

# A Strategy for Purity

## Hebrews 13:4; Proverbs 5:15-17

THRIVE! Growing and Changing in the Christian Life

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Sunday, February 7, 2016, 10:30am at Living Hope Church of Roselle, Illinois  
[livinghopechurch.net](http://livinghopechurch.net)

“Saving grace makes a man as willing to leave his lusts as a slave is willing to leave his galley, or a prisoner his dungeon, or a thief his bolts, or a beggar his rags.” – **Thomas Brooks**

### Announcements

1. Welcome to visitors / welcome packet
2. Expositor’s class, 4pm
3. Don’t miss evening worship, 5pm
4. Sunday School Marriage Enrichment Class in the Spring, sign up if you are interested

*I*f you don’t have a Bible, there should be one in the seat in front of you. Open your Bible to **Job 31:30**. The title of our message this morning is “A Strategy for Purity.”

Puritan Thomas Brooks said there is hope for any Christian struggling with lust and immorality. Listen to his words, “Saving grace makes a man as willing to leave his lusts as a slave is willing to leave his galley, or a prisoner his dungeon, or a thief his bolts, or a beggar his rags.”

The question is this morning, “Have you experienced saving grace?” If so, there is a strategy for purity I want us to look at this morning.

### The Sad Story of My Mother

Some of you have been deeply wounded by the sins of others because of lust. Some of you were in homes that neglected you and did not protect your eyes, and you became enslaved at an early age to this filth and wickedness.

When I was a child, my mother divorced my dad. She was truly the “strange woman” the immoral woman of Proverbs 5.

She worked at a video store. She brought home the most wicked videos and magazines to me because she thought without a father that would make me a man.

How devastating this was to my view of women. But I want you to know something. God can cleanse and transform our minds. I remember as a new Christian, sitting in church with pornographic images haunting my mind. I prayed, “God set me free!” He did. It took time, but through renewing my mind daily with the Word and surrendering my mind, will, and body to Him, I can truly say, Jesus Christ has set me free, and He can set you free as well!

## 1. MAKE A COVENANT WITH YOUR EYES

Job gave us a strategy, “I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze upon a young woman?” (Job 31:30). This is a covenant that comes out of your covenant with Jesus Christ. You want to use all of your “members” – your eyes, your hands, mouth – for the glory of God. You are the Temple of the Holy Spirit, so you already have a covenant with God. Now live it out!

**Psalm 101:3**, David says, “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me.”

Joseph had a similar philosophy. When he was propositioned day after day from Mrs. Potiphar, do you remember his response? “How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?” (Gen. 39:9).

**Proverbs 6:23-29**, “For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light,  
and the reproofs of discipline are the way of life,

24 to preserve you from the evil woman,

from the smooth tongue of the adulteress.

**25 Do not desire her beauty in your heart,**

and do not let her capture you with her eyelashes;

26 for the price of a prostitute is only a loaf of bread,

but a married woman hunts down a precious life.

27 Can a man carry fire next to his chest

and his clothes not be burned?

28 Or can one walk on hot coals

and his feet not be scorched?

29 So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife;

none who touches her will go unpunished.”

**2. PRAY and ACKNOWLEDGE GOD’S PRESENCE!** Psalm 51 is a prayer! Find cleansing and joy and strength through prayer. When you are tempted or defeated or need strength, open your Bible to this precious Psalm of David and pray it. But remember, we are to prayerfully meditate “day and night” (Psa. 1) and “pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17). Remember the prayer of Joseph, “How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?” (Gen. 39:9).

## 3. GROW YOUR MARRIAGE [SINGLES-SAVE YOURSELF FOR MARRIAGE]

### For Singles...

You say, “Well, I’m single!” Well you need to be the person that a godly person will want to marry. Grow in your character. Grow in your faith. And you need to only seek that kind of person that would be totally sold out and on fire for God. Too many singles are calling themselves Christians, but seeking the world. Too many singles are submersed in porn and wondering why God hasn’t sent that special someone their way.

Or perhaps because your mind and character are not where they need to be you are failing in a romantic relationship. I have a whole sermon series from the Song of Solomon we could do, but for now, you need to wait single person. You need to save your romance for marriage. Some of you singles struggle with your walk with God because you have not surrendered your romantic desires to God. They should be reserved for marriage, but you are violating God’s law

and you wonder why you have no peace. Save yourself for marriage. It's not good to burn. But Paul says if you don't have self-control, then it is "better to marry than to burn with lust."

