THOUGHTS ON HOLINESS

Heb. 12:14 "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord...."

1	SCRIPTURE
2 3 4	Lev. 11:44 "For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy "
5 6 7	Lev. 19:2 "Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say to them: 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy."
8 9 0	Lev. 20:7 "Consecrate yourselves therefore, and be holy, for I am the LORD your God."
1 2 3	Lev. 20:26 "And you shall be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy, and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be Mine."
.4 .5 .6 .7	Deut. 7:6 "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples on the face of the earth."
.8 .9 20 21	Deut. 23:14 "For the LORD your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and give your enemies over to you; therefore your camp shall be holy, that He may see no unclean thing among you, and turn away from you."
23 24 25 26	Deut. 28:9 "The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways."
27 28 29 30 31	Ps. 15:1-5 "LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? ² He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart; ³ He who does not backbite with his tongue, Nor does evil to his neighbor, Nor does he take up a reproach against his friend; ⁴ In whose was a wile person is despited. But he honors these who
32 33 34 35	friend; ⁴ In whose eyes a vile person is despised, But he honors those who fear the LORD; He who swears to his own hurt and does not change; ⁵ He who does not put out his money at usury, Nor does he take a bribe against the innocent."
36 37 38 39	Ps. 24:3-5 "Who may ascend into the hill of the LORD? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart , Who has not lifted up his soul to an idol , Nor sworn deceitfully . He shall receive blessing from the LORD, And righteousness from the God of his salvation."

- 42 Isa. 35:8 "A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the
- 43 Highway of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it, But it shall be for
- others. Whoever walks the road, although a fool, Shall not go astray."

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- 46 Isa. 35:15,16 "He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, He who
- 47 despises the gain of oppressions, Who gestures with his hands, refusing
- 48 bribes, Who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed, And shuts his eyes
- 49 from seeing evil: He will dwell on high; His place of defense will be the
- 50 fortress of rocks; Bread will be given him, His water will be sure."

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Isa. 66:2 "...on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, And who trembles at My word."

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Matt. 5:48 "**Be ye therefore perfect**, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

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Rom. 6:19 "... now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness."

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- Rom. 12:12 "And be not conformed to this world: but **be ye transformed** by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and
- 63 acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

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- 65 2 Cor. 7:1 "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the
- 67 fear of God...."

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69 Eph. 1:4 "...he chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,"

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Eph. 4:24 "and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."

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Eph. 5:25-27 "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish."

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Heb. 12:14 "Pursue **peace with all people, and holiness**, without which no one will see the Lord...."

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1 Pet. 1:15,16 "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.'"

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- 87 Rev. 22:11 "He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him
- 88 be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy,
- 89 **let him be holy still.**"

It is not a conclusive evidence that a man is a Christian because he manifests spiritual ecstasy under extraordinary circumstances. Holiness is not rapture: it is an entire surrender of the will to God; it is living by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God; it is doing the will of our heavenly Father; it is trusting God in trial, in darkness as well as in the light; it is walking by faith and not by sight; it is relying on God with unquestioning confidence, and resting in His love. {AA 51.2}

Holiness is **constant agreement with God**. {ST, June 21, 1905 par. 3}

What constitutes **true piety. It is the doing of the words of Christ.** It is guided and controlled by the precepts of the Bible. {1888 1305.1}

Holiness to God is glorifying Him by the entire conformity of the human will to the divine. There is a clean, pure mind. The soul and the body, as Christ's purchased possession, is to be presented to God without spot or wrinkle, or any such thing. This will prove the counteracting of Satan's ingenious work to ruin man. This is the re-creation of the human agent through Jesus Christ's merits; a clean thing is brought out of an unclean, restoring the image of God in man. The human agent is to go forward to reach the highest standard of perfection of character by beholding the character of Jesus Christ.--Letter 17a, 1893, pp. 6, 7. (To Edgar Caro, October 2, 1893.){7MR 274.4}

Are we ready to sit down and count the cost, and conclude that heaven is worth the sacrifice of dying to self, of having our will brought into perfect conformity with the will of God? Until we are willing, the transforming grace of God will not be manifested upon us. When we present our emptied nature to God, he will by his Holy Spirit supply the vacuum made by the renunciation of self, and give us of his fullness. {ST, November 21, 1892 par. 4}

I spoke again about thirty minutes in reference to genuine sanctification, which is nothing less than a daily dying to self, and daily conformity to the will of God. {ST, September 12, 1878 par. 8}

