



Original Declaration of Independence  
July 4<sup>th</sup> 1776

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**THE  
REDEEMED  
LIFE  
SET FREE**

**THE PURSUIT  
OF HOLINESS**

## **Hebrews 12:14 (personal translation)**

Pursue hard (strive) after peace with everyone and holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

OVER 1,400,000 SOLD

*The*  
PURSUIT  
*of*  
HOLINESS

JERRY  
BRIDGES

RUN IN SUCH A WAY AS TO GET THE PRIZE.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24

# The Battle for Holiness

## 1. Count yourself dead to sin

Romans 6:11 -

<sup>11</sup>In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

## 2. Don't let sin reign

<sup>12</sup>Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. <sup>13</sup>Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness...

# The Battle for Holiness

## 3. Offer yourselves to God

### Romans 6:13b-14

...but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. <sup>14</sup>For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

# Gospel Application:

Will you fight?

# What difference is the Gospel making?

## Gospel Patience and Persistence

Colossians 2:6

<sup>6</sup> So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

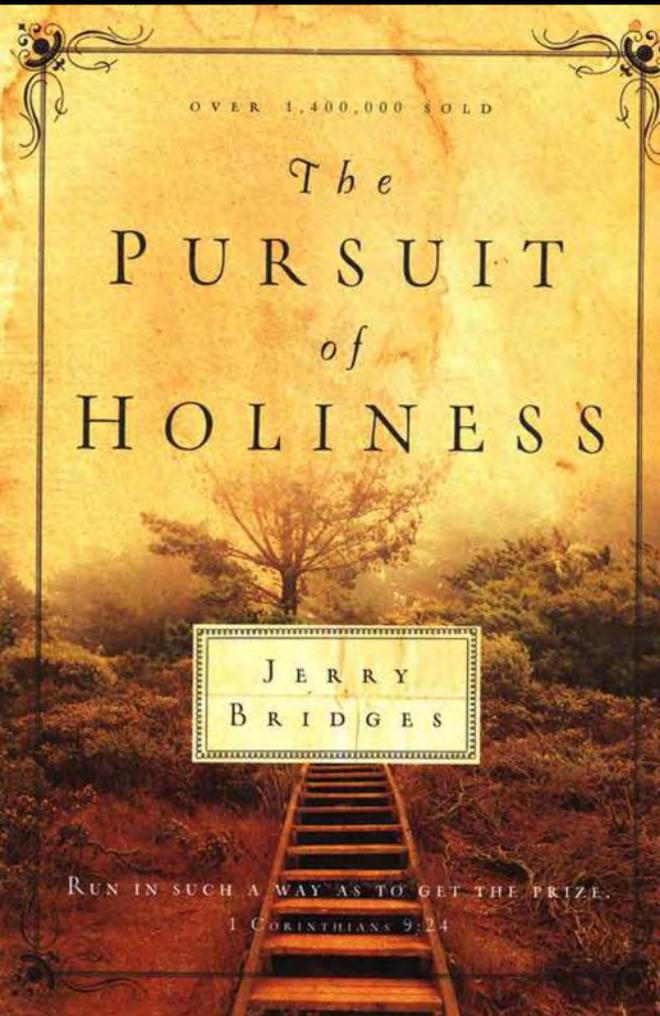
What does it mean to be IN Him?



# A precarious leaning



# A precarious leaning



How foolish I was. I misconstrued dependence on the Holy Spirit to mean I was to make no effort, that I had no responsibility. I mistakenly thought if I turned it all over to the Lord, He would make my choices for me and would choose obedience over disobedience. All I needed was to look to Him for holiness. But this is not God's way. He makes provision for our holiness, but He gives us the responsibility of using those provisions.

