

Holiness

The Holiness of God

How holy is God? God is in a whole class of His own distinct from anything that ever existed. He is entirely morally pure all the time and in every way. It is the essence of who He is. It is revealed in everything He does, thinks, desires and speaks. He is holy in all of His attributes and every action. What He does is always right. What He says is always true. What He promises he will always deliver.

Without the holiness of God there would be no moral law for us to live by, there would be no perfect Son sent as an acceptable sacrifice for sin and no vindication of the resurrection, no final defeat of Satan, no hope of a new heaven and earth where holiness will reign over us and in us forever.

He is ruling and sovereign. Evil is not in control. Injustice does not rule. Corruption is not king. Satan will not have victory. God is worthy of our trust because He is holy. In Isaiah 6:5, when Isaiah encounters God he said “woe is me...”

Isaiah is not only struck by God’s utter holiness, but by his brokenness because he realizes how morally separated he is from the Lord. It is only by God’s holiness that we will be broken by the disaster of sin that lives within us. It is only by God’s holiness that we realize the disastrous condition of our heart that causes us to willingly and repeatedly rebel against the authority of God and do what we were never intended to do.

Hindrances to our holiness

Holiness means being set apart from sin. The battle for the Christian life is the battle for our mind. As your mind goes so does the entirety of your Christian life.

Roman 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers,[Ⓜ] by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.[Ⓜ] ² Do not be conformed to this world,[Ⓜ] but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

If the enemy can control your thoughts he can control your life.

If we don’t win the battle for holiness on the inside, we will lose the battle on the outside. Our minds, hearts and wills are the battlefronts where our battle are lost and won.

There’s a war going on between the flesh of man and the spirit of God. Our flesh is hostile toward God so we can’t please Him if we are living a lifestyle outside of Him. So, I must ask myself, am I going to live by the spirit or by the flesh. Who will be on the throne guiding me daily? My flesh, or the Spirit? It’s all about obedience to His commandments and submission to His will.

We forget who we are because the pleasures of this world enchant us. It is not easy to be holy because we live in an unholy world. When we are immersed in the world we allow our self to be influenced by it. The enemy is everywhere and we struggle with our unredeemed human nature, the flesh. I often feel

Holiness

defeated because it doesn't seem to matter how much I want to be holy, I am broken because the world is broken and I will not fully become like Christ until I am in heaven.

Set nothing in front of your eyes that is worthless; i.e. social media, TV, unwholesome books, etc. Let us run from temptation and make no provision for the flesh.

We need to actively pursue holiness if we want to draw closer to God because the world is unholy and will put hindrances and obstacles in front of us.

Who we are in Christ

1 Peter 1:15-16

'but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

At salvation we become indwelt with the Holy Spirit. This is the only way our hearts and minds can be renewed when we put our faith in the finished work of Christ. We can't be holy by trying harder. We are empowered to live holy lives by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Sanctification is always a progressive work in our lives.

Yes we are broken but this isn't identity. We must not focus on our failed attempts at holiness but look at the Gospel of grace and seek to be like Jesus. We must trust Him to make us holy.

We are holy because we have been bought by the blood of Jesus at salvation we stand before Him as righteous because the perfect righteousness of Jesus has been given over to our personal account. We are already perfect in God's eyes because when He looks upon us, He sees His Son standing in our place.

How do we win the battle for Holiness?

- 1) Stay in the word – We can't live by God's word unless we know His word. Treasure His word in your heart. Rehearse scripture, memorize it. It is wisdom and it instructs us on how to live, keeps us from fleshly thoughts and immorality. It transforms, renews and cleanses us. So meditate on the word day and night. Scrutinize all that we hear against the truth of God's word. The word is our foundation. Let us obey it.
- 2) Don't allow the things of this world to dominate our thoughts and priorities. We are not living or thinking like the world, instead we are separated from the world and living to please Him. Set your mind on things above, on God and the hope of heaven. Remember who you are. This world is not our home, we are just passing through.
- 3) Take every thought captive and let not any thought go unchecked. Replace all lies with the truth. Rehearse truth throughout the day to yourself which rewires our thinking pattern and these truths become solidified in our minds. If we preach the truth to our self then we default to truth rather than lies. Engage your mind on the truth that transforms it.

Holiness

Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

- 4) Prayer – prayer keeps us connected with God.
1 Thessalonians 5:17 says pray without ceasing. Our primary link to holiness is through prayer. Prayer causes us to bring everything captive before God. Our mindset changes to a heavenly mindset when we pray. Prayer cultivates our dependence on God.
- 5) Galatians 5:16 says walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. Our transformation is not about will power but about the spirit's power working in us. We are to walk with dependence on the spirit. The spirit is our warning system. So when the spirit is leading you, obey it immediately. Galatians 5:25 says if we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. The Spirit brings about our obedience. When we submit to God's will, we are able to experience all God has for us, joy, peace, purity, freedom, etc..
- 6) Make the most of trials. Trials strengthen, refine, test and grow our faith which produces endurance so we may be mature and complete lacking nothing. Trials help us trust God more deeply. Thank Him for our difficulties. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says to give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
- 7) Have an attitude of gratitude. Rid yourself of grudges, resentments and unforgiveness. Be grateful for the undeserved kindness that the Lord bestows on us daily because we deserve judgment and death, but He has given us life through His Son.
- 8) Fellowship with other believers.
Surround yourself with other believers who will build you up in the faith and call you to accountability. Proverbs 27:6 says "Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy." Let us love and serve others well.
- 9) The worse thing I am burdened with in my life is not pain, loss, hardship, etc., but my sin because there is a holy God that demands righteousness. I sin against God every day. I shake my fist at Him but make little of my sin. We need to flee from temptation, don't entertain it. Confess sin quickly and know that God hears us and forgives us. Obey Him in all areas of our life. Lay aside any hindrance, sin that is keeping you from running with endurance, and walk in a manner worthy of His call.
- 10) Always walk with integrity in your heart. Do what is right and pleasing to the Lord. Love your neighbor as yourself. Serve others well.
- 11) Be intentional about living a holy life. Be faithful in doing the small things He calls you to do

The flesh is not destroyed at conversion so our battles and struggles go on. When Christ is not on the throne, the Holy Spirit's work is limited. So we are to seek His kingdom as the main goal of our life. We are to live out holiness wherever we are at, whomever we are with and in everything we do and say.

Remember that God has called us to whatever we are facing; whatever He has called me to do He will empower me to complete that. We are not left on our own. He is faithful and fighting for us and He gives us the wisdom and strength that we need to surrender to His holy call in every area of our life.