are not, or if you are not satisfied with your rate of growth, this series will challenge and inspire your life!

**A steam engine needs to put more steam in its wheels than in its whistle.**

Be sure of this: God intends every Christian to grow into spiritual maturity. His Word commands us to do this. (2 Peter 3:18). That's our obligation – and our privilege. Each day we can progress in our spiritual life toward a fuller, higher, personal, and blessed relationship with God.

Write out 2 Peter 3:18:

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Questions for discussion:

1. Both 2 Peter 1:3 and 2 Peter 3:18 refer to something we can do to grow in the Lord. What is it?
2. What practical actions and adjustments can we make in our lives to do this?
3. Can you think of an illustration that helps explain the difference between PRACTICAL and POSITIONAL Holiness?
4. Three points were mentioned at the beginning of this study regarding what Christ has done for us. Mark these readings in your Bible. Consider the opposite of these blessings and their effect on our lives if we were not Christians.