

Two weeks ago, we began to consider the positive side of holiness—vivification—I mentioned that vivification and mortification are two sides of the same coin—that coin I have called—Gospel Holiness: Its Activities—to *mortify* means "to put to death" and to *vivify* means "to animate or give life"—the entails starving the flesh, the other feeding the soul...

Now—here I need to remind you that I suggested two primary parts of vivification—(1) The Cultivation of Grace, and (2) The Conformity of Life—that is—true holiness is inward and outward—it concerns the HEART and LIFE—Children's Catechism—"Sanctification is God's making sinners holy in heart (today's message) and conduct (next week)"...

Gospel Holiness begins in the HEART and manifests itself in LIFE—holiness of HEART and CONDUCT—that's the necessary order—thus I've suggested that vivification, the positive side of our activity—entails both the Cultivation of Grace within the Heart—and—The Conformity of Life to Christ as He fulfilled the law of God...

- I. A Brief Review
- II. Four Clarifications
- III. Four Cultivated Graces

I. A Brief Review

1. Here I simply want to remind you of what we learned two weeks ago—with regards to the cultivation of grace...
2. [1] HOW grace is cultivated—here I suggested 4 primary ways whereby God strengthens grace within the soul...
3. [a] Though Christ's intercession—that is—all grace is given as the direct result of Christ's priestly activity...
4. Christ's priestly activity, as I reminded you last time, is twofold—His oblation (sacrifice), and intercession...
5. [b] Through the Spirit's indwelling—that is—the Spirit indwells us to ensure that the fire never totally goes out...
6. In regeneration—God starts a fire within every believer—and this fire needs daily and ongoing preservation...
7. This is the work of the Holy Spirit—who continually, for the sake of Christ, adds fresh oil to the fire within our heart...
8. In other words—the principle of divine life, started in our soul at regeneration, is maintained by the Holy Spirit...
9. Luis Berkhof—"Fallen man receives all the blessings of salvation out of the eternal fountain of the grace of God, in virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ and through the operation of the Holy Spirit..."
10. [c] Through abiding in Christ—that is—grace is cultivated within the heart as we abide in Christ by FAITH...
11. [d] Through means of grace—that is—public and private means ordained by Christ to given and cultivate grace...
12. Luis Berkhof—"While the Spirit can and does in some respects operate immediately on the soul of the sinner, He has seen fit to bind Himself largely to the use of certain means in the communication of divine grace..."
13. [2] WHY grace is cultivated—I suggested that grace needs cultivating and strengthening for three reasons...
14. [a] Opposition—that is—we have enemies within and without—who oppose this cultivation of grace in our souls...
15. [b] Declension—that is—we are so needy of grace—that left to ourselves—yesterday's grace is not enough for today...

16. [c] Progression—that is—it's not enough that we simply hold our ground—but we must be advancing in holiness...
17. [3] WHAT grace is cultivated—this is where we left off—before I was able to suggest four key graces that need cultivation...
18. Now—before I come to these four key graces—let me preface them with four necessary and important clarifications...

II. Four Clarifications

1. Before—I provide these clarifications—let me briefly give you the four graces—faith, love, hope, and fear...
2. While it's true that every grace needs cultivation—these five graces, as I shall show, possess a unique place in respect to holiness...
3. [1] These graces are fruit of the Spirit—thus we must remember what I've already said—the cultivation of grace is the Spirit's work...
4. Gal.5:22—"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control..."
5. Thus—we read throughout the Psalms—of the Psalmist crying to God—that He would revive or strengthen grace...
6. Ps.80:18—"Revive us, and we will call upon Your name" Ps.85:65—"Revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You..."
7. Ps.119:25—"Revive me according to Your word" v37—"revive me in Your way" v40—"revive me in Your righteousness" v88—"revive me according to Your righteousness" v107—"revive me according to Your word" v149—"revive me according to Your justice..."
8. Here the Psalmist enlists various motives—to cry to God that He would, by His Spirit, cultivate grace within him...
9. Thus—the cultivation of all grace—is the result of the indwelling Spirit—who adds oil to the fire within our soul...
10. [2] These graces must be diligently pursued—that is—Christians must pursue and seek after gospel holiness...
11. In addition to praying to God that He would "revive us"—we must positively and actively pursue these graces...
12. 1Tim.6:11—"But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness [2Tim.2:22; 2Pet.1:5-7]..."
13. Here we find both activities of Holiness—mortification and vivification—"pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, etc..."
14. Timothy was not only to flee from something—but he was also expected to pursue something—Paul then mentions 6 graces...
15. The Gk word rendered "pursue"—literally means—"to chase after or track down"—it entails careful diligence...
16. Now—HOW we pursue these graces has already been in part answered—we put to death all that hinders them...
17. We "flee" from all that hinders us—and—we pursue these graces by the ways mentioned in previous weeks...
18. Thus—let me simply remind you—the pursuit of holiness is fundamentally a spiritual exercise that requires spiritual means...
19. [3] These graces PROMOTE holiness—that is—they promote holiness by motivating and strengthening the soul...
20. Faith, love, hope, and Christian fear—motivates and strengthens the soul—to chase after additional holiness...
21. Now—I'm going to show you this in a minute—but it's through these graces that we pursue after more grace...
22. These four graces are especially active graces—that energize and move the soul—to walk in holiness of life...