# Gospel Transformation

- Part 1: What difference is the Gospel making?
- Part 2: Declaration of Independence and Dependence



# A Declaration of Independence and Dependence

*Romans 8: 1-17*

*Declaration of Independence*

*Declaration of Dependence*

*Know your provisions*

*Know your orders*

# *Declaration of Independence*

## **Romans 8:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us,

# *Declaration of Independence*

## **What God Did:**

**Romans 8:1-4**

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## How God did it:

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You are set free from the reign of sin.

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# *Declaration of Dependence*

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## **Romans 8:4-8**

<sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. <sup>6</sup>The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; <sup>7</sup>the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. <sup>8</sup>Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

# *Declaration of Dependence* **on the sinful nature??**

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# *Declaration of Dependence*

## **on the Spirit??**

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# *Declaration of Dependence*

## **Eternal Life:**

**John 17:3**

<sup>3</sup> Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

# *Declaration of Dependence* **on the Spirit!!**

**Romans 8:9-10**

<sup>9</sup>You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

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# *Declaration of Dependence*

The Spirit is now in charge.

Your sinful nature is NOT in charge.

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*Know your Provisions*

*Know your Orders*

# Know your Provisions

Romans 8:11

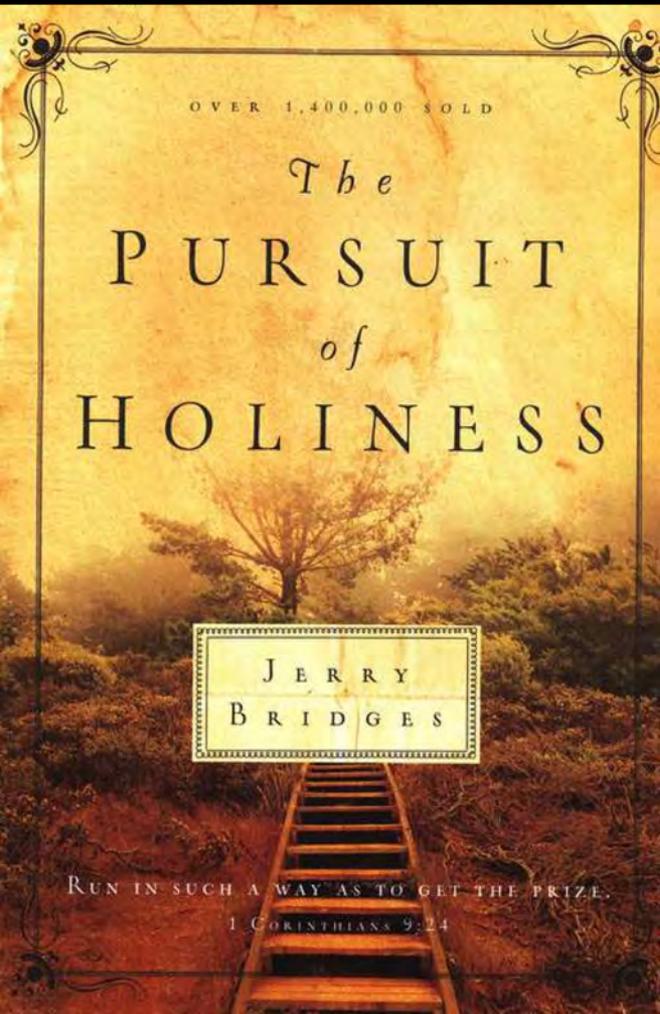
<sup>11</sup>And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

