



**FIRST BAPTIST**  
— CHURCH —  
FAIR OAKS RANCH

**Day 39: Perfecting Holiness in the Fear of God**

**2 Corinthians 7:1** *Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God. (ESV)*

**DEVOTIONAL**

We are reaching the summit of our journey toward walking in the fear of the Lord. If one verse could stand as the headline over all forty of these days, it would be this one. It links together the two great words we have been holding side by side from the very beginning: holiness and the fear of God.

“Bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.” Everything we’ve explored converges here.

The passage begins with grace; “since we have these promises.” The text has just finished reciting God’s amazing promises to dwell among His people and be their Father. The pursuit of holiness can never begin with raw willpower; it must begin with grace, inside the promises already given, with a God who has already made us a people of His own possession. Because of what God has promised, Paul says, “let us cleanse ourselves.” The introduction of grace calls forth our response of purity.

Notice how complete this cleansing is: “from every defilement of body and spirit.” This reaches everything: outward actions and inward thoughts, the visible conduct and the hidden imagination. It is the same wholeness we have pursued all along: not merely clean hands, but a clean heart; not just a polished image, but a pure interior life where no one sees but God. The Greek word for “bringing to completion,” is *epiteleo*, which means to finish, to carry all the way through to the very end. Holiness is not a one-time event but a lifelong project we keep pressing toward completion.

This is the energy that enables the everything; the phrase that has been our theme from Day 1: this holiness is completed “in the fear of God.” The fear of the Lord is not the byproduct of holiness; it is its very power source. As we began forty days ago, the reverent awe of a holy God is the beginning of wisdom, the fountain of purity, and the treasure that reclaims every desire. Charles Spurgeon reminded

his people that the holiness God brings about is always the fruit of His grace at work within, never merely our unaided effort. This does not mean that grace make us passive recipients; it stirs us to also cleanse ourselves, to press on, to complete what God has begun in our daily living. Grace and effort are not rivals. Grace is always at work cleansing the inside granting us a right relationship with God; and grace then empowers us to clean the outside thoughts and actions.

This is the whole message of our journey, gathered into one sentence: walk in the fear of the Lord, and let that reverent awe drive you to cleanse yourself, body and spirit, pressing on toward a holiness that grace itself will one day bring to full completion and reward.

### **TAKE AWAY**

The whole journey in one line: the fear of the Lord isn't the enemy of holiness — it's the engine of it. Let reverent awe of God drive you to cleanse both your actions and your thoughts, while trusting in the grace of God to grant you righteousness.

### **PRAYER PROMPT**

Ask the Lord to help you cleanse yourself from every defilement of body and spirit, pressing on toward holiness in the fear of God.