True holiness is wholeness in the service of God. This is the condition of true Christian living. Christ asks for an unreserved consecration, for undivided service. He demands the heart, the mind, the soul, the strength. Self is not to be cherished. He who lives to himself is not a Christian. {COL 48.4}

No one can be omnipotent, but all can cleanse themselves from filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of the Lord. God requires every soul to be pure and holy. We have hereditary tendencies to wrong. This is a part of self that no one need carry about. It is a weakness of humanity to pet selfishness, because it is a natural trait of character. But

unless all selfishness is put away, unless self is crucified, we can never be holy as God is holy. {FLB 140.4}

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God requires moral perfection in all. Those who have been given light and 143 144 opportunities should, as God's stewards, aim for perfection, and never, 145 never lower the standard of righteousness to accommodate inherited and 146 **cultivated tendencies to wrong**. Christ took upon Him our human nature, and 147 lived our life, to show us that we may be like Him. . . . We ought to be holy 148 even as God is holy; and when we comprehend the full significance of this 149 statement, and set our heart to do the work of God, to be holy as He is holy, 150 we shall approach the standard set for each individual in Christ Jesus. {FLB 151 140.5}

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153 God's promise is, "Ye shall be holy; for I am holy." Holiness is the reflection 154 of God's glory. But in order to reflect this glory, we must cooperate with 155 God. Heart and mind must be emptied of all that leads to wrong. The 156 Word of God must be read and studied with a sincere desire to gain from 157 it spiritual strength. This Word is the Bread of heaven. Those who receive 158 it, and make it a part of their lives, grow strong in the strength of God. 159 Our sanctification is God's object in all His dealing with us. He has 160 chosen us from eternity, that we may be holy. Christ declares, "This is the 161 will of God, even your sanctification." Is it your will, also, that your desires 162 and inclinations shall be brought into conformity to the divine will? . . . {OFC 163 285.6}

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On the cross of Christ the Saviour made an atonement for the fallen race. Holiness is the fruit of this sacrifice. It is because He has died for us that we are promised this great gift. And Christ longs to bestow this gift on us. He longs to make us partakers of His nature. He longs to save those who by sin have separated themselves from God. He calls upon them to choose His service, to give themselves wholly into His control, to learn from Him how to do God's will. {ST, December 17, 1902 par. 4}

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Holiness is wholeness to God. The soul is surrendered to God. The will, and even the thoughts, are brought into subjection to the will of Christ. The love of Jesus fills the soul, and is constantly going out in a clear, refreshing stream, to make glad the hearts of others (MS 33, 1911). {6BC 1076.2}

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Satan's path is the broadest and the most deceptive. It is made to appear the most attractive, while it is hard, mystifying, and full of disappointment. The **path of holiness is narrow, full of self-denial and continual sacrifice; and yet in this laborious, up-hill path is happiness, comfort, and hope**. In the midst of conflicts, rebuffs, and trials, the most elevated consolation is enjoyed by those who walk in the path of obedience. {RH, April 15, 1880 par. 5}

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The lovers of the truth of God should be the happiest people in the earth, because "he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

Holiness is happiness, because holiness is a part of Heaven. {ST, June 29,

189 1888 par. 1}

"Many are unhappy because they are unholy. Purity of heart, innocence of mind only can be blessed of God. When sin is cherished, it can in the end produce nothing but unhappiness; and the sin which leads to the most unhappy results is pride of heart, the lack of Christ-like sympathy and love." {PH130 23.2}

"Purity and holiness of action in every movement are as much required as is knowledge." {SpTB05 38.2}

God requires of his blood-bought heritage the sanctification of the whole being,--purity like the purity of Christ, perfect conformity to the will of God. {RH, November 12, 1914 par. 3}

By faith Enoch "was translated that he should not see death, ... for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God." Hebrews 11:5. The godly character of this prophet represents the state of holiness which must be attained by those who shall be "redeemed from the earth" (Revelation 14:3) at Christ's second advent. Then, as before the Flood, iniquity will prevail. Men will rebel against the authority of Heaven. But like Enoch, God's people will seek for purity of heart and conformity to His will, until they shall reflect the likeness of Christ. {EP 49.4}

