

The Holiness of God

Can man comprehend the holiness of God? Our comprehension of the holiness of God, based on natural senses, remains insufficient. There is a distinction between that which is holy and what is wicked. The sinfulness of man and the holiness of God are completely incompatible, and therefore, the Bible speaks clearly about the fact that God will have to judge sin. *"for our God is a consuming fire"* (Heb.12:29) Holiness requires a distinction be made between the holiness that is God's very being and the holiness which reflects the character of His people. Let us consider the response which this truth should produce in our lives, as we seek to praise, worship and serve Him.

The term "holy" meaning is to be distinct, separate, in a class by oneself. It comes from word that meant, 'to cut,' or 'to separate.' We use expression that it is 'a cut above the rest.' This means that the one who is holy is uniquely holy. When Bible calls God holy it means primarily that God is divinely separate. He is so far above and beyond us. The bible put it this way: *"Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders?"* (Exo.15:11) God is Holy: (Isaiah 6:3) Another way to say God is absolute perfection. (Mat.5:48) Holiness embraces every distinct characteristic of God. What beautiful scripture exist to convey glory, honour, and thanks to the Lord God Almighty? Before Throne in Heaven, the angelic beings worshiped God, *saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,"* (Rev.4:8) This is awe-inspiring vision of God that encourages us to become holy just as God is holy. Once you encounter perfect holiness of God, your life will never be the same.

The term holiness is applied to God in two senses. First, God is separate, set above all which is created. The perfect Holiness of God speaks of absolute purity. He cannot sin or tolerate sin. Holiness is God's inward character. He is perfectly holy in all He thinks, says, and does. Secondly, things are regarded holy because of their connection with God, Holy ground, Holy Sabbath, Holy place. God's holiness fills anything touched by Him, especially men. To be holy is to be morally pure: When things are made holy, when they are consecrated, they are set apart unto purity. They are to be used in a pure way that is to reflect purity as well as uniqueness. It is divine existence. For God to be holy is for Him to be holy in relation to every aspect of His nature, attribute and character. That is, the holy calls attention to all that God is that His love is holy love. Holiness is the ability to live consistent with the nature of life.

Man's encounters with the holiness of God were often fearful. Before God would establish a covenant with His people, He ordered them to separate from impurity, to make themselves sanctified (holy) to God. On the third day of preparation, God descended to Mount Sinai, demonstrating His power and glory-holiness. (Exo.19:16-20) To approach the holiness of God requires reverence and absolute obedience to His commands. The word "holy" means set apart, dedicated, consecrated or sanctified. Holiness means the state of being holy; purity and complete in moral character. We are called to be holy because we are called to be Christ-like. *Be holy, because I am holy"* (1Pe.1:15-16) *"For God has not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness"* (1Th4:7) We are to separated ourselves from this world unto the holiness of God. God has established a high standard for our conduct and will punish us for immoral conduct. God is so separate from evil that it is like contrast between light and darkness. God is light. Let us walk in the Light of God. We should run away from sin. "Flee from sexual immorality" "flee from idolatry"

What does it mean for us to be holy? When God told Israel to be holy, He was instructing them to be distinct from the other nations by giving them specific regulations to govern their lives. Israel is God's chosen nation and God has set them apart from all other nations. They are His special people, and consequently they were given standards that God wanted them to live by so the world would know they belonged to Him. As believers, we need to be set apart from the world unto the Lord. We need to be living by God's standards, to be distinct from the world. 1Pe.2:9 describes believers as "a holy nation, His own special people" We are separated from the world; we need to live out that reality in our day-to-day lives. Holiness results from a right relationship with God by believing in Jesus Christ as Savior (accepting His gift of eternal life). So, we must first make sure we are born-again believers. Those who accepted the Lord were expected to behave in a holy manner, that the Lord expects His people to live holy lives.

How are we to set ourselves totally apart from sin? When God created man, He intended for us to experience His glory. Man is the result of God's creative and He intended for each one of us to receive holiness. Lord's plan for us that we shall stand blameless in holiness before God. That plan includes process of strengthening our hearts which we increase in love towards one another. This increase comes thru our submission to His hand of refinement and purification. Make every effort to pursue holiness and willing to give up a certain practice or habit that is keeping us from holiness. (HEB12:4,14) An evil force of demons is behind every sin. We must remember that we are in war against Satan and his forces. *"In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood"* We have discernment of right choice, we have the power by God to overcome any temptation that may come. We should walk in the spirit and not fulfill the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and pride of the life. We must work to attain this characteristic of God. Our lives must be disciplined the practice of Holiness. Submit to Him and allow Holy Spirit to keep pure before Him. Bridle the tongue and bring our mind and its function(thoughts) under control. Keep oneself pure, undefiled, unspotted and unstained from the world. Let us proceed towards attaining perfection. As we concentrate on living an obedient, holy life, we will certainly experience the joy of victory over sin. We must be holy, because this is one purpose for which Christ came into the world. And without holiness on earth we shall never be prepared to enjoy heaven. Heaven is a holy place. *But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.* (Rev.21:27)

How Important Is Holiness?

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The holiness of God is a matter of great importance to every living soul. The Bible emphasizes the importance of holiness to the believers/servants of God. Below examples are dealing with God's holiness and its impact on saints.

Moses and the Holiness of God: (Numbers 20:1-14; 27:12-14)

Moses and Aaron went to the doorway of the tent of meeting, and there the glory of the Lord appeared to them. God then commanded Moses to take his rod and speak to the rock, from which water would flow for the people. Moses was furious with the people as he gathered them before the rock, the "spiritual rock" which identifies as Christ Himself. (1Cor.10:4) Instead of merely speaking to the rock as commanded, Moses struck the rock twice in his anger. Yet this act was so serious in God's sight that He forbade Moses to enter into the land of promise. The consequences were indeed severe. Moses never saw the land to which he came so close. Why? God told him, and he recorded it for us: *Then the Lord spoke to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe Me, to treat Me as holy in the eyes of the children of Israel,* (Num.20:12) And by dealing severely with Moses for his transgression, God is said to have "proved Himself holy among them". (v.13) In a moment of anger, Moses sinned, and for this sin he was kept from entering the land of promise. The act was striking the rock was an act of disobedience, and failing to follow God's instructions. Even, it was identified by God as an act of unbelief. The root cause of sin was irreverence of Moses' disobedience and his striking the rock. Moses' anger with the people overcame his fear of God. Moses had good reason to be angry with the Israelites. They were indeed a "stiff-necked people," (Exo.33:5) but his fear of God should have overcome his anger with the Israelites. God took Moses' irreverence most seriously.

