

“BE YE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY”

INTRODUCTION

As one studies the Scriptures, it is discovered that GOD is a “*holy*” GOD, and that HE expects (and indeed demands), HIS people to be “*holy*” as well. Over 225 times, the three members of the GODHEAD are referred to as “*holy*”. It is at least 40 times that we are admonished to be. Seven times alone this particular phrase, “*Be ye holy, for I AM holy*” is found.

“*holy*” (Hebrew: qodesh, qadosh) = separate, set apart, to be pure, sacred

“*holy*” (Greek: hagios) = separated from sin and therefore consecrated to GOD

I. The Holiness of GOD

“ . . . Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of HIS glory.”
Isaiah 6:3b

“Who shall not fear THEE, O LORD, and glorify THY Name? For THOU only art holy . . .” Revelation 15:4a

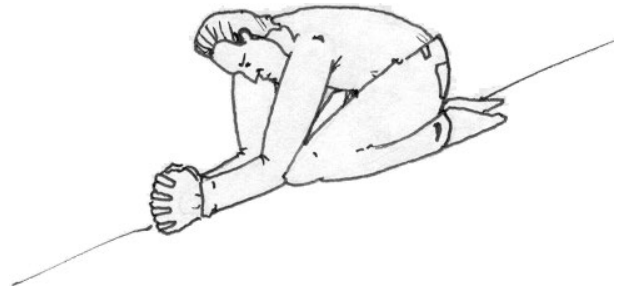
Whenever Scripture mentions a truth more than once, it is obvious that the LORD is trying to emphasize that truth. As noted above, the Bible refers to the GODHEAD over 225 times as being “*holy*”. (Notice that the SPIRIT is not called the “Righteous SPIRIT”, the “Gracious SPIRIT”, or even the “Loving SPIRIT” . . . but the “HOLY SPIRIT”).

As we meditate on this great truth and apply it to our thinking, it should compel us to relate to the LORD in a whole new way. Following are several suggestions . . .

A. We Must Have A Humble Reverence For GOD

“GOD is . . . to be held in reverence by all those around HIM.” Psalm 89:7

“*reverence*” = to hold in highest respect, awe and affection



We are not to attempt to lower GOD to our human level as our equal, but remember that HE is the ALMIGHTY GOD, infinite, all-powerful, all-knowing . . . and *“holy”*!

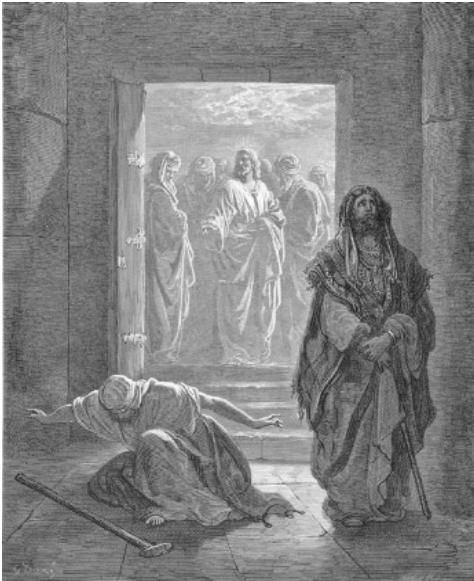
B. We Must Have A Righteous “Fear Of GOD”

“ . . . by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.” Proverbs 16:6b

“fear of the LORD” = to live our life realizing that the LORD sees everything we see, hears everything we hear, knows every thought we think and perceives every attitude we possess.

As we conduct our lives remembering that GOD is *“holy”*, it will naturally produce a desire within us to live a more righteous life for HIM!

C. We Must Have A Clean Heart To Be Heard By GOD



“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the LORD will not hear me.” Psalm 66:18

“iniquity” = to conduct our life, even the righteous acts, but with the motive of self-recognition and glorification

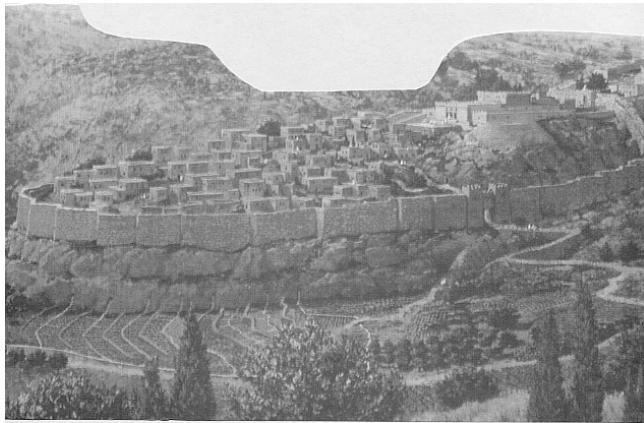
The Publican (L) And The Pharisee

As we remember that GOD is *“holy”*, it causes us to order our lives in obedience to HIS Word. We then experience no hindrance to HIM hearing and answering our prayers!

As we remember and meditate on the complete and perfect *“holiness”* of GOD, may we be compelled to join with the psalmist as he proclaims . . .

“Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of HIS, and give thanks at the remembrance of HIS holiness.” Psalm 30:4

II. The Holiness Of Saints



The Temple Mount In Ancient Jerusalem

“. . . for the temple of GOD is holy, which temple ye are.”

I Corinthians 3:17b

“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to GOD by JESUS CHRIST.”

