PURSUIT OF HOLINESS
by Jerry Bridges

Introduction

Offered by Ron Lively, M.Div., M.A. – BiblicalMentoring.org (Studies)

***Source**: The Pursuit of Holiness by Jerry Bridges. Published by NavPress, 1978. ISBN 0-89109-430-X. Note: We offer the content of this book in our Session Guides with study questions, etc. We encourage you to consider purchasing a copy of the book at **Navpress**.

Please read this Introduction prior to our first training session in this study.

"This classic still makes one think, pray, get real with God, repent, and find joy in wise obedience more effectively than any other book I know. I cannot recommend it too highly." —***J. I. PACKER**, professor of theology, Regent College; author of Knowing God and Rediscovering Holiness*

"The Pursuit of Holiness richly deserves to be regarded as a modern classic. Jerry Bridges dispels some dangerous misconceptions while motivating readers with a passion for true holiness. This is surely one of the most important books produced in the past fifty years." —***JOHN MACARTHUR,** pastor, Grace Community Church*

"When Jerry Bridges spoke, I listened. His teaching on holiness is not an exercise in abstraction; it is an expression of a passion that has gripped his life and ministry." —***RC SPROUL**, president and chairman, Ligonier Ministries*

Foreword*:

Jerry Bridges gave the world one of the most incisive, appealing, and conscience-stirring treatises on scriptural holiness ever written. Without doubt, the Lord enabled His servant to prepare a volume that will have a far-reaching impact upon the lives of countless numbers who read it.

The dominant theme of this heart-moving study is the need for increasing pursuit by believers for the holiness of life which God, whose holiness is ever gratefully remembered, can alone make possible. *Pursuit* is the key word which the author, whose personal pursuit was long and strong, constantly repeats.

In the *Declaration of Independence*, Thomas Jefferson declared that one of the inherent and unalienable rights of men is "the pursuit of happiness." Professing Christians must be brought to realize that the preeminent desire and demand of God for us is that of the continual pursuit of holiness of life, and the reflection of His own holiness. "Be ye holy, for I am holy."

Well over 100 years ago, William Blake urged his readers to "put off holiness, and put on intellect." But divorced from divine holiness, intellect is like a ship without a captain, and doomed to disaster. In our quest for holiness the prayer must ever rise from the heart, "Take my intellect and use Every power as Thou shalt choose."

This is why we must warmly commend this compelling coverage of practical holiness, in which the author fully shows that the whole of life must be permeated with the holiness a thrice-holy God can impart.

Dr. Herbert Lockyer, Sr.

Jerry Bridges – the Author: Jerry Bridges was a staff member of The Navigators Collegiate Ministries where he was involved in staff training and also served as a resource person to those ministering on university campuses. He was on staff of the Navigators since 1955. From 1979 through 1994, he served as Vice President for Corporate Affairs. In addition to his work in the Collegiate Ministries, he also served from time to time as a guest lecturer at several seminaries and spoke at numerous conferences and retreats, both in the U.S. and overseas. In 2005, Jerry received an honorary doctorate from Westminster Theological Seminary. The Pursuit of Holiness sold more than a million copies. Other titles of his books are: The Practice of Godliness, Trusting God, Transforming Grace, The Discipline of Grace, The Gospel for Real Life, Is God Really in Control?, The Crisis of Caring, and The Joy of Fearing God. Jerry and his wife, Jane, lived in Colorado Springs, Colorado. They had two adult children (Kathy and Dan) and five grandchildren. He died on March 6, 2016.

In other words, the author Jerry Bridges (1929-2016) was a highly respected Christian author, speaker, and staff member of The Navigators, a worldwide Christian discipleship organization. Known for his deep commitment to spiritual growth and personal holiness, Bridges authored numerous influential books that have challenged and inspired believers across the globe. His practical and scripturally grounded approach to Christian living stems from his personal experiences and profound understanding of biblical teachings. Over a career spanning several decades, Bridges' insightful works, like "The Pursuit of Holiness," have become essential reading for individuals seeking to deepen their faith and cultivate a life of holiness and discipline in their walk with God.

*In his autobiography**, **God Took Me by the Hand**, Jerry Bridges tells how his first—and most popular—book came about:*

[As a young man] I had heard the statement that the Bible was given to guide our conduct and I prayed, "God, starting tonight, would You use the Bible to guide my conduct?" That was the actual seed of the book on holiness.

Because of the mistakes I had made, and particularly having gotten so deeply involved in the "just let Jesus live His life through you" theology, I was eager to help other people avoid the pitfalls I had experienced and for others who were involved in that theology to see the fallacy, so I was publicly teaching on the principle of dependent responsibility every opportunity I had.

In 1975, The Navigators started a publishing division called NavPress. Prior to that we had simply a materials department, which was responsible for shipping our Bible study and Scripture memory resources. But The Navigators decided that we should get into the book publishing ministry. At that time, it was thought that this would give staff an opportunity to publish. As it turned out, very few members of our staff were oriented to writing books, so this goal was never fully realized. However, it was God's open door for me.

When NavPress started, they had only one or two books to publish, so they went to the Glen Eyrie Conference Center message archives, which contained hundreds of messages given over a 20-year period. They selected about a dozen messages and had them transcribed into printed form and distributed them as pocket-size booklets. They selected two of my messages.

However, LeRoy Eims, one of our senior staff, who had written two or three books, read one of my booklets. One day we just happened to meet in the parking lot, and he said to me, "Your message has got a real bite to it. You ought to try your hand at writing." This challenge stuck in my mind. I had the message "The Pursuit of Holiness," which I had given from time to time for almost ten years, and now I had the challenge to put it into print.

I went to the editor of NavPress, who was a casual friend, and told him about my idea for a book. He replied, "It sounds good. Write a couple of chapters and let me take a look at it." That was all.

So, I started writing in September 1976. Since our children were young and I had a full-time job at The Navigators office, I could only spend a few hours a week working on this project. I took the entire summer of 1977 off from writing in order to spend more time with the children. I picked up the writing again in September 1977 and finished in early 1978. The book was finally published and released in October of that year.

As a treasurer of The Navigators, I was concerned that NavPress not lose any money on my book, so I was hoping they would sell at least five thousand copies. Much to everyone's surprise, they sold over five thousand copies in the first six weeks. From that point on, the sales continued to increase until in the early 1980s it made the best-seller list for paperbacks three years in a row, and it continues to sell well now many years after its original publication.

I assumed The Pursuit of Holiness would be the only book I would write. After all, I did not consider myself a writer and felt that I had said all I wanted to say in The Pursuit of Holiness. But God had other plans.

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MORE About the author -

Jerry Bridges grew up in Tyler, Texas, and received Christ as a teenager from the influence of his local church. He attended the University of Oklahoma under the Navy ROTC scholarship program and received a bachelor's degree in general engineering. He was commissioned as an officer in US Navy in 1951 where he first came in contact with the Navigators during the first few months of his service.

Following his discharge, he ministered with The Navigators in San Diego, California while working as an engineer for an aircraft manufacturer company. 1955. He moved to Colorado Springs to serve full-time on The Navigators headquarters staff. He has also served in Holland as an administrative assistant to the European director and as an area representative in Kansas City, Missouri.

Click **HERE** for a Navpress Video promoting Bridges' books.
(Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_wbVXZmbfUc)