Uzzah and the Holiness of God: (2 Samuel 6:1-11)

The Philistines had captured the ark of God and sought to keep it as a trophy of their victory. It soon became evident the ark was the source of much suffering to them. They passed it and finally determined to be rid of it by sending it back to Israel. They transported it in a way the Philistine priests, diviners recommended. They put a guilt offering of gold in the ark and placed it on a newly-made cart drawn by two cows. The Philistines could not stand in the presence of the Holy God of Israel, neither could the people of Beth-shemesh where the ark arrived. (1Sa.6:19-21) The men of Kiriath-jearim came took the ark of the LORD and brought it to the house of Abinadab, consecrated Abinadab's son, Eleazar, to keep the ark, where it remained for 20 years. (1Sa7:1-2) Finally, David, accompanied by 30,000 Israelites, went to Kiriath-jearim to bring the ark to Jerusalem. The day the ark was transported to Jerusalem was a most jubilant procession as the ark made its way home. But they had forgotten how holy this ark was, because it was the place where God's presence was to abide. Rather than transporting the ark as instructed, the ark was placed on an ox cart. But when the oxen stumbled and it looked as though the cart might be overturned and hurled to the ground, Uzzah reached out to steady the ark. Instantly, he was struck down and dead by God.

David's first response was frustration and anger with God. Why had God been so harsh with Uzzah? David seems to have forgotten God's instructions in the Law about how the ark was to be transported. He also seems to have forgotten how many had previously died when due reverence for the presence of God associated with the ark was not shown. The ark was a symbol of the presence of God, a most holy object which was to be hidden in the holiest place in the tabernacle, the holy of holies. According to God's instructions, it was to be transported by Kohathites who carried it by holding upon shoulders onto poles inserted through its rings. (Exo.25:10-22) But they must not touch the holy things or they would die. Only upon reflection did David realize gravity of the error and concerning Uzzah, God struck him dead because of his irreverence. Irreverence is a dangerous condition. Even when our motives are sincere and we are actively involved in the worship of God, we must constantly be mindful of the holiness of God and maintain a reverence for Him manifested by our obedience to His instructions and commands.

Isaiah and the Holiness of God: (Isaiah 6:1-10)

A vision of the holiness of God is precisely what God gave to Isaiah—a dramatic revelation of His holiness. He saw the Lord sitting enthroned, lofty and exalted. The angels who stood above Him were magnificent, *And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!"* Glory is the visible representation of God's holiness. It was as a vision of God and His holiness as one could wish to see. Isaiah saw the Lord in His holiness and glory. His vision of holiness of God caused Isaiah to lament his sinfulness. Isaiah saw how low he was because he had seen a vision of how holy God is. It is only in contrast to God that we can really see ourselves clearly. (Job 42:5-6) Isaiah confessed his own sinfulness, uncleanness and of his people, that he was "a man of unclean lips" and that he lived among a people with the same condition. Isaiah recognized error of the tongue was enough to require atonement. Then one of the seraphim laid a burning coal on Isaiah's mouth, touching the lips, symbolically cleansing him and his mouth. (Jam.3:1-12) When God cleansed him, he was ready to see a vision of the needs of people and accept the call "Here am I; send me." to tell them God's message. At the outset of Isaiah's ministry, God manifested His holiness to Isaiah to motivate him to be faithful to his calling and to the message he was to be given. Isaiah never lost the vision of whom he served and whom he must both fear and please. Those who would draw near to God and have Him draw near to them are those who approach Him in reverence and holy fear. John saw a vision of the Lord exalted and holy. This vision preceded command to record what he saw in Rev.1:19. Paul had a similar experience at the beginning of his ministry; he beheld the glory of God. The glory of his message and ministry sustained him even in the midst of suffering, adversity, and rejection. Paul was faithful to his calling and the message he was given to proclaim, even unto death. (2Cor.3-6)

For the Christian, the resurrection of Messiah from the grave is comforting truth which inspires reverence and awe and it is proof of His holiness. The resurrection of our Lord should, motivate unbelievers to repent and turn to Him for the forgiveness of sins and for eternal life. The promises of the coming of Messiah became specific, until it was evident that Messiah must not only be human but the “Holy One” of God.(Isaiah9:6-7;Mica 5:2) As such, He must be Holy. And so, the angel told Mary of the child to be miraculously born of her, a virgin. And the angel answered and said to her, *“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”*(Lukel:35) Throughout the life and ministry of our Lord on the earth, it became clear, He was more than a prophet and more than an ordinary man. Jesus lived a perfectly holy life, He is described as “without sin”(Heb4:15) One who “committed no sin”(1Pe.2:22) and as “Him who had no sin”(2Cor.5:21) John stated, “In Him is no sin”(1Joh.3:5) Scripture describes Him as “the Righteous One” (Isa.53:11) absolutely pure and free from all defilement.(Heb.7:26) But the holiness of Jesus also a perfect conformity to the will of His Father. Jesus stated He came down from heaven to do the will of His father.(Joh.6:38)

The miracles and signs performed during Jesus’ earthly ministry pointed to His holiness as did events surrounding His death. The supernatural darkness for three hours and the rending of the veil of the temple.(Luk.23:44-47) One of the soldiers at the foot of the cross gave testimony to the uniqueness of Jesus: Now when the centurion saw what had happened, he [began] praising God, saying, *“Truly this Man was the Son of God!”*(Mark15:39) The implications of resurrection as recorded in the Book of Acts, *For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.*(Acts 2:23-27;13:32-35) Apostles proclaimed the resurrection of Jesus from the dead as the fulfillment of the prophecy of Psalm 16:10, they proclaimed Him to be the “Holy One” of God, whom God would not allow to undergo decay because He was holy. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead justifies Jesus’ to be Israel’s Messiah; it demonstrates Him to be promised “Holy One” of God. His resurrection from the dead changed Him so that He no longer possesses an earthly body but now is glorified body. *who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.* (1Pet.3:22) His glory and holiness are no longer veiled, so that description of Jesus in Rev.5:13: *I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!”*

