

Chapter 23 – Election a
Motive to Holiness
Chapter 24 – Commanded to
Be Holy

The Holy Spirit

John Owen

THE HOLY SPIRIT

WCF Chapter III

5. ... God, before the foundation of the world was laid ... hath chosen [some], in Christ, unto everlasting glory ...

6. ... God hath appointed the elect unto glory ... Wherefore, they who are elected ... are redeemed by Christ, are effectually called unto faith in Christ by his Spirit, ... are justified, adopted, sanctified, and kept by his power, through faith, unto salvation.

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WCF Chapter X

1. All those whom God hath predestinated unto life, and those only, He is pleased ... effectually to call, by His word and Spirit, ... to grace and salvation, by Jesus Christ; enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the things of God, taking away their heart of stone, and giving unto them a heart of flesh; renewing their wills, and, by His almighty power, determining them to that which is good, and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ



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Election
A Motive to Holiness

Chapter 23

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Four Terms

1. Purpose
2. Requirement
3. Proof
4. Motive

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Purpose

Ephesians 1:4 (ESV)

⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

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Requirement

Romans 8:29 (ESV)

²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Hebrews 12:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord.

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Proof

2 Peter 1:5–7, 10-11 (ESV) ⁵ ..make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, ⁶ and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, ⁷ and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. ...

¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall. ¹¹ For in this way there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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Motive

The sovereign and ever to be adored grace and love of God in election provide powerful motives to holiness:

Gratitude

Humility

Compassion

Contempt for the world

Assurance

Gratitude

Psalm 107:8 Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

Psalm 116:12 What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?—

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Humility

Colossians 3:9–10, 12 (ESV) ... seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator ... 12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,

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Compassion

Ephesians 4:32 (ESV) ³² Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Contempt for the world

1 Corinthians 1:26–29 (ESV) ²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.

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Assurance

Romans 8:38–39 (ESV) ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.



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Commanded to be Holy

Chapter 24

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Definition of Holiness

Titus 2:11–12

11 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12 training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,

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Requirement of Holiness

Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

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Achievement of Holiness

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

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Summary

The knowledge of God's gracious election of a people for himself is a powerful motive for living a life of obedience that pleases him.

Holiness is still a requirement, and God commands us to be holy as He is holy. But He also enables us, through Christ, to do so.