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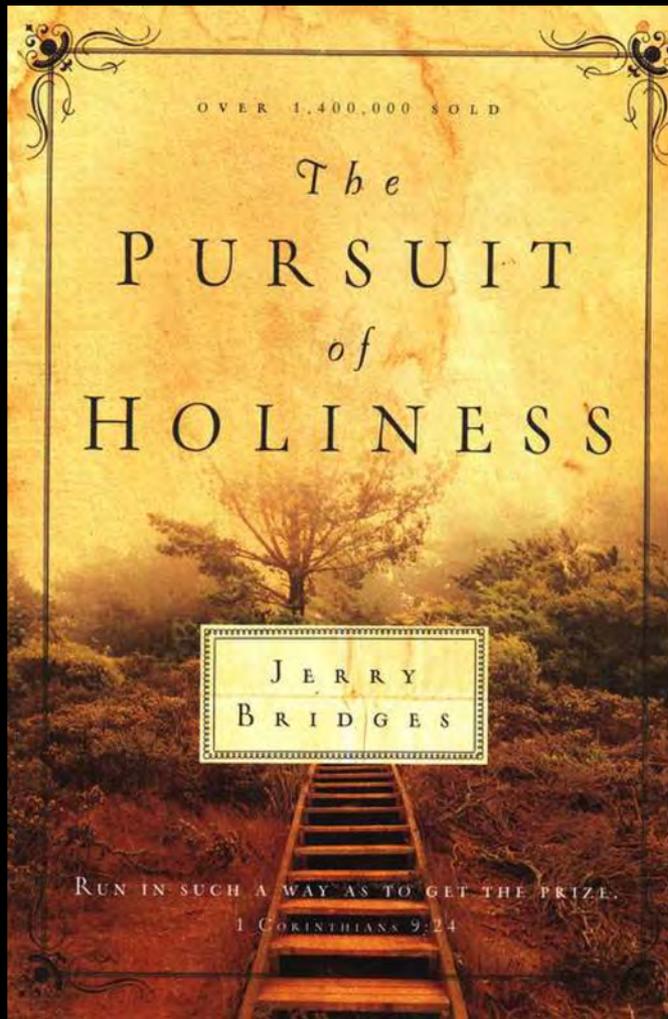
# Know your Provisions



“To experience practical, everyday holiness, we must accept the fact that God in His infinite wisdom has seen fit to allow this daily battle with indwelling sin. But God does not leave us to do battle alone. Just as He delivered us from the overall reign of sin, so He has made ample provision for us to win the daily skirmishes against sin.

# Know your Provisions

The Christian should never complain of want of ability and power. If we sin, it is because we choose to sin, not because we lack the ability to say no to temptation.



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The same power that raised Jesus from the dead.

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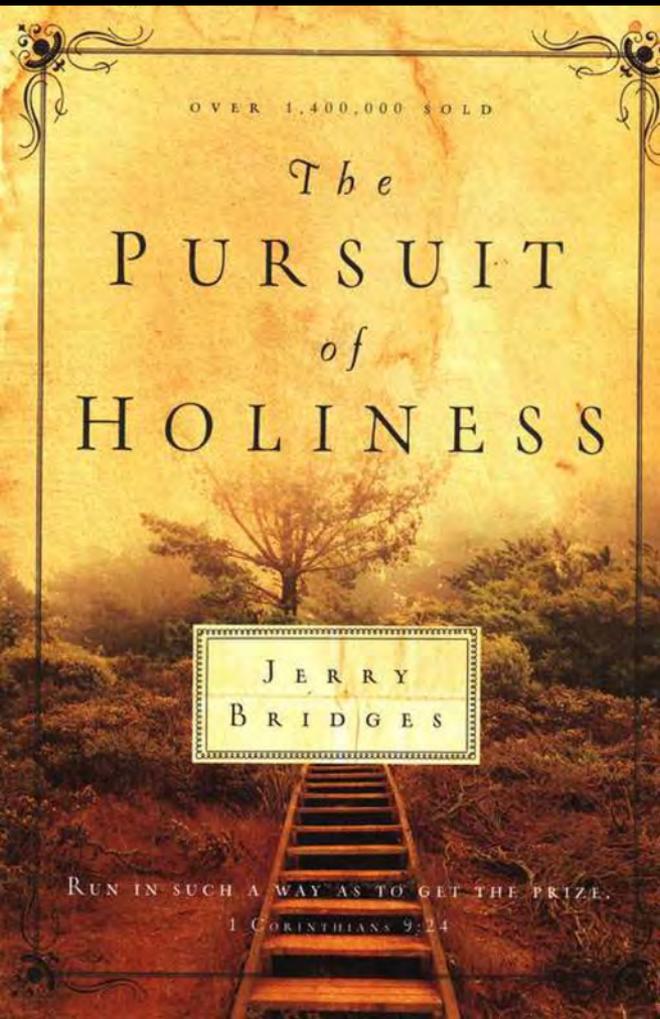
# Know your Orders

Romans 8:12-13

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation – but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. <sup>13</sup>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, ...