The Holiness of Jesus Christ manifested itself in a love of righteousness and hatred of iniquity. Jesus was willing to give Himself totally to show His love and to do His Father’s will. Jesus always doing and speaking what was pleasing to God. The Holiness of Jesus manifested itself in constant victory over temptation. In Mat.17:5 God the Father witnessed to the Holiness of Christ. *This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!* Holiness has to do with more than mere acts. Our motives must be holy, that is, arising from a desire to do because it is the will of God. Our thoughts should be holy, since they are known to God even before they are formed in our minds. The more we grow in holiness, the more we need assurance that the righteousness of Christ is credited to us. Part of growing in holiness is the Holy Spirit’s making us aware of our need of holiness. *But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.*(1John 2:20) Still, we do grow in holiness as we follow Jesus.

The Holiness of God and the Church (Acts 5:1-16; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34)

In the early days of the church, there would sell of their possessions and lay the proceeds at the feet of the apostles they did so voluntarily as the Holy Spirit leads & guides and they held everything in common.(Acts2:44-45;4:34-37) Ananias and Sapphira did likewise, but with a divided heart and in a deceptive way. They sold a property but kept back a part for themselves. They made a pretense of having given all the proceeds. Peter knew instantly that Ananias was lying—not just to him but to God—and exposed his hypocrisy then and there. Both fell down and died. Their conspiracy led to the sin unto death. Great fear came upon the entire church. It was Satan that had filled their hearts to lie in this way and “to test the Spirit of the Lord” Their deception was an offense and a sin of irreverence, a sin against God’s holiness. God hates sin, and that He is concerned for the holiness of His church.

Apostle Paul admonishes the church because of the misconduct of some at the Lord’s Table. Church remembered the Lord by having Holy communion just as the last supper(the Passover). Paul deals with church’s gathering – was conducted in a way that have been similar to the heathen rituals. In the process, some became drunk and disorderly so that the celebration of the Lord’s death was shameful, resembling the heathen parties. Because of the seriousness of this sin, a number of the Corinthians has brought about the sickness and some had died. Paul rebuked for partaking of the bread and the cup in an unworthy manner. Paul further says that when the Corinthians eat the bread and drink the cup “unworthily,” they are guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord, and in so doing they do not judge the body rightly. Paul instructs the Corinthians to wait for one another, to search their hearts, confess of sins, be sanctified and to commemorate the Lord’s Supper in a manner befitting the body and blood of our Lord. The sin of the Corinthians at the Lord’s Supper was irreverence. The body of our Lord—His physical body and blood are holy. He was a sinless sacrifice dying in our place. The body of our Lord is also the church, and it too is to be holy. Irreverence in worship is a failure to grasp God’s holiness and offend to His holiness. Irreverence is a sin of great magnitude with consequences. The holiness of God requires us to take our worship seriously and not to participate playfully. We must regard God’s presence seriously and be very cautious about offending His presence by our irreverence. *Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth.*(Psalm 96:9)

The holiness of God is a doctrine to which we give acceptance for guidance and govern our lives. Sanctification (holiness) is a crucial Bible theme, both in study and application. When it comes to the Christian faith, imagination becomes a vital element which is as it pertains to faith; the capacity to see what is real but unseen. To enable us to imagine, God has given us another set of eyes: the eyes of the heart, so we can "see" the unseen world of spiritual reality. The problem is that the sin that infects our heart reduces us spiritually blind. So God blesses us with the light-shining, sight-giving, eye-opening ministry of the Holy Spirit so we can "see". We are about to seek upon the Spirit of God to open the eyes of our heart to see. *and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.*(Rev.3:18)

In Isaiah 6:3 state that God is Holy. The prophet received a vision of the Lord sitting on his throne with seraphim on either side, and one seraph called to the other seraph and said, "*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!*" When you hear that God is Holy, you need to know that God is in an entirely different category of holiness. How great is the holiness of the Lord of hosts? Great enough to fill the whole earth! They're meant to blow your mind with the thought that God is unlike anything you have ever encountered. They're meant to humble with the realization that God is fundamentally different from you. They're intended you understand that who you're dealing with Someone Greater than anyone. Seeing his holiness will change you and the way you live forever. Holiness means "to cut." To be holy means to be cut off, or separate, from everything else. Second thing to be holy means to be entirely morally pure, all the time and in every way possible. Then to be holy that the Lord, He occupies a moral space that no one has ever occupied before, and as such, we have no experience of reference to understand what he is like because there's nothing like Him. In 1 Samuel 2:2 declares, *There is none holy like the Lord: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.* How is the holiness of God revealed? God's holiness is the essence of who He is. In everything He does, thinks, desires, speaks and does is absolutely holy in every way. God is holy in every attribute and in every action: He is holy in justice, in love, in mercy, in power, in sovereignty, in wisdom, in patience, in anger, in grace, in faithfulness, in compassion. He is holy in his holiness!

Without the holiness of God, there would be no moral law to which every human being is responsible. Without the holiness of God, there would be no perfect Son sent as an acceptable sacrifice for sin. Without the holiness of God, there would be no final defeat of Satan. Without the holiness of God, there would be no hope of a new heaven and earth where holiness will reign over us and in us forever. It's vital to remember the holiness of God, in a world that seems so evil, where wrong seems to be rewarded and right often seems to be punished. Every situation, or relationship that you have been in, and will be in is under the sovereignty of the One who is completely Holy. What He promises He will always deliver. Satan will not have victory. God is, and will always be, worthy of your trust for He is Holy. He will defeat every evil thing that has made our lives sad and difficult and deliver us forever.

