

The Pursuit of Holiness- Session 11 - Chapter 15

Chapter 15: "Holiness and Faith"

Small Group Discussion Questions + Leader Notes**

1. Bridges argues that a lack of holiness is often rooted in a lack of faith. Why is faith essential to pursuing holiness?

Leader Notes / Potential Answers:

- Faith trusts that God's commands are good and His ways are best.
- Sin often stems from unbelief: doubting God's goodness, wisdom, or provision.
- Faith empowers obedience because it believes the promises behind the commands.
- The Spirit uses faith to produce holiness (Gal. 5:5).
- Bridges connects holiness not simply to effort, but to believing God.

2. Bridges says we sin because we believe the lie that sin will satisfy us more than obedience will. What lies are you most tempted to believe in moments of temptation?

Leader Notes:Common lies might include:

- "This small compromise won't matter."
- "God is withholding something good."
- "I need this to feel better."
- "No one will know."
- "I can repent later." Help participants identify the unbelief beneath temptation.

3. How does meditating on God's character (His goodness, holiness, wisdom, and faithfulness) strengthen faith in the fight for holiness?

Potential Answers:

- We trust commands more when we trust the One who gives them.
- Knowing God's goodness keeps us from believing sin's promises.
- Knowing God's holiness makes sin appear more serious.
- Knowing God's wisdom helps us accept hard or sacrificial obedience.
- Bridges emphasizes faith rooted in who God *is*, not merely what He *does*.

4. Why does Bridges say that faith must look not only backward to the cross but also forward to God's promises? How does this shape holiness?

Leader Notes:

- Looking backward reminds us of forgiveness and acceptance.
- Looking forward anchors us in hope and future reward.
- Faith that sees God's promises fuels perseverance.
- Holiness grows when we believe God's future grace is better than present temptation (Heb. 11).
- Bridges stresses that faith is active, not static.

5. How does unbelief show up in everyday struggles with sin, even in subtle ways?

Potential Answers:

- Worry = unbelief in God's care.
- Impatience = unbelief in God's timing.
- Pride = unbelief in God's greatness.
- Anger = unbelief in God's justice.
- Lust = unbelief in God's provision.
- Bridges wants believers to see sin as a faith issue at its core.

6. Bridges writes that obedience always involves a "risk of faith." What does this mean, and how have you seen it in your own life?

Leader Notes:

- Obedience often requires giving up something desirable, safe, or familiar.
- It may look foolish or costly from a worldly perspective.
- Faith embraces temporary loss for eternal gain.
- Examples: forgiveness, generosity, purity, patience, confession, reconciliation.
- This question helps participants connect theology to real-life choices.

7. According to this chapter, how does faith reshape the way we view temptation?

Potential Answers:

- Faith exposes temptation's lies and exaggerations.
- Faith looks past temporary pleasure to long-term consequences.
- Faith remembers that God provides escape routes (1 Cor. 10:13).
- Faith focuses on God's promises, not sin's promises.

- Bridges stresses that temptation is fundamentally a battle of belief.

8. How can believers strengthen their faith in practical, daily ways so it fuels holiness?

Leader Notes: Practical rhythms may include:

- Scripture meditation
- Prayer
- Rehearsing God's promises
- Remembering past faithfulness
- Christian fellowship
- Worship
- Journaling answered prayers Faith grows by feeding on truth and exercising itself in obedience.

9. What role does the Holy Spirit play in helping believers walk by faith more consistently?

Potential Answers:

- The Spirit illuminates Scripture and God's promises.
- He convicts of unbelief and redirects the heart.
- He empowers obedience that feels beyond our strength.
- He produces the fruit of faithfulness.
- Bridges shows that faith is both our responsibility and the Spirit's work within us.

10. Where is God calling you to exercise faith right now in order to take the next step of holiness? What promise of God do you need to cling to?

Leader Notes:

- Encourage specific steps: forgiveness, confession, purity, generosity, surrendering worry, resisting temptation, obeying God in a difficult area.
- Connect each step to a biblical promise for encouragement.
- Keep tone pastoral, hope-filled, and centered on grace.