

Much could be said at this point about internal holiness. It is a grievous error to preach external standards without preaching internal standards! However, modern spirit-filled Christians often pride themselves on being “holy on the inside” while remaining “unaffected on the outside.” This is an equally grievous error before God! We must have holiness both inside and outside! Our purpose in this series is to deal with **PRACTICAL HOLINESS**, that is, how your internal holiness affects your external lifestyle.

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT EXTERNAL COMPLIANCE IS WORTHLESS BEFORE GOD UNLESS THERE IS ALSO AN INTERNAL REALITY OF HOLINESS. Internal issues are obviously the most important; therefore, we spend much more time teaching them. However, the preeminence of internals does not negate the place of externals, which are simply manifestations of the inward qualities. For example, we are saved by the work of the Holy Ghost, not by tongues. Speaking in tongues alone does not send us to heaven, and the lack of tongues alone does not condemn us to hell. Nevertheless, the initial sign of tongues definitely illustrates the reality of someone receiving the Spirit.

### **SALVATION IS A FREE GIFT, BUT SANCTIFICATION IS A COSTLY EXPERIENCE!**

- **Luke 9:62** *And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*
- **Matthew 16:24-27** <sup>24</sup> *Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.* <sup>25</sup> *For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.* <sup>26</sup> *For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?* <sup>27</sup> *For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.*

### **QUESTIONS CONCERNING PRACTICAL HOLINESS:**

#### **1. WHERE DOES HOLINESS TEACHING ORIGINATE?**

- The supreme source of holiness teaching is **the Bible** itself. Therefore, a holiness standard must either be a specific Biblical statement or a valid application of a Biblical principle.
- God has also given us **spiritual leadership** in the church to help us apply Biblical principles to the situations we encounter in contemporary life. (Ephesians 4:11-16)
- Finally, **the Holy Spirit** teaches us directly through internal promptings and convictions - if we will listen! (John 14:26, 16:13, Jeremiah 31:33, 1 John 2:27)
- Our “three holiness teachers” work together and complement one another, but the Bible is our final authority. God does not give human beings the right to change His message, nor will the indwelling Spirit of God speak contrary to the written Word He Himself inspired.

#### **2. WHAT ARE HOLINESS STANDARDS?**

- In the Old Testament, a standard was a banner that was lifted up or displayed before the people on a pole as a rallying point or signal. In Numbers 21:8-9, this same word is used to indicate the pole upon which the bronze serpent was placed. It was customary to give a standard as a token of protection, and that was regarded as the surest pledge of fidelity. God’s lifting up or setting up a standard (Isaiah 11:12, 59:19) implies a particular presence, protection and leading of His people in the execution of His righteous will. (Unger’s Bible Dictionary)
- The modern dictionary definition of “STANDARD” is: (1) something established by authority, custom, or general consent as a model or example; (2) a means of determining what a thing should be; (3) a test of quality whether formulated as a rule or not; (4) a simple test for determining the authenticity or value of something intangible.
- Quite simply, holiness standards are NOT the “tangible part” of holiness - that is an internal work of God’s Spirit. However, they ARE an external sign that an authentic work of salvation and subsequent Christian maturity have taken place. Thus, they are a “test of quality.”
- There are three types of holiness standards: (1) Bible Standards, which are explicitly commanded in Scripture and demand immediate obedience; (2) Church Standards, which are established by spiritual leadership to deal with the practical application of Scriptural principles in modern situations, and are usually understood and implemented gradually as a believer matures; (3) Personal Standards, which are prompted by the Holy Spirit in individual lives due to the unique background of each believer, and may have no relevance to any other believer.