Notice the impact that holiness of God has in real life at the prophet's response to his startling vision in Isaiah 6:5: "*Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!*" Isaiah blown away in brokenness because he recognizes how morally separated he is from the Lord. It's only in the face of the holiness of God that you will ever be broken by the disaster of the sin that lives within us. Sin doesn't always appear sinful to us; often, it's attractive and magnetic. It's only in the face of the holiness of God that you fully realize that sin is more than a list of bad behaviors and breaking a set of abstract rules. Rather, sin is a disastrous condition of the heart that causes us willingly, repeatedly rebel against the command of God and do what we were never intended to do. It's the holiness of God that tells us that since we cannot escape ourselves, we all need a Savior who can do what we can't - rescue us from sin. You simply cannot consider the holiness of God without grieving your sin and crying out for the grace of Jesus. In His holiness, God made a provision for our sins. By His sacrificial death on the cross of Calvary, Jesus Christ paid the penalty for our sins, and thereby made it possible for us to partake of His holiness. When we acknowledge our sin, our unrighteousness, and trust in Christ's death on our behalf, our sins are forgiven, our un-holiness is cleansed.

Because holiness is the essence of God's character, it becomes our calling as His children. "*As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 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.'*"(1Pe.1:14-16) God accepts us only thru the shed blood of Jesus Christ. You are holy because you have been bought with the blood of Jesus and you are not your own.(1Cor.6:19) To say you are holy means that you have been set apart by God's grace for God's purpose. And you have been called to holy living means every thought, desire, word, choice and action must be done in a spirit of humble surrender to the commands of God. God calls us to be holy, then sends His Holy Spirit to live inside us so that we would have the wisdom and strength that we need to surrender to His holy call in all that we do.

Our hearts should be filled with gratitude and praise for the grace He has bestowed on us. Because of His grace, we know that our God is Holy. Because of His grace, we experience both the conviction of sin and a desire to live holy lives. Because of His grace, we have been invited to live in God's holy presence forever and ever. Shout, "Halleluia! *and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*"(Rev1:6) The fear of the Lord is the result of grasping His holiness. We must discipline to live like Christians. The church is to be holy, that has a deep awareness of the holiness of God will proclaim, practice, protect the doctrine of Holiness of God. *even the first covenant had rules and regulations for worship of divine service.*(Hebrews 9:1)

What is Sanctification?

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The basic meaning of sanctification is "the state of proper functioning." To sanctify someone or something is to set that person or thing apart for holy use. A human being is sanctified, therefore, when he or she lives according to God's design and purpose. And things are sanctified when they are used for the purpose God plans. The Greek word translated "sanctification" (hagiasmos) means "holiness." To sanctify means "to make holy or to purify" The word translated "sanctify" come from the root word for "Holy" which means to consecrate. Sanctification refers to completion of process of overcoming sin.(1Th.4:3-7) "Sanctified" communicates passing into the Christian life through faith in Christ, that is to enter the process of changing toward holiness.(Heb.10:10,14) The forms of "sanctification" identify in general of the on-going transformation toward Christlikeness which is our occupation. Sanctification is changing toward godliness that is to grow in holiness. Sanctification is consecrated life of holiness.

Sanctification is a command; for it is written: "*be holy, because I am holy.*"(1Pet.1:16) and God said, "*I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.*"(Gen.17:1) God commanded the nation of Israel, "*consecrate to me every firstborn male*"(Exo.13:2) In 1 Peter 3:15 "*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts,*" Sanctification is "the necessity of conformity of God." God commands us to be sanctified, because "*without holiness no one will see the Lord.*"(Heb.12:14) Sanctification is the requirement of God for us and it expects us to comply with God's command. No one who has neglected to obey the gospel of Christ can be sanctified.(2Th.1:8-9) Sanctification is the will of God, "*It is God's will that you should be sanctified.*"(1Th.4:3) Sanctification is "our conformity and obedience to the will of God." they were "given to us by the kindness/mercy of God and destined for our benefit."

In the Old Testament Temple vessels used by the priest, these were to be used for holy purposes and to be pure and to glorify God. Today, Christians have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and our bodies are the temple of God in which dwells the Holy Spirit and our bodies are vessels to be used for a holy or pure purpose for the glory of God. Unless you are born again, you have no hope to be sanctified because sanctification takes power of the Holy Spirit. It is impossible by human effort. Bible says that "*the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want*"(Gal5:17) In one sense only God is holy.(Isa 6:3) No human being or thing shares holiness of God's essential nature. Word for a holy person is saint, meaning a sanctified one. The opposite of sanctified is wicked.(Lev10:10)

There are three doctrinal terms identify the three stages of salvation. Justification-Sanctification-Glorification. Justification occurred the day a person became a Christian. When by faith a soul embraces the gospel, a lifetime of sin is forgiven and the one separated from a Holy God begins a new life, Reconciliation to God takes place (Rom5:1-2;10-11) The focus of justification is the removal of the guilt of sin. Sanctification involves all the time in between precise points of justification and glorification. It is putting off of sin and putting on of righteousness. (Eph.4:22-24) It is the transition from being slaves of unrighteousness to being slaves of God for the purpose of righteousness.(Rom.6:10-13) The focus of sanctification is the healing of the dysfunction of sin. Glorification will come to pass when the believer sees the Lord face to face in heaven.(Rev.21:1-7) Sin will no longer be a temptation. Each stage signifies a specific point in time also relates to the believer's place in regard to sin. We once gained our starter by faith into this life with God. For the first time we were forgiven, clean, justified. One day we will reach our destiny, by God's grace. We will have glorification, life in heaven where there is no sin. Consequently, it only makes sense that in between we are to be moving toward holiness, progressing, changing, being sanctified.