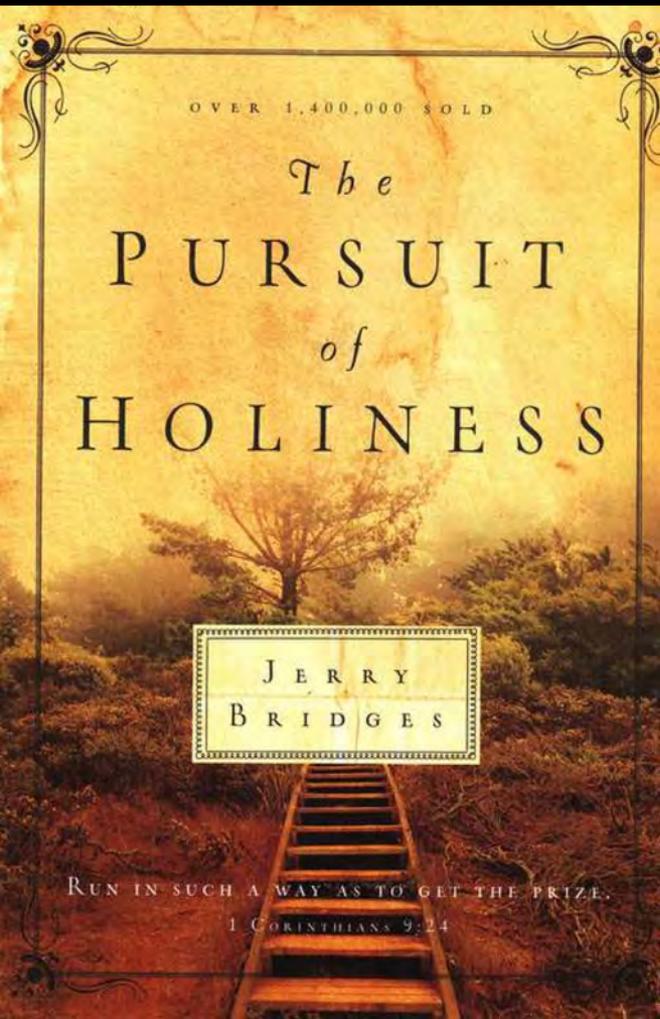
# Know your Orders

It is clear from this passage that God puts responsibility for living a holy life squarely on us. We are to do something. We are not to “stop trying and start trusting”; we are to put to death the misdeeds of the body. Over and over again in the epistles – not only Paul’s, but the other apostles’ as well – we are commanded to assume our responsibility for a holy walk. Paul exhorted, “Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature” (Colossians 3:5). This is something we are told to do.



# Obedience vs. Victory

It is time for us Christians to face up to our responsibility for holiness. Too often we say we are

