

DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE
POWER
OF THE
PURITANS



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CHAPTER 1

Seek His Eternal Rest

- What distracts you from seeking the things above?
- How might your life look like if you sought the Kingdom of God with your whole heart?
- What is one thing you can do this week to remind yourself of eternity?

CHAPTER 3

Our Greatest Gospel Duty

- What does it mean to look unto Jesus?
- Why is it important to only preach Christ and Him crucified? What are the consequences of not doing so?
- Why is it vital that Christ be the cornerstone of our faith?

CHAPTER 2

The Daily Pursuit of Holiness

- What role does holiness play in the Christian's life?
- What does it mean to "perfect holiness in the fear of God"?
- How does the love of God inspire holiness?

CHAPTER 4

The Most Effective Way to Pray

- If you had a transcript of all your prayers you've prayed this past year, what would it say about your priorities?
- What hinders your prayer life?
- Why are the prayers made with unrepentent hearts ineffective?

CHAPTER 5

Holding Steadfast Through Anxiety

- What causes the most anxiety in your life?
- Recount a time in your life when God used a season of affliction for your good.
- How does the Gospel change the way we see suffering?

CHAPTER 7

Your Unfamiliarity With a Majestic God

- Is your prayer life characterized by an awe of the Lord?
- Is it possible to become "too familiar" with God?
- What is it essential we only approach God through Christ?

CHAPTER 6

Hindrances to the Fear of God

- What is the fear of God?
- What area in your life is or might become a hindrance to your fear of God?
- What can you do regularly to fight the hardening of your heart?

CHAPTER 8

Knowing True Spiritual Delight

- How does a deep delight in God protect us against the snares of the world?
- How does our delight in God transform the quality of our work?
- Are delight and duty incompatible? Why or why not?

CHAPTER 9

Gospel-Motivated Holiness

- How is being motivated by the Gospel different than being motivated by fear?
- "If Christians knew their own strength better, they would enterprise greater things for the glory of God." What does this mean?
- Is the law the opposite of grace? How do they work in tandem?

CHAPTER 11

Prayer Against a Relentless Enemy

- How quick are you to approach God in prayer during times of spiritual warfare?
- How might we yield prayers of thanksgiving as a weapon against Satan's schemes?
- Do you long for Christ's return in such a way that it affects your daily life?

CHAPTER 10

The Source of Christian Strength

- What areas in your life or ministry do you find yourself attempting in your own strength?
- What role does prayer have in our finding our strength in God?
- What role does hearing the Word have in finding our strength in God?

CHAPTER 12

The Rules to Read Scripture Effectively

- Are there moments when you open God's word, uncertain of its power?
- What does it mean to read the Bible supernaturally?
- If the Bible is simple enough for anybody to understand, why do we use commentaries?

CHAPTER 13

The Way of Contentment

- What does it mean to be content in God?
- Is the call for contentment a call for passivity? Why or why not?
- How does Jesus demonstrate ultimate contentment in God?

CHAPTER 15

The Calling of Every Christian

- What is the difference between God's general calling and God's specific calling?
- In what ways has God called you to further the Church?
- What does it mean to walk worthy of God's call?

CHAPTER 14

A Prayer for the Power of the Church

- Why is it critical that we pray for the Church?
- What is the difference between the local church and the universal Church?
- What role does the Church play in God's plan for the world?

CHAPTER 16

Beholding the Glory of God

- What does it mean to glorify God?
- What does it mean that mankind has fallen short of the glory of God?
- "Self-seeking is self-destroying; self-denying is self-saving, soul saving." What does this mean?

CHAPTER 17

Afflicted for Good

- Why does Job say that God gives and God takes away, instead of God gives and Satan takes away?
- How does the Christian's view of suffering differ from the world's view of suffering?

CHAPTER 19

Fishers of Men

- If it is God who saves souls, why are we still called to be fishers of men?
- Why is it dangerous when a leader begins to rely more on his gifts than Christ's power?
- What place do communication skills and eloquence have in a pastor's preaching?

CHAPTER 18

Freedom from Vain Affections

- Unlike the secular worldview, the Bible shows that humans have souls. What is a soul?
- What does it mean that our souls are filled with an inextinguishable thirst?
- What role do affections play in the Christian life?

CHAPTER 20

Five Instructions for the Christian Soldier

- How do soldiers differ from civilians? How does that apply to your calling as a Christian?
- What does it mean to "walk singularly"?
- When you read the Word, do you approach it as a soldier awaiting command or as a civilian on vacation?

CHAPTER 21

Blessed for Divine Usefulness

- Can you recognize the talents and gifts God has specifically entrusted to you to steward? What are they?
- Which gifts do you often forget to see as something to steward, and not something you own? (i.e. finances, children, intelligence, friendships)
- How can you more intentionally steward these things for the Kingdom?

CHAPTER 23

Eight Remedies Against Fruitlessness

- What does it mean to guard your heart?
- Why is it vital for a Christian to "lay up the Word in his heart"?
- List a few steps you can take to both guard your heart with His Word.

CHAPTER 22

True Sanctification

- What is the difference between our justification and our sanctification?
- What is the relationship between inward purity and outward purity?
- Are there parts of your life in which you display outward purity, without first an inward purity?

CHAPTER 24

The Place and Posture of Prayer

- What did Jesus mean by praying in spirit and in truth?

If God hears our prayer no matter where we are, why does Jesus encourage us to "go in to our prayer closet"?
- How does the posture of our hearts affect our praying?

CHAPTER 25

Kindling Your Love for God

- If our love for God and neighbor is a response to His love for us, how can we be confident in His love for us?
- What stirs your love for God? What stifles your love for God?
- What does it mean to truly love your neighbor?

CHAPTER 27

Returning to Christ

- Why can't the heart of a Christian ever truly find a home in the things of the world?
- Was there a time in your life when your heart was painfully restless outside the rest of Christ?
- Are you resting in Christ and Christ alone today?

CHAPTER 26

Serving an Infinitely Happy God

- If God did not create us because He was lonely, then for what purpose did He create us?
- If God does not *need* to be served, why are we still called to serve Him with our whole hearts?

CHAPTER 28

All Things for Your Good

- How can we be truly confident, no matter the situation, that God works all things for our good?
- How ought our belief in this promise set us apart from unbelievers?
- When unbelievers witness how you respond to events in life, can they tell that you believe in this promise?

CHAPTER 29

The Primacy of Love

- "The worth and excellency of a soul is to be measured by the object of its love." What does this mean?
- When we love someone or something, we begin to resemble them -- we become like them. Have you seen this happen in your own life?
- What are the consequences of misplacing our love in anything other than Jesus?

CHAPTER 30

Awaiting Glorification

- What areas of your carnal self must you fight daily to put to death?
- Though we are spiritual beings, we have natural/physical selves we must care for. What, then, is the relationship between our spiritual and natural selves?
- How does the truth that one day we will have glorified selves impact how we see fellow believers?