Sanctification is a journey, not a place. It is an on-going labor, a work in progress. It is not a finished one-time act. In Rom 12.2, verse describes transformation toward holiness as metamorphosis caterpillar to butterfly. For us as Christians it is our vocation, our purpose, and our calling. To be pursuing sanctification is to submit our will to the Lord's. In John 17:17 Jesus prays for future believers, those who would receive the gospel, He asks the Father to sanctify us in truth. This identifies sanctification as a process, since the work God accomplishes through the Word toward holiness involves progress in relation to salvation. Phi.1:6 assures us of God's on-going work in modifying who we are. He began this good work in us; He will continue bringing us toward perfection until the day we see Christ(glorification). In Phi 3:12-14, Paul exemplifies explanation of sanctification. He is not perfect now. But he presses on toward that goal. The effort includes forgetting what lies behind (bondage to sin) and reaching forward to what lies ahead (perfection in heaven). He also saw sanctification as an on-going process of becoming holy, one in which he was diligent to be participate. It is a progressive holiness and growing in purity and it takes a lifetime. We are being perfected and this perfection takes time and patience that of becoming more like Christ Himself.

As stated earlier, we must be regenerated by the Holy Spirit. We must place our trust in Christ to save us and have faith in the Savior. By the will of God and by His power; *you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*"(1Cor 6:11) It washes us...cleanses us...and gives us access to the power of the Holy Spirit. Sanctification takes a lifetime. We will never be completely perfected until that day of His return. For then we will be like him perfect and complete.(1John 3:2) We must resist temptation, flee from sin, press on, take hold, have a goal, strain toward, and read the Word of God. These allow the Holy Spirit to work in us, with us, and through us by cooperating and being proactive to avoid sinning against God.(Rom.12:1-2) The sanctified life is victorious (Rom.8:37), though it is lived out in the context of trials, temptation and suffering. God promises the "overcomers" in Revelation to restore all that was lost in the fall.

A person can be sanctified in two ways according to God's creative purpose and according to God's redemptive design. God created the universe and human beings perfect.(i.e. sanctified) Everything and everyone functioned perfectly until Adam and Eve believed Satan's lie. The fall throw the human race and the universe into a state of dysfunction.(Gen.3:14-19) Fallen human beings still bear God's image.(Jam.3:9-10) Fallen creation still witnesses to God's existence and attributes.(Rom 1:20) Yet both, depending on the similarity employed, are "unsanctified." The sanctification of human beings, therefore, is the highest goal of God's work in the universe. God declared it to be His will. He purposed that human beings be "like him". Sanctification always requires God's presence. His presence is producing fruit for which he alone is the source. "Indwelling" is experienced by faith. Human beings "fall short of God's glory" because they lack God's presence, which produces glory.(Rom.3:23) Glory is always the manifestation of the attributes of God resulting from the presence of God. God's presence was the missing factor in Adam and Eve's fallen state. God called out to the fleeing man, "Where are you?"(Gen.3:9) God was clarifying to sinful humanity that his presence was now lost. Human beings are progressively sanctified now through faith in Christ by grace and by the indwelling Spirit, while awaiting full sanctification at the resurrection.

Human beings ultimately cannot sanctify themselves. Holiness is the essence of God, and the essence is presented in the acts of Triune God. The three persons of Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit play different roles in sanctification. The Triune God sanctifies us. The Father sanctifies.(1Co.1:30) by the Holy Spirit (2Th.2:13) and in the name of Christ.(1Co.6:11) Their works are mutually related and they are equally important in the works of sanctification; without each, sanctification of believers would not be complete. It is because no one might worship God in holiness without the election from Father, without reconciliation through the blood of Jesus Christ or without the renewal of one's holy life by Holy Spirit. Sanctification is totally God's work and for His people.

God, the Father is the author of sanctification and He initiated the sanctification. In New Testament, holy literally denotes "a chosen people or "God's calling of a people." The biblical statement on holiness or sanctification is separation. Father, God separates or calls those who believe in Him as a group of holy people "to live a holy life." Holiness, purity, every excellence that is found among men are the fruit of election. Sanctification is subordinated to the glory of God, and it "consists in His authority and righteousness." We should be sanctified in order to glorify God, Father. It is God, Father's grace to call us to be sanctified. Our sanctified life is a response to God's calling grace. Father-child relationships are a response to grace of God. Bible says the grace of God teaches us to say no to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.(Tit.2:11-12) The grace of God teaches us to become godly or sanctified. Moreover, our hearts are motivated us to work for God for duties and obedience by strengthening, increasing and exciting the grace we have received.

God's sanctifying grace is Jesus Christ:(Heb.10:10) Jesus Christ was the only human being since the fall, to live a continuously perfectly holy life, therefore is the model human being for moral, vocational sanctification.(Phi2:5-11) Christ's sacrificial offering of himself to God achieved comprehensive sanctification for all people. Only the unblemished Lamb of God was qualified to sanctify the world. Christ's death was necessary for both the cleansing and sanctification processes. Christ gave himself up for the church that he might "sanctify" it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with the word.(Eph.5:25) God sanctifies a believer thru faithful remembrance of Christ's redemptive work according to the command of the Lord by participation in the new covenant "Table of the Lord." The work of Son, is to achieve separation of humankind from unholiness and to remake a holy nation, God's own people."And He reconciles or restores our relationship between Father, God by His death on Cross.(Eph.2:16) He is the mediation of the reconciliation. The work of sanctification is accomplished in the person and mission of the Son of God, whose blood we have redemption and the forgiveness of our trespasses. Sanctification is based on the foundation of forgiveness and reconciliation. The work of God, Son is to "reconcile and present us holy blameless and irreproachable" before Father, God.(Col.1:22) The "effectual calling" of a holy people takes place in Christ. Thus, believers who are elected in Christ, secure the eternal will of God and they will be restored on the final day.

Holy Spirit's work in realizing and perfecting the sanctification. In other words, Holy Spirit completes the "work of making holy." Holy Spirit carries on the sanctification process towards perfection. Holy Spirit works for Father and Son to make the sanctification work whole and complete and drawing it into righteous fellowship with holy God. Holy Spirit is the cause of all spiritual purifying and cleansing. Our sins are trespasses were washed away because of death and the blood of Jesus Christ but act of washing; i.e. application of death and the blood of Christ on our souls is performed by Holy Spirit. "*you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*"(1Cor.6:11) The regenerate person is "spiritual". Holy Spirit is indwelling in us to cause the union with Christ and communicates the grace and holiness of Jesus with our souls and our hearts. When someone is united with Christ, he or she can enjoy the communion or fellowship with God.

