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For Product Or Bookings Contact: Diana Boggs  
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[njerusalem@aol.com](mailto:njerusalem@aol.com)  
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# Holiness Or Happiness

By: Dan Cowart, President/Founder of Audio Outreach  
International ([www.audio-outreach.com](http://www.audio-outreach.com))

**I** recently read an interview with Rick Warren the author of *Purpose Driven Life*. This is a book that has had one of the most positive impacts on the church in many years.

In this interview, Rick made two profound statements that I believe we must all hear and understand if we are going to accomplish God's Purpose for our life and music.

The first thing that Rick stated that is key, is this; "God is more interested in your character than your comfort.

This does not mean that God does not want us to enjoy the comforts of life or that we are to live uncomfortable.

One of the reasons that God sent His Holy Spirit is to comfort us. *John 14:16* "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter; that he may abide with you for ever."

However, God also sent his Holy Spirit to teach us all things, *John 14:26* "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. *John 16:13* "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."

It is not until God completes his work in our character that we move into the comfort that comes by the Holy Spirit.

The best definition and understanding of character that I've ever received is this; "Character, is the consistent practice of **doing right, thinking right, speaking right** and **responding right** in every circumstance of life even when no one is watching."

The second key thing that Rick stated is, "God is more interested in making your life **Holy** than he is in making your life **Happy**."

This does not mean that God does not want us to be happy. Jesus came that we might have life and have life more abundant. *John 10:10* "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to



destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." I believe this includes happiness. Some other scriptures include:

*John 13:17* "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them"

*John 5:11* "Behold, we count them happy which endure"

*1 Peter 3:14* "But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye"

However, if we seek happiness and not holiness we will never know or experience that happiness that Jesus gave his life to bring us.

To be Holy means to "To be set apart to do God's will or to be set apart for His purpose."

When you understand this, then you understand why so many people in the world are so unhappy. As long as we seek happiness rather than holiness and our will rather than God's will we will always end up un-happy, dissatisfied, and empty in the end.

My prayer for each of us is that we get to know him more and love him better every day. To say to God everyday "Not my will, but thy will be done."

As we seek the character of Christ, we will experience the comfort of the Holy Spirit. And as we begin seeking holiness every day, then happiness shall surely be our reward.