The daughters of Jerusalem say in the Song of Solomon over and over again, "Do not awaken love until it's time" (2:7; 8:4). Save yourself for marriage. Determine to not have serious physical contact with that special someone until you are married. Be chaste. Be pure. Have self-control. Save yourself for that special someone. Don't act like you're married (emotionally, socially, physically) when you are not.

### **For the Married...**

If you are married work at delighting in your spouse. This is a way to cultivate your marriage. Be thankful for your beloved. How are we to do that? Let's look to wise King Solomon.

### **Song of Solomon and the Picture of Christ**

Solomon in his Song of songs gives us an example of his delight in his wife in **Song 4:1**, "Behold, you are beautiful, my love, behold, you are beautiful!" My married brother in Christ, your wife ought to hear from your own lips how much you delight in her.

He continues to delight in her in **Song 4:7**, "You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you." No flaw? This is the power of love! But Solomon's bride had flaws. She was a rugged Shulamite farm girl. She was a country girl used to hard work, and here she was in the refined presence of her husband Solomon.

You see a godly husband gives a place of safety and delights in his wife. He makes her feel flawless, because he is a representative and picture of Christ.

### **Christ's Words: You are flawless!**

You see a Christian is spotless and lovely in the eyes of Christ. Christ tells us, "You are altogether beautiful, my love; there is no flaw in you" (**Song 4:7**). The One who has saved you has made you this way. He has declared you to be like this. He shed his blood for you.

Your marriage is a picture of Christ and the church. Christ delights in you!

### **What if I'm Single?**

What if I'm single? I can't delight in my spouse. No, but you can save yourself in case God wants you to be married someday. You need to be the person that a godly person will want to marry. Reflect with your body and mind that Christ delights in you.

If you are single, protect and preserve the temple of your body. You are not your own. Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. Your sexuality belongs to your future spouse. Keep it locked until the day of your wedding, when you and your spouse can enter and enjoy God's gifts without shame or regret.

### **Don't Give Up on Your Marriage!**

If you are married, then you know that marriage can be difficult. Marriage is sometimes a comfort and rest, and sometimes it is God's chisel to conform you into the image of Christ. The wife of David's youth was Michal, the daughter of Saul. When she was illegally given away to another man, David got her back, but he allowed his marriage to grow distant, and Michal despised David even when he brought the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem when he danced before the Ark.

Married men and women, do all that you can to cultivate your marriage. Don't let your love grow cold.

### **Enjoy Your Hamster Wheel Days**

I love **Ecclesiastes 9:9**, "Enjoy life with the wife whom you love, all the days of your vain [fleeting] life that he has given you under the sun, because that is your portion in life."

There are what I call "hamster wheel" days. Solomon calls these days "vain" or "fleeting." The days are flying by aren't they? Enjoy those "hamster wheel" days. They feel perhaps like you are getting on the same wheel day after day, doing the same thing. In that monotony, Solomon, the great lover of the Song of songs says, "Enjoy life with the wife whom you love!"

### **4. DIRECT ALL SEXUAL DESIRE TOWARD MARRIAGE**

Consider **Prov. 5:15–17**, "Drink water from your own cistern, flowing water from your own well.

<sup>16</sup>Should your springs be scattered abroad, streams of water in the streets?

<sup>17</sup>Let them be for yourself alone, and not for strangers with you."

### **Better to Marry than to Burn with Passion**

The answer to sexual desire is not mere abstinence but marital delight. **1 Cor. 7:9** tells us if single people "cannot exercise self-control, they should marry. For it is better to marry than to burn with passion."

Sex itself is not evil but rather is a gift of God when enjoyed by two people who have entered into the covenant of marriage. The New Testament also teaches that marriage, including the sexual union, is honorable before God.

A man is to drink exclusively from his 'own cistern' (**Prov. 5:15**), which means that all of a man's sexual energy is to be directed to his wife. She is his exclusive source of sexual refreshment.

Negatively, none of us is to drink from a "broken cistern" and disperse sexual energy outside marriage (**Prov. 5:16–17**).

### **Fantasies About Another is Adultery**

Any sexual act or thought which is not directed towards his wife is sinful and destructive. This truth is reinforced by our Lord Jesus, who makes it clear that even looking at or thinking (fantasizing) about someone other than your wife is adultery (Matt. 5:27–28). To look on another that is not your spouse is "committing the act of adultery in your heart."