The sanctifying works are carried out from God. They are all originated from God's love, grace and mercy. Father, as initiator, performs the election work and chooses us as a holy people. Son, as a mediator, satisfies reconciliation work, and restores the original relationship between God and us. Holy Spirit, completes the sanctification work, renews our life to become Christ-like. We are renewed after the image of God. The new man the Christ-like creation should always be "all purified, enhanced, perfected" and doing good works in daily life in order to glorify God.

The work of Sanctification

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Sanctification is an inward spiritual process whereby God brings about holiness & change in the life of a Christian. This is working process of sanctification in the life of every believer which is to prevent sin and produce spiritual growth. Work of sanctification is affected in the life of God's people in three ways by the blood of Jesus (HEB13:12) by the word of God (JOH17:17) by the Holy Spirit.(ROM15:16) Let us pursue sanctification so that we may be blessed.

One of the most precious is our absolute sanctification by the blood of Jesus Christ. It is the result of the finished work of atonement Jesus accomplished to take away our sins on the cross. Jesus suffered outside the gate "*that He might sanctify the people through His own blood*"(Heb.13:12) The blood of Jesus Christ was shed and sprinkled upon the altar to cover all our sins. Every one of our sins been purged by His blood, and we have been set apart to God because we are now His possession. Jesus offered a better sacrifice than the Old Testament rituals. Jesus was crucified, suffered outside the gate of Jerusalem in order that He might sanctify the people of God. We are saved by grace and set apart to God's honor and glory. The great benefit of our eternal sanctification by the blood of Jesus Christ is that God has entered into a new covenant with the believing sinner, and we now have an unhindered approach to God. It is based upon the work of Jesus Christ, our substitute. Our sins have all been eternally atoned for by the bloody sacrifice of Christ. "We are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all"(Heb.10:10) Our sanctification is by the offering of Jesus on our behalf. God declares, We are sanctified. "By one offering He [Jesus] has perfected for all time those who are sanctified"(Heb.10:14)The "sanctified" have a status in God's presence that is perfect. Every believer approaches God now with complete and perfect acceptance with God. The one perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross effectually purges the Christian's conscience. *how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*(Heb.9:14) Because of the purging of our conscience by the sacrifice of Christ we never fear entering into God's presence. We are always free to enter the throne of grace. Our Mediator represents us before the throne of grace and mercy. His sacrifice is all-sufficient for our atonement. Every person who believes on Christ can rejoice with the assurance that he or she is forever cleansed from his or her guilt and defilement by the precious blood of Jesus. We are sanctified for eternity by the blood of Jesus.

Jesus tells us in John 17:16-19, we have sanctification of our present life by application of the truth of God's Word. We are in the need of daily sanctification by the truth of God's Word. The Word of God sanctifies us as we study, meditate, memorize and apply its truths to our daily life. The Holy Spirit uses it to make us aware of sin, confess it and repent. He takes the Word and reveals God's perfect will for our lives. We grow in His grace thru knowledge of His truth. As we yield in obedience to His truth we are sanctified by the truth. Jesus prayed to His Father, "*For this sake I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth*"(v.19) Jesus' death eternally separated believers to God and His kingdom, and God's truth is the means of their daily sanctification. "*Sanctify them in truth; Your Word is truth*"(v.17) Just as Jesus was set apart for special use, so are the believers. "The truth" is communicated in the "Word." As we hear the Word, we comprehend the truth and obey it. This changes our values, our lifestyle, and a behavioural change takes place. As we daily applicable God's Word we are sanctified by it. We are set apart to God and changed in the way we live so that we bring honor and glory to the Father. True daily sanctification in this life comes through the ministry of the Word of God. Jesus told His disciples, "*Now are you clean through the word which I have spoken unto you*"(Joh.15:3) God set us apart to Himself when He saved us. As we grow in Christ we experience sanctification. We are progressively set apart to God as we grow in our faith, love for God more than desire of the world. It is our responsibility to apply the word of God. Do you have an appetite for God's pure Word? Search the Scriptures and obey His Word daily. Recognizing who we are in Christ should lead us to holiness.

The Holy Spirit is the divine being of our sanctification. We must realize our complete dependence upon Him. We must cooperate with His activity in our lives and realize at the same time that we must not rely upon our own strength of determination or purpose.(Rom.15:16;2Thess.2:13;1 Pet.1:2;1Co.6:11) We have been set apart to God, and we are progressively cleansed from the defilement of sin and more and more "transformed" after the image of Christ.(2Cor.3:18) We have been and are being saved by grace. We are progressively sanctified by grace through faith. True Biblical sanctification stresses a sense of humility and repentance which is the work of the Holy Spirit. The sanctifying process is dependent upon the death and resurrection of Christ. The power of the resurrection is available to the Christian through the work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of the risen Christ lives in us. "*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit*"(2Co.3:17-18) The Holy Spirit progressively transforms us to the image of Christ. He takes the things of Christ and shows them to the believer who beholds "as in a mirror the glory of the Lord. The work of the Holy Spirit is to make holy the Christian's life. The offering of the burnt sacrifice is a type of the removal of all our carnal, selfish and earthly desires by the sanctifying fire of the Holy Spirit.(Mat.3:11) A burnt offering was totally consumed on the altar.(Lev.6:9) We need to examine our motive and action, we are still corrupted by sin. We should place upon the altar our carnal and our bodies daily and continually to God by sanctifying fire. We are to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God.(Rom.12:1) We need pursuit of holiness. It is a growth in holiness, character and the stature of maturity in Christ. *he who is holy, let him be holy still.*"(REV22:11)

The Bible clearly reveals that God made men with three distinct parts—spirit, soul and body. Genesis 2:7 says, *And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.* God created men in His own image and intended to experience intimate relationship with Him, as a unity of both physical and spiritual aspects. “Dust of the ground”—from the dust God formed a body, that can be seen and touched. “Breath of life”—then God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life imparting a spirit into man. “Living soul”—finally, God made man with a soul, consists of the mind, conscience, will, emotion. Man is world-conscious by the five senses of his body, God-conscious through his spirit and self-conscious thru his soul. The soul and the spirit are tied together and make up what the Scriptures call the Heart. *"the spirit of your mind.*(Eph.4:3) But Satan damaged your spirit, soul and body through the fall. Satan did not want God’s eternal purpose with man to be fulfilled and craftily deceived man to disobey God’s command. Man received poisonous element of Satan into him and was thus ruined in each of his three parts and made us children of disobedience. Satan primarily works from the outside to influence to the inside. He uses the things of the flesh to entice man’s soul into sin. As soon as the soul sins the Holy Spirit is quenched. Satan can work thru the soul-mind, imagination. Eye/ear-gate is primary entrance to the soul. The eyes fixed images upon the heart, which are then stored in mind.