No one who claims holiness is really holy. Those who are registered as holy in the books of Heaven are not aware of the fact, and are the last ones to boast of their own goodness. None of the prophets and apostles ever professed holiness, not even Daniel, Paul, or John. The righteous never make such a claim. The more nearly they resemble Christ, the more they lament their unlikeness to him; for their consciences are sensitive, and they regard sin more as God regards it. They have exalted views of God and of the great plan of salvation; and their hearts, humbled under a sense of their own unworthiness, are alive to the honor of being accounted members of the royal family, sons and daughters of the King Eternal. {ST, February 26, 1885 par. 10}

Many have taken the position that they cannot sin because they are sanctified, but this is a delusive snare of the evil one. There is constant danger of falling into sin, for Christ has warned us to watch and pray lest we enter into temptation. If we are conscious of the weakness of self, we shall not be self-confident and reckless of danger, but we shall feel the necessity of seeking to the Source of our strength, Jesus our Righteousness. We shall come in repentance and contrition, with a despairing sense of our own finite weakness, and learn that we must daily apply to the merits of the blood of Christ, that we may become vessels fit for the Master's use. {FW 85.3}

Perfection, holiness, nothing short of this, would give them success in carrying out the principles He had given them. Without this holiness the human heart is selfish, sinful, and vicious. Holiness will lead its possessor

to be fruitful and abound in all good works. He will never become weary in well-doing, neither will he look for promotion in this world. He will look forward for promotion to the time when the Majesty of heaven shall exalt the sanctified ones to His throne. {2T 445.1}

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Ample provisions have been made for all who sincerely, earnestly, and thoughtfully set about the work of perfecting holiness in the fear of God. Strength, grace, and glory have been provided through Christ, to be brought by ministering angels to the heirs of salvation. None are so low, so corrupt and vile, that they cannot find in Jesus, who died for them, strength, purity, and righteousness, if they will put away their sins, cease their course of iniquity, and turn with full purpose of heart to the living God. He is waiting to strip them of their garments, stained and polluted by sin, and to put upon them the white, bright robes of righteousness; and He bids them live and not die. In Him they may flourish. Their branches will not wither nor be fruitless. If they abide in Him, they can draw sap and nourishment from Him, be imbued with His Spirit, walk even as He walked, overcome as He overcame, and be exalted to His own right hand. – {2T 453.2}

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Bro. W. is weak in many things. If God required him to expose and condemn a neighbor, to reprove and correct a brother, and resist and destroy his enemies, this would be to him a comparatively natural and easy work. But a warfare against self, subduing the desires and the affections of his own heart, searching out and controlling the secret motives of the heart, is a more difficult warfare. How unwilling to be faithful in such a contest as this. The warfare against self is the greatest battle that was ever fought. The yielding of self, surrendering all to the will of God, and being clothed with humility, possessing that love that is pure, peaceable, and easy to be entreated, full of gentleness and good fruits, is not an easy attainment. And yet it is his privilege and his duty to be a perfect overcomer here. The soul must submit to God before it can be renewed in knowledge and true holiness. The holy life and character of Christ is a faithful example. His confidence in his Heavenly Father was unlimited. His obedience and submission were unreserved and perfect. He came not to be ministered unto, but to minister to others. He came not to do his own will, but the will of Him that sent him. In all things he submitted himself to Him that judgeth righteously...." { PH159 132.1 } He became poor, and made himself of no reputation. He was hungry, and frequently thirsty, and many times weary in his labors, and he had not where to lay his head. When the damp, cold shades of night gathered about him, frequently the earth was his bed. He blessed those who hated him. What a life! what an experience! Can we, the professed followers of Christ, cheerfully endure privation and suffering, as did our Lord, without murmuring? Can we drink of the cup, and be baptized with the baptism? If so, we may share with him in his glory, in his heavenly kingdom. If not, we shall have no part with him. { PH159 133.1 }

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As the sinner, drawn by the love of Christ, approaches the cross, and

prostrates himself before it, there is a new creation. A new heart is given him. He becomes a new creature in Christ Jesus. Holiness finds that it has nothing more to require. God Himself is "the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." And "whom He justified, them He also glorified." Great as is the shame and degradation through sin, even greater will be the honor and exaltation through redeeming love. To human beings striving for conformity to the divine image, there is imparted an outlay of heavenly treasures, an excellency of power, that will place them higher than even the angels who have never sinned. {ST, June 4, 1902 par. 5}