I Peter 2:5

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people, that ye should show forth the praises of HIM WHO hath called you out of darkness into HIS marvelous light.” I Peter 2:9

Concerning holiness and the follower of the LORD JESUS CHRIST, Scripture teaches that there are two types . . .

A. Positional

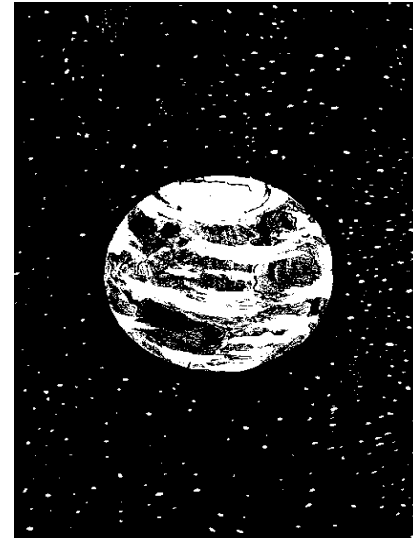
“For GOD hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.”

I Thessalonians 4:7

To be positionally *“holy”*, means that a person has been declared *“holy”* by GOD HIMSELF. It means that once and for all eternally, the saint has the very holiness of GOD within him. It is nothing that the saint himself earns or merits, but rather is a gift from GOD through JESUS CHRIST.

“(GOD) WHO hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to HIS own purpose and grace, which was given us in CHRIST JESUS before the world began.”

II Timothy 1:9



The child of GOD receives many gifts the moment they are redeemed. The indwelling of the HOLY SPIRIT, eternal life, their spiritual gift, etc. It is also at that moment that they are forever *“holy”* in the sight of GOD!

B. Progressive

“But as HE which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation, because it is written, Be ye holy, for I am holy.” I Peter 1:15-16

Progressive holiness means that the saint is becoming more and more *“holy”* all the time. Even though he has been declared completely *“holy”* by GOD HIMSELF, as long as he is in this world, he is in a “process” whereby sin and its contamination is having less and less of an influence in his life.

This is one of those “mysteries” in Scripture that is perhaps difficult to understand. Yet we accept these truths by faith, knowing that GOD does not lie. Positional and progressive holiness is thus easy to reconcile!

But how does this progressive holiness take place? How does the saint become more and more *“holy”* in his relationship to the LORD here on earth?

The answer is found in I Peter 1:14. There the Scriptures tells us . . .

“As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance.”

The key to living a *“holy”* life is simply obedience. Obedience to GOD’s Word and will. For as we sincerely seek to order our lives according to HIS Word and will, the result is a natural separation from sin and the world. This is what the Apostle Paul meant when he wrote . . .



Peter The Apostle

“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of GOD.” II Corinthians 7:1

The phrase, *“ . . . perfecting holiness . . . ”*, means that there is a process involved which eventually leads to a consummation. Paul goes on to explain that this *“holiness”* is brought to completion as we grow in *“ . . . the fear of GOD.”* For the saint to live in *“ . . . the fear of GOD ”*, means that he lives every moment knowing that the LORD sees everything he does, hears everything he speaks, knows every thought he thinks, and even perceives every attitude he possesses.

“We should not see how close we can get to the world and still be a CHRISTian, but rather how far we can get away from it.”
Bill Gothard



Paul speaks of this *“holiness”* in another place when he commands us to . . .

“ . . . even so now yield your members as servants to righteousness unto holiness.” Romans 6:19b

When Paul speaks of our *“members”* here, he is speaking of the different parts of our body. As we *“yield”* (or present) these different parts as *“servants”* (i.e. - slaves) for *“righteousness”*, they then become *“instruments”* (see Romans 6:13) of *“holiness”* The Apostle Paul for GOD’s kingdom and glory!

Following are some examples . . .

Each *“member”*

Instead of . . .

“Yield” them to . . .

1. Our minds
2. Our eyes
3. Our ears
4. Our lips
5. Our hands
6. Our feet

Thinking immoral thoughts
Viewing wicked television
Listening to evil music
Speaking cursings
Using them to steal
Frequenting the tavern

Thinking righteous thoughts
Reading Scripture
Listening to GODly music
Witnessing about CHRIST
Working for wages
Attending church



“Never tolerate through sympathy with yourself or with others any practice that is not in keeping with a holy GOD. Holiness means unsullied walking with the feet, unsullied talking with the tongue, unsullied thinking of the mind - every detail of life under the scrutiny of GOD.”

Oswald Chambers

Oswald Chambers

“He that is unjust, let him be unjust still, and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still, and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still, and he that is holy, let him be holy still.” Revelation 22:11

CONCLUSION

Throughout this study, we have either been reminded or have learned for the first time the complete and perfect *“holiness”* of our Mighty GOD. We have also learned what HE demands from us who would claim to love HIM and follow HIM. That is, the exact same *“holiness”* that HE HIMSELF possesses. May we be even more dedicated to fulfilling the Scriptural admonitions that HE has given us concerning these great truths!

“But as HE which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of living, because it is written, Be ye holy, for I AM holy.” I Peter 1:15-16

MY LIFE COMMITMENT

“Heavenly FATHER, I have learned from the study of YOUR Word, that YOU are a holy GOD. I have also learned that because of this truth, YOU demand the exact same holiness from me as I choose to follow and live for YOU. I now purpose, through YOUR grace and the power of YOUR HOLY SPIRIT, to seek to live this kind of sanctified life that pleases YOU. I pray this in the Name of the LORD JESUS CHRIST and for HIS glory, Amen.”

Signed _____

Date _____