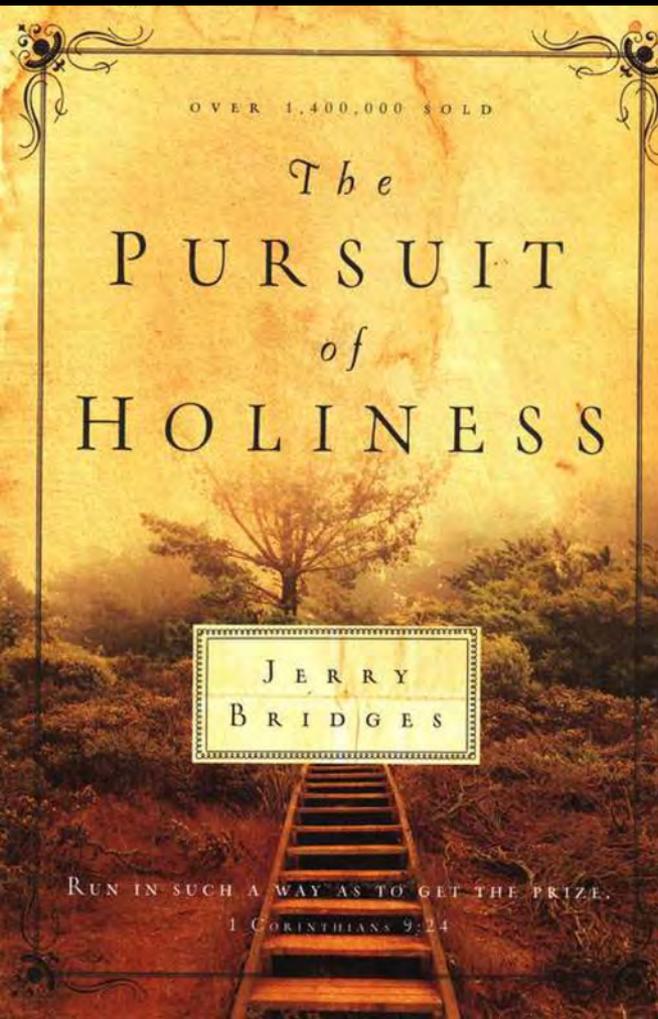


“defeated” by this or that sin. No, we are not defeated; we are simply disobedient! It might be good if we stopped using the terms “victory” and “defeat” to describe our progress in holiness. Rather we should use the terms “obedience” and “disobedience.”

# Obedience vs. Victory

When I say I am defeated by some sin, I am unconsciously slipping out from under my responsibility. I am saying

something outside of me has defeated me. But when I say I am disobedient, that places the responsibility for my sin squarely on me. We may, in fact, be defeated, but the reason we are defeated is because we have chosen to disobey. We have chosen to entertain lustful thoughts, or to harbor resentment, or to shade the truth a little.



# Obedience - Not to a new master...

Romans 8:14-17

...<sup>14</sup>because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear,

# ADOPTION!

## *Obedience to a new Father*

Romans 8:14-17

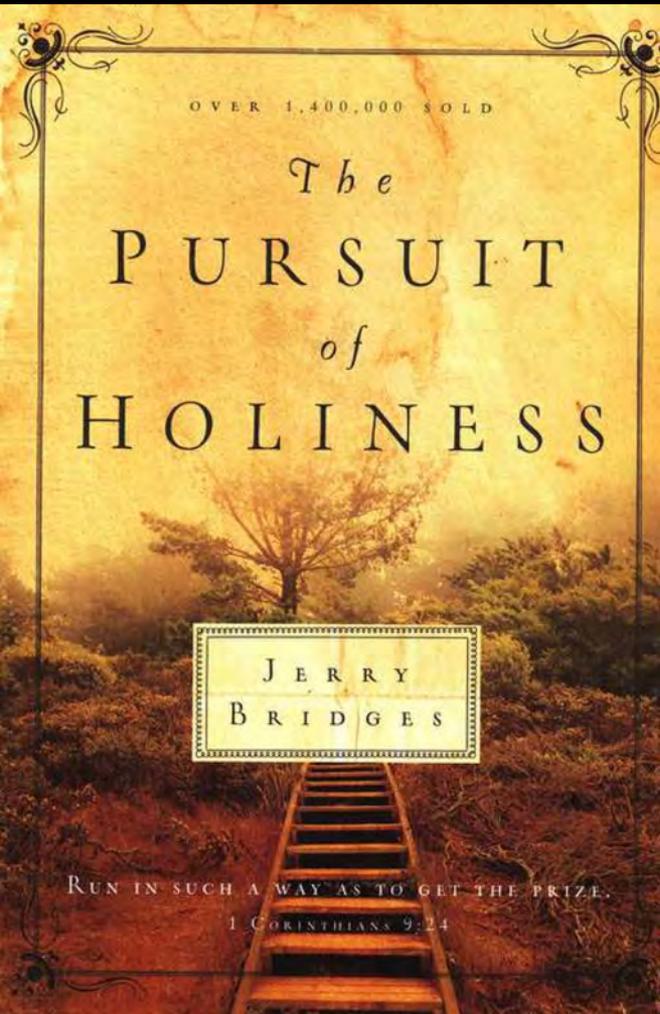
...<sup>14</sup>because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “*Abba, Father.*”  
<sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. <sup>17</sup>Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

