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**Christopher Hylton**

## Get in your place!

### Make Your Calling & Election Sure

*II Peter 1:3-10*

*According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.<sup>4</sup>Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.<sup>5</sup>And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;<sup>6</sup>And to knowledge; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;<sup>7</sup>And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness*



**Lynda Hylton**

## Habits of Holiness

We all have habits in our lives whether it's to get up at a certain time, brushing our teeth, eating, exercising, going to work or anything that we do on a consistent level. The definition of habit is an automatic pattern of behavior in reaction to a specific situation; may be inherited or acquired through frequent repetition; it's an established custom.

I want to talk to you today about having a habit of holiness. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word holiness? Do you think about attire, or a certain look?

*charity.<sup>8</sup>For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>9</sup>But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.<sup>10</sup>Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:*

Is it your heart's desire to be seriously, urgently, making every effort to live a godly, called and holy life? Are you seriously responding to the salvation that God has given you by doing the good works He has called you to do? Are you urgently working to bring those good works to life in others? We have a lot of people in the body of Christ today running around doing things that they are not CALLED to do. Peter tells us in verse 10 to make our calling and election sure. What is it that you're called to do in ministry? We are all called to be soul winners, but what is your gifting and calling to the body of Christ? He also uses the word election. Now we have an election coming up for the White House in a few months. As I think of being elected to something I think of people who dedicate their entire lives with one purpose in mind. To get elected! Elected to whatever position they are reaching for. Do you want the position God has set for you bad enough to

Do you think Godly? Do you think living a separated life? Separated from the world? How about being associated with the power of God? Holiness, to me, is to be clean and pure, to be like Christ; striving to have the mind of Christ and living life according to His word.

*Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,*

*Tit 2:12 teaching us that having denied ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live discreetly, righteously and godly, in this present world,*

*Tit 2:13 looking for the blessed hope, and the appearance of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,*

Let's talk about developing a habit of holiness. It may sound a little silly to say you are developing a habit to be holy, but let's look a little further. What if we developed a habit of prayer? Let's say, every day at a certain time, you decide you are going to pray. No matter what happens, that time is God's time. No phone calls, no answering the door, no driving to the store, nothing but prayer time. Developing that habit will certainly lead you to a better relationship with God. It's not impossible to do. You must be determined. Purpose in your heart to develop the habit of prayer.

How about a habit of worship? Worship is adoration or being humble in His presence and exalting Him with all your being. Worship is something

dedicate your entire life for that cause? Are you willing to sell out for the position that God holds for you? There are a lot of people reaching for positions that they are not called for. You have Evangelists trying to Pastor! You have Teachers trying to operate in the Prophets office! You have music people trying to teach Sunday School! We need to make OUR Calling and Election sure, so we can be effective for the body!! There are a lot of unhappy people in the body today. That's because people are not in the ir proper place. Peter said in verse 5-7 to add virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love. When you are in your called and elected place you will have all these things working in your ministry and life. You will have the knowledge of what your called to be and you will be patient with your peers and you will have the temperance to work through things with others and you will be kind to your brothers and sisters in Christ and you will have love in every area of your life. Peter goes on to say you WILL NOT fall if you GET IN YOUR PLACE!! I have had the misfortune of not being in my proper place and it is a miserable place to be. I was unhappy and not very pleasant to be around. God gave me mercy and stood with me through that time, but I didn't stay there. I picked myself up, I made my election sure and started running my race again. Find what it is that you're called to be. Give yourself a checkup. Don't

you should do on a consistent level. You should worship Christ every day, on a regular basis. Worship Him with all your heart. Create a habit of worshipping Him with your lips, with your heart, and with your mind.

Another habit that will lead you to holiness is fasting. It helps you develop self control and temperance. You may want to fast to show your love for God, or you may fast because you need guidance about certain situations. Whatever reason you choose, having a habit of fasting is going to get results.

One last thing I will leave with you about creating habits that will lead you to holiness; a habit of quiet time before God. Sitting and waiting to hear what the Spirit has to say, or creating an atmosphere for His presence to sit down with you is a great habit to acquire. So many times, our prayer time is asking, asking, asking, and we do all the talking. Take time to be quiet before Him and listen to what He says.

Statistics have shown that doing something at least 21 times consistently will create a habit and that habit will stay with you without having a thought about it. How about creating some habits toward holiness for 21 days and see what happens. Just pick one: Prayer, worship, fasting, or quiet time. Do it consistently without fail and see if it leads you to a closer relationship with God. Let's all get a

be so prideful that you can't stop and say "is this what I'm really called to do?" You will be much happier in your proper place than in a self appointed or man appointed position.

### **Get in Your Place!!**

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I would like to take the time for just a moment to thank all of our faithful friends and supporters who have blessed our ministry beyond measure. Without all of you we would not be able to preach and sing His message of hope, love and restoration to the world. We are truly grateful for all you do for IOU Ministries.

Thank you,  
Christopher Hylton

habit for holiness.

### *My thought for the day:*

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit." (Aristotle)

*Lynda*

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