God begins working thru man’s spirit and by illuminating his mind thru the Holy Spirit and the word, stirring his emotion and causing him to exercise his will over his body as he learns to yield to the indwelling of Holy Spirit. How you can cooperate with God’s sanctifying of your spirit, soul and body. First, receive the Lord Jesus, to be born-again in your spirit. Simply confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead.(Rom.10:9) Upon salvation, a new creature with Christ’s nature is born within(2Co.5:17 yet the old man(Adam’s self-centered nature, the flesh) does not die. He remains alive, his desires still continue. In the life of every believer, the mind is the battlefield on which the two opposed forces struggles. The struggle between good and evil involves a battle for control of the mind, heart, and will of mankind. It is essential to gain the “spiritual understanding” that the believer is able to discern the origin of thoughts, whether spiritual or souls’

How your Spirit, Soul and Body can be wholly sanctified by God? *Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*(1Th.5:23) Scripture likened the believer to God’s Temple,(1Cor.3:16;6:19) which was divided into three parts; the Holy of Holies, the Holy place, the outer court. Our body is the temple of God; For God’s temple is holy.

Sanctification of Spirit: Justification, spiritual regeneration. Christ was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification which liberates the believer from all condemnation to make righteous.(GAL.2:16) Justification comes through faith in Jesus Christ and his paying the penalty for sin in our place. This happens the moment a person has faith for salvation through being spiritually regenerated via the seed of Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This spiritual rebirth where believer is born of the seed of Christ. *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.*(2Co5:17)This reborn spirit is the new creation. It’s new self, created to be like God in righteousness.

Sanctification of Mind: Renewing (Purifying) the Mind. This is a process that takes place the rest of your life on this earth. It means “being made new in the attitude of your mind” simply by purging erroneous concepts from your mind with the truth—reality. The ministry of the Holy Spirit will aid you in this, which includes conviction and the believer’s corresponding repentance. Thus Romans 12:2 encourages us to “not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” *and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*(Eph.4:24) Your mind is caught in a battle between two natures-flesh and spirit - “old self” and “new self”. They are the two conflicting that shoot thoughts into your mind on a regular basis. Your mind, it’s the part of you that possesses choice (will), intellect (reason) and emotion (feeling). Therefore the ability to decide which nature you’re going to receive and follow your sinful nature (flesh) or your godly nature (spirit).

Sanctification of Body: Purification of the Mortal Body. Glorification, final salvation takes place instantaneously when Christ returns for his called out ones ‘church’ at the resurrection wherein believers will receive imperishable, glorified, powerful, spiritual bodies. But now it is important of sanctifying our present mortal bodies. *Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.*(2Co.7:1) The word for “body” in this verse is reference to the sinful nature, “the flesh.” Likewise “spirit” in this context to a person’s character, which is the result of what individual allows to be rooted in the soil of his heart. Let’s focus on purifying ourselves from everything that pollutes body.

The heart is the seat and center of man’s personal life in which the distinctive character of the human manifests itself. What’s in your heart is determined by whether you, in your mind, have decided to live by the flesh or by the spirit.(Luk.6:45) Sanctification is the removal of anything in our lives that is unrighteous or unholy. We need of all unsanctified spirit of hasty, easily provoked, haughty, anger, jealous, competition etc. to overcome and purifying our conscience continually. We need to consecrate our eyes and ears and every thoughts. Bible instructs us to “*take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ*”(2Co.10:5) Thought can also refer to a mindset or attitude—that’s the result of teaching of good or bad. And make sure that thought comply with the truth. When a person is filled with the Holy Spirit, his thoughts, actions are divine. This is being made new in the attitude of your mind.

Holiness is a calling. God has called us to be saints, that is, to be holy ones. To be holy is to be consecrated to God for His special divine purposes. Then we have to respond by seeking each day to draw closer to God. We are to be separate from the world, separate from the filth of the flesh and spirit, and separate from our self-will.(II Co.7:1) Freedom from sin and slavery to God lead to holiness. Eternal life is the result of holiness.(Rom.6:22). We are to be holy because God, our Heavenly Father is holy. We have been born of God. We are His children and therefore are to be like Him in every way. God is pure and His attitudes and motives ensure that His thoughts, words, and actions are righteous. God is high above. God is free from all unclean spirits. *“Therefore come out from them and be separate,”*(II Co.6:17) We were called out from the nations of the earth to be holy. Actual holiness free from unclean spirits, having Christ formed in us as we cooperate with the Holy Spirit. God has called us to be separate from the world; to be members of a holy priesthood who offer holy praise to the Lord God, lifting up clean hands in adoration. We have been chosen out of the world to be holy to the Lord. *“Holiness to the Lord.”* What does it mean to be a witness of Christ? It means to think, speak, and act as Jesus Christ is thinking, speaking, and acting, at all times, every moment of day. It means to reveal by our behavior, will, ways, eternal purpose of God in Christ.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is Perfectly Holy. He dwells continually in the center of the Fire that is the God of Israel. We have to follow His example for Perfecting Holiness. We are to think, speak, and act under the approval of the Lord Jesus. We are to look to God with faith. The Spirit of Christ is peaceful and compassionate. God will bring truth to light if we pray. The Spirit of Christ is humble. Jesus has all knowledge and wisdom but does not take pride. The Spirit of Christ is content and does not seek to be exalted. Jesus obeys His Father and expects us to obey all authority that is placed over us. Jesus does not behave so as to attract attention to him-self. Jesus is not bound by a desire to live in pleasure, He finds joy in God and always pleasing to God. Jesus steadily and faithfully serves the Father. Jesus is quick to forgive those who confess their sins and sin against Him. Jesus is exceedingly enduring, patient. Jesus is doing only what He hears from the Father. Jesus is gentle with us. Jesus never claims that which belongs to others. Jesus is forthright in all His dealings. Jesus demonstrated how we are to live in complete trust in God for all our physical, spiritual needs. Jesus understands that with God all things are possible. Jesus is always considered, and sees what the Father is doing. Jesus would have us speak only the truth. Jesus is meek and always honest and true. Jesus teaches us to be generous. Jesus is always kind and merciful. Jesus does not interfere in areas where He has not been sent. Vengeance belongs to God alone. We are to rejoice in the Lord always! We are to exalt the Lord and glory only in the cross. Trust in God for all things rather than to depend on our own resources. We cannot serve God and mammon(money). We are to worship/serve God alone keeping our eyes on Lord Jesus. *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*(2Ti.1:7) *But we have the mind of Christ.*