23. Perhaps I can put it like this—these four graces are four great pistons that move the soul to pursue holiness...
24. Thus—what the Spirit does is—He continually strengthens these graces—that we in turn, chase after holiness...
25. Or—perhaps I can put it like this—when these graces are in decline—we of necessity will fail to seek after holiness...
26. [4] These graces COMPRISE holiness—that is—they not only enable us to PROMOTE holiness—they ARE holiness...
27. A truly holy person, is a person, in whom these graces have been deposited, and by the Spirit are being cultivated...
28. If you remember several months ago—I suggested that the very essence of Christian holiness is Christ likeness...
29. Thus—as I intend to show you—these four graces were in the heart and life of Christ in absolute perfection...
30. Now—as I come to this four graces—I have two basic goals—[a] to explain the meaning of that grace, and [b] to show how that grace promotes holiness

III. Four Cultivated Graces

A. Faith in God

1. Now—the Scripture speaks of faith in two related ways—faith in God's word (Father), and faith in God's Son (Christ)...
2. Jn.14:1—"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me"—put more theologically—faith has a general and narrow object...
3. In the general sense—faith looks to the character of God as found in Scripture—in the narrow sense it looks to Christ in the gospel...
4. [1] Faith in God's Word—that is—faith rests in the promises of God—as contained within the word of God...
5. Prov.30:5-6—"Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, lest he rebuke you, and you be found a liar..."
6. Notice—HOW we trust God—you believe and trust His word—God, and His word, is like a shield to those who trust Him...
7. Notice—WHY we trust God—His word is "pure"—that is—it's without error, trustworthy, sufficient, and complete...
8. Simply put—faith believes and rests upon the character of God as revealed in the word—it believes and rests in what God says...
9. [a] Everything that God says He HAS DONE—that is—we must believe and rest in what He says about our sins...
10. In other words—there is a necessary connection between being certain of our acceptance and pursuing holiness...
11. J.C. Ryle—"He that is freely forgiven by Christ will always do much for Christ's glory, and he that enjoys the fullest assurance of this forgiveness will ordinarily keep up the closest walk with God..."
12. [b] Everything that God says HE WILL DO—that is—we must believe and rest in His promise to keep and protect us...
13. [2] Faith in God's Christ—that is—not only faith in God's word in general—but faith in Christ in particular...
14. Now—remember our definition of faith—believing what He said and did—and—resting in that for ourselves...
15. Gal.2:20—"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me..."
16. [a] The Old Man was crucified with Christ—"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live [that is the old man]..."

17. [b] The New Man was resurrected with Christ—Christ lives in the new man by His Spirit who gives us faith...
18. The new man—the Christian—lives BY THE SPIRIT (Christ lives in them by the Spirit)—and BY FAITH...

B. Hope in God

1. Christian hope can be defined by two words—confident expectation—it's the confident expectation of what God has promised...
2. Thus—often times hope is coupled with waiting, Rom.8:25—"If we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with patience..."
3. Hope is confident—it believes what God has promised—it's expectation—it waits or anticipates what God's promised...
4. Thus—faith and hope are closely related—faith believes the promises and hope anticipates or waits for them...
5. Now—generally stated—Christians hope for heaven—this is what they are waiting for—what they hope for...
6. 1Jn.3:2-3—"Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure..."
7. [1] The OBJECT of hope—"we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is"—we will be LIKE and WITH Him...
8. [a] We shall be LIKE Him—that is—our souls and bodies shall be perfected—this is the completion of holiness...
9. [b] We shall be WITH Him—that is—we shall spend all eternity worshiping and loving Him in the new heavens and earth...
10. Ps.17:15—"As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness..."
11. [2] The WORK of hope—"And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He [Christ] is pure..."
12. [a] Hope exposes this world—that is—when we contemplate all that awaits us in heaven—the things of this world become less significant...
13. [b] Hope motivates the soul—that is—as we look for Christ's return—this motivates us to be ready when He comes...
14. Let me illustrate—think of a lady, whose recently wed husband, is forced to leave her and go off to combat...
15. He writes her letters every week confirming his love for her—and promising that he shall soon return for her...
16. As she reads these letters and anticipates his return—this motivates her to keep herself and her house ready...
17. So too—Christians are presently separated from their beloved—who has also left them with promises of His return...
18. And likewise—as they read these promises—they purify themselves in anticipation of His personal return....

