

WAR DEPARTMENT  
**BASIC TRAINING**  
 The Alert Soldier

# THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM IS THE PROBLEM OF THE HEART

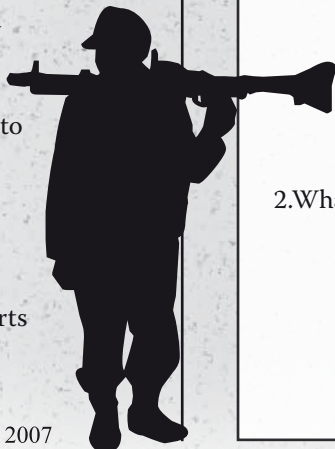
“Holy has the same root as wholly. It means complete. A man is not complete in spiritual stature if all his mind, heart, soul and strength are not given to God.” R.J. Stewart

## WARM UP

Willie Nelson apparently at one time owned a golf course. He said the great thing about owning a golf course was that he could decide what the par was for each hole. He pointed at one hole and said, “See that hole there? It’s a par 47. Yesterday I birdied it”. It’s tempting to live life like that isn’t it? Instead of keeping God’s standard for life, we lower the bar, and whilst we may feel better about ourselves for a while in the end we have to face up to the fact that we aren’t living the way God intended. Holiness isn’t God’s way of ruining our fun – it’s His path to freedom. It’s about shaking free from the hold of sin and discovering what it really means to be alive.

## BACKGROUND

In this passage Jesus proves at least one thing to every man listening: Holiness does not come naturally! If what Jesus says is true, then every man has committed adultery at least once by this definition. The standard is beyond us. Sinning is what comes naturally so to conquer those natural desires is going to take something supernatural. Holiness is a product of the Holy Spirit, not our natural efforts to be good.



## READ Matthew 5:27-30



## QUESTIONS FOR INTERACTION

Study Genesis 39:7-12 and 2 Samuel 11:1-4. Compare the events in Joseph’s and David’s lives.

1. What were the circumstances of the stories?
2. What were their respective attitudes?

## CONSIDER THIS

“If only ten among us be righteous, the ten will become twenty, the twenty fifty, the fifty a hundred, the hundred a thousand, and the thousand will become the entire city. As when ten lamps are kindled, a whole house may easily be filled with light, so it is with the progress of spiritual things. If but ten among us lead a holy life, we shall kindle a fire which shall light up the entire city.”  
 Saint John Chrysostom (c. 347-407)

1. What were the results?
2. These men faced similar situations. Why do you think they responded differently?
3. What do you do when faced with temptation?

**WRAP-UP** Share with the group any experience you may have had or witnessed where a great change has occurred because of the presence of the Holy Spirit.



## IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER

### RESPONSE AS A PRO

The Bible teaches that there is a great power in confessing our sin and experiencing God’s forgiveness and healing. Ask God right now to show you an area of sin that He wants to address. Confess this to Him and if possible with a Christian friend. Receive God’s forgiveness and ask Him to fill that part of your life with His Spirit.

