

## **God is holy.**

*(Exo 15:11) "Who is like You among the gods, O LORD? Who is like You, **majestic in holiness**, Awesome in praises, working wonders?"*

*Isa 6:3 And one (seraphim) called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."*

*(CJB) **More holy than the holiest holiness is the Lord of hosts.** The whole earth is filled with his glory.*

The only true God Yahweh is holy. We worship the one and only holy God.

How can we understand that God is holy? How can our minds perceive such a thing? We can look at the fragment of universe we can see, we can get great joy from the created world but what in the world is holy? Is there anything in religion that is true holiness? Is there anything in our lives that is holy?

God is most high and exalted above and over all. He is the one who pre-existed all, and now all exists in him alone. He is the only, the completely holy God.

Holiness is full of superlatives, and our language cannot find the words to express what it is, our hearts and minds find no understanding of it and our lives in the natural have no expression of it.

Holiness is pure, it is without guile, and complete in love. God's motives and agendas are totally holy and good. There is no spot or blemish in God, no shadow, no imperfection of any kind. Even the judgements and wrath of God are completely clean and righteous.

Heaven is full of awe and amazement at his holiness. The angelic beings have been with God since they were created. They live in Heaven surrounded by glories we can hardly imagine! and yet these things hold no attraction for them. They can't help but cry out continually in astonishment and reverence, "Holy, Holy, Holy!"

## **God wants to dwell with his people.**

Holiness is completely humble. God reaches out to sin-filled world. God has compressed himself to enter our sphere, to cry out to us again and again to respond to him, to hear him, to let Him in.

Lev 20:26 'Thus you are to **be holy to Me, for I the LORD am holy**; and I have set you apart from the peoples to be Mine.

I have been focusing on the book of Jeremiah this year, and often am moved to tears as I read the heart of the Father, over and over again, crying out to his people to love him again. He wants them to call him their God and be restored to his goodness, his promises, his bounty in their lives.

## **What is holiness?**

We may understand holiness as the doing or not doing of certain things. I knew in my own life there were many and varied things I wasn't doing anymore, but was I Holy? Or was it that I am older now and don't care about youthful lusts, or have lost my drive or don't have opportunity or motivation? I've learned to socialise my tongue more and to stay quieter, to not be so opinionated. But is it holiness? Am I just older now or more sanctified?

But as scripture says, Count your trials more precious than gold. I have at times thought that I have overcome certain responses or triggers only to find that sin or weakness or lack of wisdom was still very active in me. Anxieties, blaming people, labelling others, unforgiveness are all less overt sins that may only raise their ugly heads in certain circumstances. I know now the absence of SINS isn't the absence of Sin!

A problem is we often don't have a **fear** of sin. We compare our lives with others living without the fear of God. This comparing can mean we seem ok, when we are not ok at all and we steer far from away from conviction and repentance. Nowadays some important words seem to have been relegated to a bygone era. eg Sin, Repentance, Obedience, Chastity, Morality, Humility, Sacrifice! In our culture darkness of anti-God anti-holiness sentiment can surround us, but we can't be in agreement with the world culture and not call 'Sin', Sin.

## **God wants us to be holy so he can be our God**

So what do we do? We know God wants us to be holy as he is holy. It starts with honestly looking at our lives and not whitewashing our hearts or our responses and habits, or our sins. Our journey is an ongoing one that will probably only end with our last breath. We are only able to live in holiness as much as we have desired to, and have received from the Lord at that time.

*(Lev 11:44) 'For I am the LORD your God. **Consecrate yourselves** therefore, and **be holy, for I am holy.***

*(Deu 28:9) "The LORD **will establish you as a holy people to Himself**, as He swore to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways.*

## **Obedience is key**

At Sinai God wanted his spirit to indwell the people but they were too scared of him to allow him near them. They told God to only speak to them through a man. Their rejection of God's spirit of holiness left them powerless to fight their old idolatrous ways and meant God's glory was kept for a few obedient ones.

And later when the tabernacle of God was being built in the wilderness, every facet of it had to be made in complete obedience to the plan given to Moses.

God is holy. 30/7/22

When all commands were accomplished, God came and filled the tabernacle with his holy presence.

When the temple of Solomon was built a new band of builders, craftsmen and priests had to obey every plan and command. Again, as all was fulfilled, the glory of God filled the temple and the priests.