C. Love to God

1. The first thing that I think is necessary is—we have a rather clear mind on what it really means to LOVE God...
2. [1] Love is AFFECTIONATE—that is—love is more than MERE action—but it also includes the affections...
3. Perhaps the best way to explain this aspect of love is to remind you how our forefathers described God's love for us...

4. Historically—when it comes to describing God's love—we distinguish between His love of benevolence and complacency...
5. By "benevolence" is meant—His love as shown in tangible and concrete ways—especially to the unconverted...
6. By "complacency" is meant—His love as shown toward His elect—which includes a sense of delight in them...
7. The old word "complacency" simply means "satisfied or content"—God finds a sense of satisfaction in His people...
8. Well—what's true of God's love for us is also true of our love for Him—we love Him with a love of complacency...
9. Thus to love God—is to be satisfied with God—to be content with God—to find all your joy and delight in Him...
10. [2] Love is ACTIVE—that is—love doesn't remain dormant—it expresses and shows itself—it makes itself known...
11. Jn.3:16—"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son"—love gives for the good of others...
12. Notice—God loved the world—and this love resulted in action—He loved the world—"that He gave His Son"...
13. Thus—love is always active—it entails activity—Paul old husbands to love their wives—by sacrificial acts...
14. Jn.14:15—"If you love Me, keep My commandments" Jn.14:21—"He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me..."
15. [a] The more we love God the less we love the world—the more our hearts are content with God the less they will seek other things...
16. [b] The more we love God the more we obey God—that is—love works, it labors, it drives us to obedience...

D. Fear of God

1. Here—I have one last grace that is absolutely essential to a diligent pursuit of holiness—and that's the fear of God...
2. Now—before I show you the importance of fearing God in the pursuit of holiness—let me quickly define it...
3. First of all—what fearing God is NOT—it is NOT fear God in the way that sinners fear or are afraid of God...
4. Thomas Watson—"The godly fear God as a child does his father, the wicked are afraid of God as the prisoner is of the judge..."
5. Simply put—to fear God is to KNOW GOD as God—to KNOW GOD in the whole of His divine perfections....
6. Perhaps I can put it like this—fearing God is knowing God, as He is known in Christ and a reconciled Father...
7. Prov.9:10—"The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One *is* understanding..."
8. Thus—a God fearer knows God as holy and just—merciful and gracious—he knows God as creator and redeemer...
9. J.C. Ryle—"A holy man will follow after the fear of God. I do not mean the fear of a slave, who only works because he is afraid of punishment and would be idle if he did not dread discovery. I mean rather the fear of a child, who wishes to live and love as if he was always before his father's face, because he loved him..."
10. Prov.8:13—"The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil" Ecc.12:13—"Fear God and keep His commandments..."
11. Now—here I want to briefly examine two NT texts—where holiness, fearing the Father—are brought together...

12. 2Cor.7:1—"Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God..."
13. 1Pet.1:17-19—"And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay *here* in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, *like* silver or gold, from your aimless conduct *received* by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot..."

IV. Closing Lessons

1. [1] Behold the MEANS TO holiness—that is—the means to holiness is the cultivation of these four graces...
2. Do you know why Christians fail to diligently pursue holiness—it's because these graces have grown weak...
3. We are no longer exercising faith in God, hope in God, love to God, and the fear of God—these need reviving...
4. [2] Behold the IDENTITY of holiness—that is—sometimes holiness can be perceived as this abstract concept...
5. My friend—do you want to judge whether or not you are holy—than judge the present strength of these four graces...
6. For remember what I said earlier—these graces are not only the means TO holiness—but they ARE holiness...
7. [3] Behold the PATTERN of holiness—this is something I intent to return to next week—but let me simply remind you—in Christ these graces are found in full...
8. [a] Faith in God, Ps.22:9-10—"You are He who took Me out of the womb; You made Me trust while on My mother's breasts. I was cast upon You from birth. From My mother's womb You have been My God..."
9. [b] Hope in God, Ps.16:9-11—"My heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption. You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore..."
10. [c] Love to God—everything our Savior did was in fulfillment to the law which is—love God and your neighbor...
11. [d] Fear of God, Isa.11:3—"His delight is in the fear of the LORD"—that is—He delighting in fearing His Father...