### **The Snuggle Test**

If you want to know where your marriage is at, perhaps on a superficial level, consider the snuggle test. If you and your spouse are on good terms, you will often snuggle during the week. If that's not there, that's a good barometer that you are growing distant in even more important areas.

The proper place for unbridled romance and desire is marriage. The marriage bed is a holy place. **Hebrews 13:4**, "Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous."

The marriage bed is holy, and it is to be kept that way. The marriage bed, conjugal relations in marriage are to be kept active and holy. Romance is not the main thing, but it is a barometer of more important things. If that area's not healthy it is a sign of much deeper problems.

### **Singles: Save Yourself for Marriage!**

Single people: save yourselves for marriage. God may want you to pure for him without marriage till the day you die. You would be following in the steps of Jesus and Paul and Timothy.

Marriage is not the cure for lust. Jesus is. Let Him be your Savior. Don't look for a spouse to cure you of lust. Find that cure in Jesus!

**5. SEE PEOPLE AS GOD'S IMAGE BEARERS.** Another strategy to defeat lust and to live in purity is to view things through God's eyes.

Genesis 1:27 says we are made in God's image. Romans 8:29 says God is restoring that image again in man by conforming us to Jesus.

You should look woman someone made in the image of God not as an object. One woman is portrayed as a piece of merchandise there ought to be an anger that rises up within us.

That person you are looking at is God's image bearer. That's someone's son or daughter. You ought to see them as someone who should be your brother or sister in Christ.

You ought to pray for the people plastered naked on the billboards and in the commercials to come to Christ.

### **6. DEVELOP SELF-CONTROL**

Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit. A person who has no desire for self-control is "like a city broken into and left without walls" (Prov. 25:28). Consider these seven areas of self-control.<sup>1</sup>

#### **(1) Control Your Thoughts – Take Every Thought Captive!**

A person who lacks self-control is always playing mind games. He is as Solomon says in Prov. 23:7, "like one who is inwardly calculating... his heart is not with you." Where are your thoughts? Don't allow yourself to rationalize as David did. Jesus said there is a type of person who says they're a Christian and they love God, "but their heart is far from me" (**Mk. 7:6**). If you are truly a follower of Christ, you will take control of your thought life.

Inscribe Scripture on your mind. You must begin to meditate on Scripture to be "transformed by the renewal of your mind" (**Rom. 12:2**). Use 3X5 cards and put verses in your pockets; put verses on your walls; put verses on your screensavers. Put verses everywhere. You must meditate "on the law of the Lord day and night" before you can be as Psalm 1 says, "like a tree planted by the rivers of water" (vs. 3).

Fix your mind on the very best of things. Remember **Phil. 4:8**, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

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<sup>1</sup> This list developed by Dr. Ron Allchin's worksheet: *Self-Control, A Building Block to Moral Purity*.

We must be willing to meet carnal rationalizations with the Word of Christ. As **2 Cor. 10:5** says, we should be “tearing down arguments [rationalizations] and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.”

You must no longer allow your thoughts to wander. You bring every thought into subjection to Christ.

## (2) Control Your Eyes

- *With people:* **Job 31:1**, “I have made a covenant with my eyes; how then could I gaze at a young woman?”
- *With media:* **Psa. 101:3**, “I will not set before my eyes any worthless [wicked] thing. I hate the work of those who turn aside; it shall not cling to me.”
- *No matter where you are:* **Prov. 4:23, 25**, “Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. Let your eyes look directly forward, and your gaze be straight before you.”

## (3) Control Your Body

- *Be honorable with your body.* **1 Thess. 4:4**, “that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor...”
- *Guard your heart, for your heart directs your body.* **Prov. 4:23**, “Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.”
- *Prepare to say no to “how you feel.”* **Rom. 6:12**, “Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions.”
- *Run away from lust!* **Gen. 39:12**, “she [Mrs. Potiphar] caught him [Joseph] by his garment, saying, ‘Lie with me.’ But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house.”

## (4) Control Your Friends

Who you hang out with will determine what kind of person you are. Hang out with those who love alcohol, you’ll love it. Hang out with promiscuous people, you’ll be promiscuous. Hang out with those who love God, and you’ll grow closer to God!

- *Friends are Satan’s best tool for corruption.* **1 Cor. 15:33**, “Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.”
- *Don’t have close friendships with compromised “professing” Christians.* **1 Cor. 5:9-11**, “I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— 10 not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. 11 But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one.”
- *Don’t be a companion of those who foolishly go with the flow.* **Prov. 13:20**, “Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.”
- *Remember, you will mirror the character of your close friends.* **Prov. 22:24-25**, “Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, 25 lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare.”