# Adoption

- Changed birth certificate
- Permanent
- Unconditional
- Legal heir
- They become like me



# Become like Him.



Holiness is not a series of do's and don'ts, but conformity to the character of God and obedience to the will of God. Accepting with contentment whatever circumstances God allows for me is very much a part of a holy walk.

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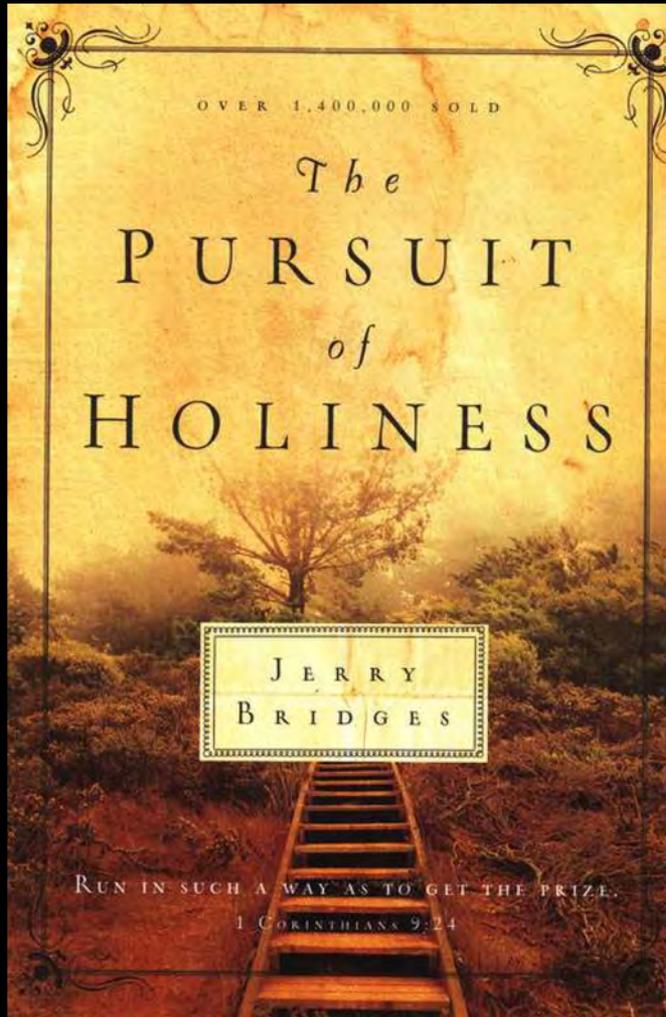
The same power that raised Jesus from the dead.

# *Know your Orders*

Kill sin.

# Practical Application

Here then is another distinction we must make between what God does and what we must do. If the Holy Spirit uses Scripture to show us our need and to stimulate a desire for holiness, then doesn't it follow that we must be in God's Word on a consistent basis? Should we not go to the Word, whether to hear it preached or to do our own study, with the prayer that the Holy Spirit would search our hearts for any sin in us? (Psalm 139:23-24).



# Gospel Application:

Have you been Adopted?

Are you fighting alone?

Are you forgetting your provisions?

Are you following your orders?