

Set  
APART  
for  
GOD

Derek Prince



# Contents

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Foreword.....	7
Introduction.....	11
1. What Is Holiness?.....	13
2. “Holy, Holy, Holy”.....	25
3. Holiness Throughout Scripture.....	35
4. God Requires Holiness.....	43
5. The Distinctive Feature of God’s People.....	51
6. The Cleansing We Need.....	55
7. A Revelation of God’s Holiness.....	63
8. Divine Discipline/Fullness of Life.....	75
9. Spiritual Beauty.....	89
10. God’s Provision for Holiness.....	95
11. Land of Promises.....	101
12. Seven Aspects of God’s Provision for Holiness.....	107
13. How Holiness Works in Us.....	123
14. The Blood and the Word.....	135
15. Looking in the Mirror.....	143
16. Faith and Works—Our Response.....	151
17. Practical Steps Toward Holiness.....	163
18. The Beautiful Secret.....	173
19. A Living Sacrifice.....	179
20. Shaping Your Life.....	191
About the Author.....	199
Worldwide Offices.....	203

# Foreword

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**B**efore you begin *Set Apart for God: The Beautiful Secret of Holiness* by Derek Prince, may we offer some helpful remarks? Here are a few comments regarding the topic of the book you are about to read, as well as the process involved in placing it in your hands.

*First, the topic.* We trust you will be encouraged by the positive perspective Derek brings to this formerly abused and neglected topic. It probably will come as no surprise to you that not everyone is eager to pick up a book on the subject of “holiness.” To the contrary, the instinctive reaction of many may be to avoid the topic altogether—either because they perceive it as outright religiosity or because they feel it too demanding a topic, or simply because the prospect of living a holy life seems utterly unattainable. (So, why even try?)

Such reactions are entirely understandable. In many ways, they represent some of the reasons this book has been so long in coming.

Holiness is a concept that for years has been distorted in the church and in Christian thought and practice. In fact, as Derek himself observes in this book, most Christians erroneously regard the pursuit of holy living as a strict adherence to a list of rules—mostly negative (a list of “don’ts”)—that must be rigidly observed for a person to “measure up” in God’s sight.

Refreshingly, Derek dispels that misconception and replaces it with an entirely different approach to holy living as an

expression of our relationship with the Lord. He tells you not only what holiness is not, but also what it really ought to be.

Here is just a quick preview to entice you to dig deep into this book as you pursue your own goal to be set apart for God and to discover “the beautiful secret of holiness.” Derek made this amazing statement: “It [holiness] is not just following a set of negative rules. It is a positive, powerful force. In fact, I believe that holiness is the most powerful force at work in the universe.”

*Second, the process.* People regularly ask how it is possible to continue releasing “new” books by Derek Prince in the years following his passing. (As you may know, Derek passed away on September 24, 2003, after a sixty-year ministry of teaching the Word of God worldwide.)

Perhaps that same question has come to your mind. If so, let us offer a brief glimpse of our process in releasing new material. You may have noticed the explanatory statement at the beginning of each book: “Editor’s note: This book was compiled from the extensive archives of Derek Prince’s unpublished materials and edited by the Derek Prince Ministries Editorial Team.”

Amazingly, the archives are full to overflowing with audio messages from Derek’s prolific biblical teaching ministry. Many of these messages are even more pertinent and relevant to our time than to the period in which they were originally delivered. Consequently, we feel a heightened sense of urgency to make them available in printed form to the body of Christ.

The editorial team, with representatives from DPM offices in various parts of the world, regularly discusses what materials should be prepared for publication. Always in view is the fact that the work will subsequently be translated for distribution throughout many nations of the world.

In the case of this material, the international DPM community has long been hoping for the publication of a book by Derek Prince on holiness. For many years, he himself had intended to

write the book, for it was a theme that was near and dear to his heart. However, works on other important topics kept moving ahead of this book on Derek's list of publishing priorities.

Discussions concerning the release of a book on holy living continued after Derek's passing, with the realistic recognition that a substantive book on this demanding theme may not get the hoped-for positive reception (for all the reasons cited earlier). The concern was that few Christians would seriously consider picking up a book on holiness.

Derek himself had not shared that concern. His opinion, often expressed (which could well have ended up the title of the book), was as follows: *Holiness Is Not an Option*. (As you may realize, Derek was never one to mince words.) In the end, we took the plunge not only on the topic, but also in the use of the word holiness in the subtitle—incorporating a phrase Derek coined: “The Beautiful Secret of Holiness.”

With that background, we place before you this definitive work by Derek Prince, *Set Apart for God: The Beautiful Secret of Holiness*.