- *Make friends who will sharpen your character and love for God. **Prov. 27:17**, “Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”*

### (5) Circumstance Control

- *Make no provision for the habits of the old life. **Rom. 13:14**, “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.”*
- *Stay far away from compromising situations. **1 Thess. 5:22**, “abstain [reject, turn away] from every form [appearance] of evil.”*
- *Flee compromise and pursue righteousness! **2 Tim. 2:22**, “flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.”*

### (6) Influence Control

- *Are your influences holy? I.e. Facebook, tv, film? **1 Thess. 4:6-7**, “that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. 7 For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness.”*
- *Are your influences edifying? **Prov. 27:17**, “Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”*
- *Are your influences doctrinally sound? **Rom. 16:17-18**, “I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. 18 For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naïve.”*

### (7) Focus Control

- *The focus is to please God in all situations. **2 Cor. 5:9**, “So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.”*
- *The goal is to “give the right opinion” of Jesus Christ. **1 Cor. 10:31**, “whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”*
- *The task is to serve God by serving others. **Phil. 2:3-4**, “Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”*
- *He who dies with the dirtiest towel wins! **Mt. 20:26-28**, “whoever would be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, 28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

## 7. KILL YOUR OLD MASTER

John Owen said, “Be killing sin or sin will be killing you.” We cannot serve two masters. St. Paul said in Romans 6:11-14, “You also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. 13 Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. 14 For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.” We don’t need to muster up the power of law and self-

accomplishment. Dear saints we are under the awesome power of grace. So we need to choose our master today.

Will it be King Sin or King Righteousness? The choice is as important as life and death. **Romans 6:16**, “Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness?”

Jesus must be our master. We must not let sin reign in our mortal bodies. We must choose: it’s either King Sin or King Righteousness. You cannot serve two masters. You must choose.

King Sin wants only to destroy you. He hates you. He wants you to burn in hell. He’ll give you a little pleasure, but it’s only to secure your misery. He wants you to grovel at his throne. And in the end, all he can offer you is misery in this life and eternal death. He wants you to suffer eternally.

The King of Righteousness has healing in His wings. He only wants good for you. He has done good to you. Serve Him, and He will give you life, and life more abundantly. Which will you choose?

### **Blind Yourself to our Old Masters**

Sometimes we have to blind ourselves to the old masters through radical amputation. Listen to the words of Jesus in **Matthew 5:28-30**, “But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.”

### **Practice “Radical Amputation”**

The solution is not mutilation of the body, but *mortification* of sin. We call it “radical amputation.”

1.) **Kill What You See** – “If your eye offends you, rip it out” that is if **what you see** causes you to sin, pluck your eye out – that is, cut off access to your eyes so your heart is not tempted to sin. **Blind yourself to the things that cause you to sin.** There are times when all I can do is look at my shoes. Behave as if you’ve plucked your eyes out – mortify your sin. You may need to change the route that you go home because of a billboard. You may need to cut off internet access for a while.

Television fills our living rooms with sex-filled advertisements for toothpaste (“give your mouth sex appeal”), shaving cream (“take it off; take it all off”). Whether it’s beer, basketball, or Windex, everything is sold with sex. We have to **blind ourselves** to those things that tempt us. Don’t give your eyes access to tempt your heart.

2.) **Kill What You Do** – “If your hand offends you, cut it off”, that is **what you do**. You may need to not pick up certain literature. Rom 6 – king sin and king righteousness; yield the members as instruments. Which king are you going to serve – king sin wants to kill you. U are going to serve one or the

3.) **Kill Where you Go** – “If your foot offends you, cut it off,” (Mt. 18:8) that is **where you go**. If there are places your feet carry you that cause you to sin, **DON’T GO!**



**Movie Theater Illustration** – I can remember getting to the door of a movie theater, sneaking into a movie, and I had to “*act as if I was lame*”. I had to cut off my foot! I told my friends, “I can’t do this, I’m a Christian”. That’s mortification.

## 8. FIGHT WITH GOD’S SWORD (THE BIBLE)

In human warfare, there is no flawless weapon with 100% success. But there is one in spiritual warfare. The Bible is sufficient to win the battle for purity. You can win! Christ has already won. You just have to use Christ’s all-powerful sword, the Bible. Jesus said in **Mt. 4:4**, quoting Deuteronomy, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.”