### **God's holiness causes the Fear of the LORD in us**

The prophet Isaiah was apparently a great orator of his day. Then he saw an open vision of the holy God in all His glory. (*Isa 6:3*) *And one (seraphim) called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."*

What was Isaiah's response to the holiness of God? He was rightly filled with fear and his sin was exposed. He was dumbstruck and devastated but God immediately cleansed his sin and forgave him. Isaiah's response was humility, submission and obedience to be God's messenger to his people.

God also blesses us with the Fear of the LORD as in (*Jer 32:38-40*) *"They shall be My people, and I will be their God; and I will give them **one heart and one way, that they may fear Me always**, for their own good and for the good of their children after them. "I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and **I will put the fear of Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me.***

*2 Cor 7:1* *Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us **cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.***

### **We exchange our sin for his holiness.**

The fear of the Lord in us should drive us to seek real answers, real change. We need to overcome or subdue, our cultures, our family traditions, our empty religion, our desires and focuses, our habits and even our language and speech. We need old wounds healed, old pain eased so we are not being triggered into unrighteous speech and actions.

Jesus said: *Matt 15:13-18* **"Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be uprooted...."** *"But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man.*

As we allow him to, the Father will uproot from us anything that hasn't been planted by Him. We can turn the unacceptable words of today into the words of that bring Life; conviction, repentance, humility, sacrifice, joy, peace, kindness, love.

*Jer 31:33* *"But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "**I will put My law within them and on***

***their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.***

God uproots then writes, uproots then writes till his ways fill our hearts.

As people who have allowed God to renew our lives, and submitted to his resurrection power, we are new creations in him. We must constantly reject things that are not of God, and through his miracle working power take on his character and nature. We are to take on His name, to be living as He lives. He empowers us to live in His life, as we allow our own natures and characters to die, and be replaced with his, as we submit to His Holy Spirit.

*(Eph 4:22-26) that, in reference to your former manner of life, you **lay aside the old self**, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you **be renewed** in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the **likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.***

### **Holiness in us is a miracle of the power of God**

Holiness is resurrection life replacing our carnal life. We die, the Holy Spirit resurrects. This happens again and again through our lives as we acknowledge areas of darkness in us and we submit to the resurrection power of the Holy Spirit. **The Lord plants seeds in our hearts**, before, during and after being born again. His seeds bear the fruit of the Spirit and righteousness as they grow in us. They are His holiness manifesting in our lives. We can then set apart our bodies and our thoughts, wills and emotions in devotion to the Lord.

*(Gal 5:22-23) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

*(2Co 4:6-7) For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the **One who has shone in our hearts** to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the **surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves;***

God is creating holiness in us, sanctifying us to be in his presence.

The Father God has been calling us back for millennia. in Genesis 1, He sent light to overcome the darkness and created land out of the void. In the same way, He creates the good soil of our hearts separated from the darkness and void that was in us. This renewed soil is able to receive the seeds of life that have the potential to grow into the character and nature of the Father in us.

### **God's holy presence comes into our lives**

As we approach our God in humility, submission and obedience, God's presence is holy, pure, love.

*(Heb 12:10) For they (our fathers) disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but **He (God) disciplines us** for our good, **so that we may share His holiness.***

Now the Holy Spirit, the spirit that makes us holy, influences us, convicts us, disciplines us and compels us to seek out His holiness.

*1Pe 1:14-16 As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance, (15) but **like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves** also in all your behaviour; (16) because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."*

### **We become obedient to the commands of Jesus**

Jesus our Messiah lived in reverential fear of His Father. Through complete obedience He fulfilled all the requirements of His mission in the world and proclaimed, It is finished.

*(Rom 5:6) For while we were still helpless, at the right time **Christ died for the ungodly.** He made the way clear for mankind to be able to have relationship with the Father.*

Our love for Jesus makes us want to please him, delight him, and have him make us his Sons. We don't want to cause him pain or hurt. We want to examine ourselves and be free from sin as much as we are able to, and have his wonderful forgiveness fill us with a hope and a future with Him, and a much richer and more peaceful life for ourselves in the meantime.

*Col 1:22 yet He has now **reconciled you in His fleshly body through death,** in order to present you before Him **holy and blameless and beyond reproach—***

*Joh 14:15-17 "If you love Me, you will **keep My commandments.** (16) "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; (17) that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but **you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.***

**Ending.** Jesus is our Saviour in every way. He made the way clear for us to be restored to our Father God and He sent the Holy Spirit to us to work holiness in us. To allow this, in the fear of the LORD, we need to ask for his cleansing, and not tolerate or even empower old ways in our lives anymore. God is holy, and we must with deep thanksgiving, be his devoted, disciplined, holy people.