We hope you will not put this book down until you have discovered this beautiful secret for yourself. May God use Derek's words to help you realize how significantly you have been “set apart for God” for these challenging, history-making times. May God inspire you through these words to impact the world around you as a present-day follower of the Holy One Himself—our Lord Jesus Christ.

—*The International Editorial Team*  
*Derek Prince Ministries*

# Introduction

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**H**oliness is one of the great and unique themes of the Scriptures. No other book in the world reveals the nature of holiness as does the Bible. However, this topic has been neglected among many groups of God's people for some time, so that there has been relatively little teaching on it.

## **In Pursuit of Holiness**

At one point in my ministry, I was preparing to give a series of messages entitled "In Pursuit of Holiness," taken from Hebrews 12:14: "*Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.*" In the process of my preparation, I reflected back over the years. At that time, I had been a preacher for more than fifty years, and I counted over forty-nine different nations in which I had preached to people from all kinds of denominational and ethnic backgrounds—about as wide a variety of people as you could imagine. Sadly, I could not recall ever having been among a group of people who appeared to be pursuing true holiness

Maybe my memory was at fault. Or maybe I misjudged the people. But I could not recall ever having been in a congregation or other group of people of whom I could say with certainty that they were seeking holiness.

## **Holiness Has Disappeared from Our Christian Vocabulary**

My impression is that about the time of World War I, certain subjects just dropped out of the thinking of Western Christians

and were never really regained. One of those subjects was holiness. In fact, the word *holiness* seemed to disappear from the Christian vocabulary (along with certain other words, such as *sacrifice* and *self-denial*). The result of such neglect is always disastrous to God's people because, as we will see, holiness is the essence of what God is and what we are to be. "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'*" (1 Peter 1:15–16).

There are, of course, some groups within the total body of Christ that have denominational titles linked with the word holiness. Yet, I have observed that, in many cases, the presentation of holiness by such groups has been essentially a list of rules that have to be observed, and, often, there is very little scriptural basis offered for these rules.

God is holy, but not because He has a set of rules that He follows. Following a set of rules will not make you holy, either—even if they are good rules. You may decide to follow them. But, again, that is not what makes you holy. My personal conclusion is that holiness has almost nothing whatsoever to do with observing rules and regulations. It has to do with partaking of the divine nature through Christ by entering into a relationship with the God who loves us, discovering what He has called us to do, and fulfilling that call upon our lives. I trust that this truth will become clear to you as you read *Set Apart for God: The Beautiful Secret of Holiness*.

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## What Is Holiness?

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To begin to answer the essential question of “What is holiness?” let me first tell you what it is *not*. Understanding what holiness is *not* is a very important step in coming to know what it is, because many Christians have the same incorrect idea about holiness that I mentioned in the introduction to this book—basically, that holiness is a set of rules about where you may go, what you may eat, and how you may dress. Traditionally, at least in Great Britain and America, this has been many people’s picture of holiness. Yet the apostle Paul was emphatic about the fact that subjecting yourself to regulations has nothing to do with holiness. In Colossians 2, he wrote,

*Therefore, if you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations; “Do not touch, do not taste, do not handle,” which all concern things which perish with the using; according to the commandments and doctrines of men? These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.*

(verses 20–23)

What Paul stated in the above Scripture is profoundly true. The more you focus on what you must not do, the more power those activities have over you. They “*are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.*” You say to yourself, “I must not lose my

temper, I must not lose my temper, I must not lose my temper.” What is the next thing you do? You lose your temper. Why? Because you are focusing on the wrong thing.

Frankly, exhibiting a belief that holiness means rules and regulations turns other people off. “If that’s holiness,” they say, “I don’t want to have anything to do with it.”

Let me prove to you that a list of “don’ts” is not the holiness the Bible describes. Let’s look first at Hebrews 12:10, which speaks about the discipline of God the Father as He deals with His children:

**A list of  
“don’ts”  
is not the  
holiness  
the Bible  
describes.**

*For they [our human fathers] indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He [God] for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.*

It is clear that rules are not the definition of biblical or divine holiness. Again, God is holy, but not because of a set of rules He establishes to check His own conduct. The discipline spoken of in the above verse has to do with partaking of God’s nature through a relationship with Him.

## **Holiness Is the Unparalleled Aspect of God’s Nature**

Through the ages, preachers and theologians have offered many interpretations and definitions of holiness. Let me start right off with my simple definition: *Holiness is the unique aspect of God’s nature that is without parallel anywhere else in the universe.*

In the Bible, we find many different aspects of the nature of God. We are told that God is wise. He is knowing. He is just. He is powerful. He is loving. Clearly, we see these attributes of God’s nature: wisdom, knowledge, justice, power, and love. In the world around us, we can see examples that portray these