### The Battle: Put off by Putting On

Remember, the Battle is in the mind! You put off bad thinking by putting on good thinking/actions. **Eph. 4:21-24**, “assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, 23 and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.”

### Take Every Thought Captive (2 Cor. 10:5)

Remember Jesus’ example in the wilderness. He defeated Satan with the Word of God. Satan is constantly hurling lies at us. What, then, should you do when tempted? Unsheathe your sword and go on the offensive, rejecting lies and rehearsing truth:

When it comes to our temptations with lust, we must reject the lies and tell the truth to ourselves:

- God is not stingy, but good (Deut. 10:12-13).
- Sinful pleasures are not filling, but fleeting, leaving you empty (Heb. 11:24-26).
- People are not objects, but image bearers (Gen. 1:27).
- This is not private, but in the sight of a holy God (Psalm 51:4).
- God forgives us of sin in order to free us from sin, not to give us a license to sin (Rom. 6:1-2).
- Sexual sin isn't harmless, but defrauding – it hurts everyone around us (1 Thess. 4:3-6).
- It will not be easy to turn back, as you are already hardening your heart (Heb. 3:13).
- This sin of lust is not inevitable, since God provides a way of escape (1 Cor.10:13).
- Your past does not define you, Christ's blood does (1 Cor. 6:11; Eph. 1).

Are you embracing lies, or exchanging them for the truth? Are you glorifying the body, or are you glorifying God with your body? When seductive speech calls out, remember, “all her slain are a mighty throng” (Proverbs 7:26).

## 9. GET ACCOUNTABILITY

Coming to Christ means coming out of hiding to be exposed by the light and covered with Christ's blood. As Christians, the best thing to do, of course, is just stay in the light. But the best thing to do when we wander into the shadows is to run back. Confession is where that starts.

So, are you hiding? Confess your sins to God. He forgives! But don't stop there. “Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another” (James 5:16). That's what Christian friends are for.

## 10. FIND YOUR SATISFACTION IN CHRIST

This should be first. Getting married will not solve your lust problem. You will just bring it into marriage.

### Your Spouse is Not Your Messiah

Paul Tripp recently wrote: “I am never going to have paradise in my marriage. Paradise is to come. I am never married to a perfect person. That person will never be my Messiah. The person I am married to has no capacity whatsoever to change my heart. That person I am married to has no capacity whatsoever to bring satisfaction and contentment to my heart. They have no ability whatsoever to deliver me from my sin. They just have no ability to do any of that.”

You need to realize that a spouse can never be your savior. There is one Savior, and His name is Jesus.

David had to pray Psalm 51 and have the “joy of his salvation” restored. O, dear saint. This battle is tough, but it is not impossible. You will fail, but Christ is merciful.

### Jolted with Joy!

Colonial Missionary to the Indians, David Brainerd said, “O how much better than life is the presence of God.”<sup>2</sup>

In Psalm 63, King David is jolted with joy while he is praying. He lifts up his hands to heaven, as if to touch and embrace God.

**Psalm 63:3-5**, “Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food, and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips.”

For David, this experience of God was not comparable to anything on this earth. Actually it was worth the total abandonment of his life that he might gain it. He says the experience of God is “better than life”—better than the very best this world could hope to offer him. This world offers a lot of counterfeit pleasures, but it can never deliver what it offers. God alone is the only one who always delivers what He promises. He is ready to give you more than you can ever handle of Him. This kind of experience filled David with overwhelming praise, to the point where he raised his hands to heaven. He was addicted to God, absolutely addicted. He was satisfied with God!

### A Romans 12:1-2 Kind of Surrender

Let me give you hope! God is in the business of healing and renewing. There is hope. Turn to God with all your heart. Yield yourself to Him. You will not be disappointed. Remember **Romans 12:1-2**, “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 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 acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

<sup>2</sup> Jonathan Edwards. *Memoirs of the Rev. David Brainerd* (Oxford University Press: Oxford, UK, 1818), 207.

## Conclusion

I want us to remember what a gracious God the Lord is. Remember David's sin with Bathsheba? Yes their first son died. But another son was born of Bathsheba. His name was Solomon. He was the wisest and richest and most powerful king Israel ever had.

God is a God of grace. And if you have fallen, there is grace for you. There is redemption. There is a strategy for purity. There is the presence of God that will guard you from falling.

**Jude 1:24-25**, "Now to him who is able to keep [imprison] you from stumbling [falling] and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, 25 to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen." Hallelujah!