Conversion is a work that most do not appreciate. It is not a small matter to transform an earthly, sin-loving mind and bring it to understand the unspeakable love of Christ, the charms of His grace, and the excellency of God, so that the soul shall be imbued with divine love and captivated with the heavenly mysteries. When he understands these things, his former life appears disgusting and hateful. He hates sin, and, breaking his heart before God, he embraces Christ as the life and joy of the soul. He renounces his former pleasures. He has a new mind, new affections, new interest, new will; his sorrows, and desires, and love are all new. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, and the pride of life, which have heretofore been preferred before Christ, are now turned from, and Christ is the **charm of his life**, the crown of his rejoicing. Heaven, which once possessed no charms, is now viewed in its riches and glory; and he contemplates it as his future home, where he shall see, love, and praise the One who hath redeemed him by His precious blood. - {2T 294.2} The works of holiness, which appeared wearisome, are now his delight. The word of God, which was dull and uninteresting, is now chosen as his study, the man of his counsel. It is as a letter written to him from God, bearing the inscription of the Eternal. His thoughts, his words, and his deeds are brought to this rule and tested. He trembles at the commands and threatenings which it contains, while he firmly grasps its promises and strengthens his soul by appropriating them to himself. The society of the most godly is now chosen by him, and the wicked, whose company he once loved, he no **longer delights in.** He weeps over those sins in them at which he once laughed. Self-love and vanity are renounced, and he lives unto God, and is rich in good works. This is the sanctification which God requires. Nothing short of this will He accept. – {2T 294.3}

Sanctification--how many understand its full meaning? The mind is befogged by sensual malaria. The thoughts need purifying. What might not men and women have been had they realized that the treatment of the body has everything to do with the vigor and purity of the mind and heart. The true Christian obtains an experience which brings holiness. He is without a spot of guilt upon the conscience, or a taint of corruption upon the soul. The spirituality of the law of God, with its limiting principles, is brought into his life. The light of truth irradiates his understanding. A glow of perfect love for the Redeemer clears away the miasma which has interposed between his soul and God. The will of God has become his will, pure, elevated, refined, and sanctified. His countenance reveals the light of heaven. His body is a fit

temple for the Holy Spirit. Holiness adorns his character. God can commune with him, for soul and body are in harmony with God.--Letter 139, 1898, p. 13. (To A. T. Jones, Dec. 16, 1898.) {2MR 27.2}

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Unless you seek to serve Him with your undivided affections, you will fail to perfect holiness in His fear, and you will be compelled to hear at last the fearful word, Depart. – {2T 237.1}

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344 All blessings come to us by virtue of our union with Christ. He, the Lord of 345 hosts, "hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we 346 should be holy, and without blame before Him in love." He has chosen all 347 who will receive and believe and practice the truth,--chosen them to be 348 united to Him by adoption, to be members of the royal family. He has 349 made an atonement for sin, and all who by faith receives Him as their Saviour 350 become sons of God. {BCL 56.2} Christ knows the weakness and the 351 failings of the human heart. Of ourselves, we can never make ourselves fit 352 to be co-workers with Him. It is God's purpose that each soul shall realize 353 his inefficiency, and hunger and thirst after righteousness. Through the 354 cleansing power of the Holy Spirit, we can be made vessels meet for the 355 Master's use. {BCL 56.3} Jesus saves only those who repent of their sins. 356 By the efficacy of His blood, they are cleansed from all defilements. In all 357 wisdom and prudence He works in the one who in faith surrenders to Him. 358 "Let him take hold of My strength," He says, "that he may make peace with 359 Me, and he shall make peace with Me." All those who die to self He will 360 make vessels unto honor. He will bestow on them wisdom and 361 understanding in spiritual things, giving them a rich measure of His 362 grace. {BCL 56.4}

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Transformation of character is wrought through the operation of the Holy Spirit, which works upon the human agent, implanting in him, according to his desire and consent to have it done, a new nature. The image of God is restored to the soul, and day by day he is strengthened and renewed by grace, and is enabled more and more perfectly to reflect the character of Christ in righteousness and true holiness. {RH, September 17, 1895 par. 7}

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"Perfection through our own good works we can never attain. The soul who sees Jesus by faith, repudiates his own righteousness. He sees himself as incomplete, his repentance insufficient, his strongest faith but feebleness, his most costly sacrifice as meager, and he sinks in humility at the foot of the cross. But a voice speaks to him from the oracles of God's Word. In amazement he hears the message, "Ye are complete in Him." Now all is at rest in his soul. No longer must he strive to find some worthiness in himself, some meritorious deed by which to gain the favor of God. {FW 107.4}

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