

# A Great Degree of Holiness

by Thomas Brooks

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*True holiness is demonstrated by a person's conflict with heart sins and their spiritual victories over invisible sins.*

**Scripture:** Psalm 139:23

**Topics:** "Holiness", "Spiritual Warfare"

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## Description

Thomas Brooks emphasizes that true holiness is demonstrated through the struggle against hidden and spiritual sins that are not visible to the world. He argues that while a little grace may lead one to confront obvious sins, it is the battle against secret sins of the heart that reveals a greater degree of holiness. The preacher highlights that overcoming these internal struggles requires significant grace and spiritual strength, as they are only visible to God. Ultimately, the measure of one's holiness is reflected in their ability to confront and conquer these deep-seated heart issues.

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## Transcript

The more a man conflicts with heart sins, with spiritual sins, with invisible sins--with sins which lie most hidden and obscure from the eyes of the world--and the more spiritual victories and conquests a man obtains over them--the greater measure of holiness that person has certainly attained to.

A little grace, a little holiness, will work a man to conflict with gross sins,  
with outward sins,  
with bodily sins,  
with open sins, which everyone may set their eyes on.

Yes, where there is no grace, no holiness at all,  
the light of nature,  
the common convictions of the Spirit,  
the laws of men,  
the eyes of men,  
the threats of men,  
the examples of men,  
the smarting rod, or  
a good education,  
may work men to conflict with such sins.

Oh, but when all the strength and might of the  
soul is engaged against those very sins that lie  
not within the sight or reach of the most sharp  
and piercing men in the world--but in the heart,  
and about the heart, and are only obvious to  
God's omniscient eye--this argues a great  
degree of holiness.

When the heart rises with all its  
strength and might against . . .

secret pride,  
secret self-love,  
secret bubblings of lusts,  
secret carnal confidence,  
secret murmuring,  
secret hypocrisy,  
secret envy,  
secret self-applause,

secret malice,

secret hatred,

secret snares,

secret temptations, etc.,

it is an evidence that holiness has grown

up to some considerable height there!

It is not an easy thing, to overcome those flaming

lusts and corruptions which are in our own hearts.

Only grace, only holiness, can enable us to

overcome our lusts--our heart lusts.

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Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/thomas-brooks/a-great-degree-of-holiness/>

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