

One of my favorite books as a young Christian was Jerry Bridges' *The Pursuit of Holiness*. It was based on a verse in Hebrews which says, "Make every effort to live in peace with all men and to be holy; *without holiness no man shall see the Lord*" (Heb. 12:14). The scripture actually says to *make every effort* to be holy. This was a new concept for me.

That book was instrumental in opening my eyes to see that, although we are washed in the blood of Christ, and we are holy in God's sight when we become Christians, we still have a responsibility to take on the character of Christ. The book of Romans is quite direct: "*Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation - but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit, you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*" (Romans 8:12-14)

Again, in the second book of Peter, we are told to "*make every effort* to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1: 5-8)

God expects us to make daily changes in our life, in our character, and the way we conduct ourselves. It is a beautiful thing to take on the character of Christ, and to be transformed into his image. Like Moses, who's face was radiant after spending time with the Lord on the mountain, *we are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory*" (2 Cor 3:18)