

# The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit

## Session #4

All page numbers refer to J.I. Packer, *Keep in Step with the Spirit* (Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 1984)



“Christianity in North America is 3,000 miles wide and half an inch deep.” (10)



### RECAP:

“...the Spirit makes known the personal presence...of the risen, reigning Saviour...” (47 cf. 55)

### HOLINESS: A CHRISTIAN PRIORITY (94–97)

Why does Packer say “God has implanted a passion for holiness deep in every born-again heart”? (94)

#### 1. Definition

- “...being near to God, like God, given to God, and pleasing to God” (94)
- Westminster Shorter Catechism: “Sanctification is the **work** of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are **enabled** more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.” (Q&A 35)
- What do the following say about sanctification as God's **work** (gift) and our **enablement** (duty):
  - 1 Peter 1:15–16
  - 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 7; 5:23
  - Ephesians 1:4; 5:25–26; 2:10
  - Romans 12:1
  - 2 Corinthians 7:1

What comes to mind when you hear the word “salvation?”

## HOLINESS: A NEGLECTED PRIORITY (97–103)

### 1. Self-Centered Godliness

- “Modern Christians tend to make satisfaction their religion.” (97)

How do you see this in yourself?

### 2. Activism

- “Modern Christians tend to make busyness their religion.” (98)

How does Packer apply this to how we view the role of the pastor? (98)

### 3. Holiness in Eclipse: “...a fading glory in today’s evangelical world.” (99)

- *We’re pre-occupied with controversy (100)*

Is this still true?

- *We’re disillusioned with “holiness” teaching (100)*

How have you seen this in yourself and friends?

- *We’re pre-empted with other topics (100–101)*

What’s the last recent book on holiness/sanctification you read?

- *We’re insensitive to the holiness of God himself! (101)*

How does God’s holiness affect our pursuit of holiness?

## SOME BIBLICAL BASICS (103–115)

### 1. Its *Nature*: Transformation through Consecration

What is Packer trying to say when he distinguishes “positional” holiness from “personal” holiness?

### 2. Its *Context*: Justification (Rom. 3–5/6–8)

### 3. Its *Root*: Co-Crucifixion/Co-Resurrection with Christ (Rom. 6)

4. Its *Agent*: Holy Spirit
  - Prevenient v. Cooperative Grace

What's Packer trying to say when he distinguishes "prevenient" from "cooperative" grace?

- Objective v. Subjective Means of Grace

Is this different from you've thought of before?

5. Its *Experience*: Conflict (Gal. 5:17)
6. Its *Rule*: The Law (Rom. 7:12, 14)
7. Its *Heart*: Love (Matt. 22:34–40)

## KEEPING IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT (118–120)

Several things to remember:

1. Holiness was God's purpose for all his people when he planned their salvation (Eph. 1:4)
2. Holiness was Christ's purpose for all of us when he died for us (Eph. 5:25)
3. It was for holiness that we were raised to life in Christ (Eph. 2:10)
4. The Gospel that calls us to Christ summons us also to holiness (Titus 2:11–12; Eph. 4:21–24)
5. Holiness is a part of the salvation that Jesus brings us (Matt. 1:21)
6. Without holiness no one will see the Lord because only through a pure heart can one ever see God (Heb. 12:14; Matt. 5:8)
7. Holiness makes for the happiness of fellowship with God (Ps. 15:1–2)
8. Holiness is the precondition of usefulness to God (2 Tim. 2:21)
9. Holiness is in any case the only way of life that is natural and fulfilling to anyone who is born again (Heb. 12:5–12)

