



THE BROOKSVILLE BULLETIN

Brooksville church of Christ
604 W. Fort Dade Avenue, Brooksville, FL

August 8, 2021

Perfecting Holiness In Our Lives **(Ron Drumm)**

Toward the end of his life, the apostle Peter, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, wrote these words, “but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’” (1 Peter 1:15-16).

Can we actually be holy? Why is it that we feel holiness is unattainable? How could Peter make such a plea? Look at Peter’s life – he was rebuked by Jesus after confessing Him to be the Son of the Living God (Matthew 16:13-23); he denied the Lord three times after saying he would die for Him (Matthew 26:33-35,69-75) and sinned concerning his treatment of the Gentiles when the Jewish leaders came around (Galatians 2:1-10).

Maybe the problem comes from our misunderstanding of holiness. We often consider it to be

perfection in our actions, and that perfection to us seems impossible. Holiness means purity, being blameless, set apart for God’s use, or sanctification (1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17). This definition does not indicate living perfectly, but rather it describes living a life dedicated to God.



Our character and attitude are in view. Paul expressed it this way, “Therefore, having these promises,

beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” (2 Corinthians 7:1). It is a Spirit guided process we endeavor to follow that brings about holiness in our lives.

Holiness is attainable. This is why Peter, in all of his sins and failures, could call us to be holy, as God is holy. It is a choice. I’m a vessel for God’s exclusive use, or I allow myself to be the devil’s tool. We are not created to be useless and worthless. We have been created in Christ Jesus to be God’s workmanship — people allowing

themselves to be molded into holy servants of Christ (Ephesians 2:10).

It is our desire to glorify the God of heaven in every aspect of our lives. We are to “put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness” (Ephesians 4:24). So, “pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14).



Raising Expectations (Joshua Creel)

For forty days, the Philistine champion took his stand and issued his challenge to the army of Israel: “Choose a man for yourselves and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will become your servants; but if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall become our servants and serve us... I defy the ranks of Israel this day; give me a man that we may fight together.” (1 Samuel 17:8-10) The Philistine champion was such an imposing figure (vv4-7) that his name,

Goliath, has echoed through the centuries representing many dreadful foes. A corresponding champion was not to be found in the army of Saul, not a one of them would stand to face this giant (vv11, 24). But we remember this story from when we were kids. The hero, young David, was about to come on the scene; He would save the day!

But at that time, no one thought of David as a hero. In fact, the expectations for David were exceedingly low! His father, Jesse, sent David to the battlefield not as a warrior but as a messenger boy who could take provisions to his brothers and report back on their welfare (vv12-19). Jesse had no thought of his youngest son facing, let alone defeating, the Philistine champion. David’s brothers had an even lower opinion of their youngest sibling. Eliab, the eldest, accused David of neglecting his duties at home so that he could come and witness a bloody battle (v28). Saul, the king of Israel, had been waiting forty days for one of his mighty warriors to accept Goliath’s challenge, but they all wilted in fear. But when David came forward ready to face the giant, Saul’s first words were, “you are not able to go against this Philistine...” (v33). And what about Goliath? He had been waiting for a challenger, but when David appeared, he only scoffed: “Am I a dog, that you come to me with

sticks?” (v43). No one expected much of our hero.

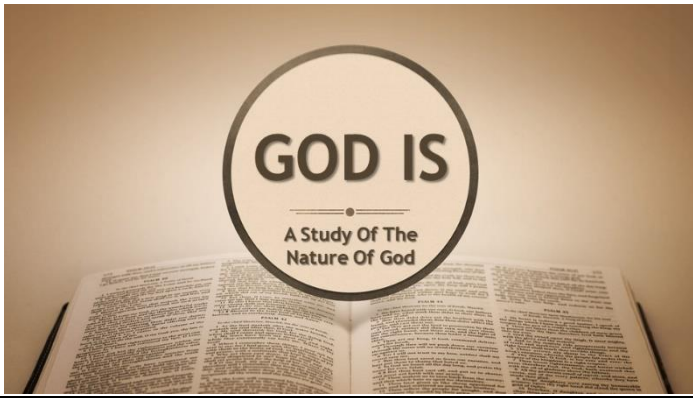
And that leads to why this story we loved as children should still resonate with us. We live in a world of pathetically low expectations. It is assumed that our marriages won't last, that our children won't respect us, that temptation cannot be avoided (nor should it be). And too many of us have bought into these low expectations. We may not look to divorce our spouses, but we settle for something far from the “one flesh” union God purposed. We allow all manner of filth to infiltrate our homes while being satisfied that we aren't as bad as “the world.” Most tragic of all are the expectations we have for our kids, oftentimes equating their faithfulness with good church attendance and abounding in good works? No. Talking with their friends about the gospel? Not a chance. We've set the bar terribly low.

Yet God sets the bar exceedingly high! His expectations for us are that we are “holy as He is holy” (1 Peter 1:16), that we “Be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matthew 5:48). God had high expectations for the army of Israel as well, that if they would be faithful to Him, “one of your men puts to flight a thousand, for the Lord your God is He who fights for you, just as He promised you”

(Joshua 23:10). And this is why David is known to us as the hero of the story because his expectations were high, knowing that the Lord “who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine” (1 Samuel 17:37). And when expectations are raised, actions will correspond to meet them. David still had to go face the giant, and he would do so with a sling and five smooth stones. He still had to step onto the battlefield, alone and against an opponent far more powerful than he. But he acted in faith that “the battle is the Lord's and He will give you into my hands” (v47). Let's allow God's expectations to shape our actions. Let's practice submission in marriage (Ephesians 5:21-31), trusting that God will truly sanctify our marriages. Let's flee from temptation trusting that what God has in store for us is far greater. Let's encourage our children to be examples in “speech, conduct, love, faith and purity” (1 Timothy 4:12), believing that they can be true children of God.

Finally, when we allow God to set our expectations and begin to act on them, we become known for what we are rather than what we are not. Why do we remember David and not Eliab? Was his brother Eliab a terrible person? I doubt it, but he didn't trust in his God enough to act. We remember

David because he acted on his faith. He was praised for what he did! (1 Samuel 18:7). What defines us? The fact that we don't smoke, drink, curse, gamble, etc.? Too many Christians are defined by the negative, by what they don't do. Let's be defined by what we do as a people who trust in their God so much that they strive to meet His expectations in all things!



Wednesday – August 8
God is Righteous When We Are Not
(David McClister)

Temper gets most of us in trouble, and pride keeps us there.

The less some people know, the more anxious they are to tell you about it.

I Must Have God **(Amy Wellington)**

I must have God!
I couldn't walk this thorny way
With stone beneath and cloud
above,
Or meet the struggle of each day
Without his love.

I must have God!
I couldn't stand the hours at night
Or troubled day with all its length,
Or overlook what others say
Without his strength.

I must have God!
I couldn't carry on my lips
A song of cheer, a word to ease
The aching of another's heart
Without his peace.

I must have God!
I couldn't share the grief of those
Who need my help along life's way
Or comfort one in need of peace
Unless I pray.

Brooksville Church of Christ

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Times of Services

Sunday Bible Class for all ages (10:00am)

Sunday Worship all Welcome (11:00am & 6:00pm)

Wednesday Bible Class for all ages (7:00pm)

Supporting the GOSPEL in other places:

☞ Jamey Hinds, Hollywood, Florida; Roy Fenner, Panama City, Florida

☞ Zeke Flores, Columbus, Texas; The saints in Nicaragua

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