Unclean Spirits: Demons are evil or unclean spirits and are fallen angels, servants of Satan (Mat.12:26-27;25:41) There is only one devil, but hosts of demons who serve the devil and make his power universal. Demons can disrupt mind and body and cause them sickness and harm. They have exposed role in the kingdom of the Satanic world system, in promoting cultism and false doctrine, and in opposing God’s program and God’s people. An unclean spirit or demon is “unclean” in that it is wicked and they delight in wickedness and promote wickedness in humans. They are spiritually polluted and impure, and they seek to contaminate all of God’s creation with their filth. When a person is defiled by an unclean spirit, he takes pleasure in corrupt thoughts and actions. And all demons are definitely unclean, unholy, impure, evil spirits doomed to an eternity in hell fire.(Matthew 25:41)

The unclean spirits are of spiritual darkness include all forms of lying, deceitful-manipulation, self-love, moral filth and passions, romanticizing the past, murderous rages, seeking to be famous, pride, hatred, envy, betrayal, impurity, fear, confusion, impatience, lack of self-control, unclean speech, gossip-slander, religious-denomination, laziness, hypocrisy, disputing, changeable, showing off, boasting, greed, lust for the things of the world. These compulsions, attitudes are sin and the lake that burns with fire and sulfur has authority over them. Impure attitudes and behaviors are the seed of Satan. God did not create man with these destructive impulses. They have originated in Satan as he chose to follow his own will rather than the will of God. Such unclean bondages came down to us from the wicked angels in heavens. They bring misery and corruption into our life resulting unrighteous, sinful behavior. Others proceed from our Adamic nature also be removed from us if we are to be in the image of Christ to be formed in us.

All of the above attitudes and behaviors originated in Satan. They have proceeded from his personal ambition and discontent with his allotted position as a guardian cherub. Satan wants to be equal to or superior to God the Father. We must always guard ourselves in prayer against discontent and inordinate ambition. Fasting and Prayer is the believer’s resource against Satan and demons.(Eph.6:10-20) Through the authority of the blood of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit we can be delivered from every unclean spirit.(IJo.3:8;Mat.8:29) God has given us all power, authority over the enemy to cast out demons & unclean spirits.(Mar.16:17) The important work in sight of God is not only physical healing, also the casting out of unclean spirits from His people, finally from entire world. This is the work of the Kingdom of God. How does one deal with an unclean spirit? Confess uncleanness as being not of Christ. Believe in the Gospel, Cast out in the name of Lord Jesus. Denounce it as being fit only for Lake of Fire. Renounce it, declaring that this spirit is to have no more place in us. Draw near to the Lord Jesus. Resist the Devil. *But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.*(Luke 11:20)

Holiness or sanctification is first of all a gift given to us from above. Jesus makes us holy. It is from Jesus based upon his atonement. Jesus continues ministry of sanctification as a High Priest. We see several things about the holiness process in the scripture; by faith, washing of the word, filling of the Holy Spirit, led by the power of the Spirit and walk humbly with your God each day that we live. We still have responsibility on our part to apply that holiness to our lives. *But there must not be even be named among you of sexual immorality or of any kind of impurity or of greed because these are improper for God's holy people.* (Eph5:3) Holiness is evidence of fruit of Spirit in believer's life. Result of holiness is obedience to hear the Lord when He speaks and be willing to go wherever He send. *These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being firstfruits to God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.* (R.14:5)

Why must we be holy? In 1Pet.1:15-21, Peter calls the believers be holy as God is holy. *Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear.* He then gives them motivations to be holy. Be holy because of a reverent fear of God's impartial judgment. Be holy because of God's reward. Be holy because you are a sojourner and pilgrim on the earth. Be holy because you are no longer a slave of sin. Be holy because of the richness of God's love. These motivations would especially be important in the context of suffering for the faith. Sometimes persecution or hardship can make people throw away their morals; they can often go into survival mode and they have a tendency to not care about holiness. We are called to be a "chosen Vessel" for God. (Acts 9:15) *Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.* (2Ti.2:21) If we are to be a vessel unto honor then we must be sanctified and consecrated to the Lord. God requires of those who desire to be a chosen vessel for His glory and to show the love of God. The people who are consecrated lives to Christ and separated from the love of the world are the people that God will use to be chosen vessels, sanctified and fit for the Master's use.

God has set His King upon His holy hill of Zion, and that the redeemed of the Lord will return there. *"Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to an idol, And has not sworn deceitfully.* (Psa. 24:3-4) That "Holy Hill" and "Holy Land" both lay before us, but it is up to us to enter that land and to stand upon those promises In order to be a true and faithful witness of God we must grow in holiness each day. A holy person is one pleases the Lord and chooses to embrace the good and reject the evil. The closer we draw to the Lord the more that holiness of thought, word, and deed. In Romans 12:1 we read that our lives are really to be a holy sacrifice offered to God daily that we may prove God's will. Keep oneself pure, undefiled, unspotted and unstained from the world. Let us proceed towards attaining perfection (Spiritual maturity) the stature of the fullness of Christ. As we concentrate on living an obedient, holy life, we will certainly experience the joy of victory over sin. *"May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones"* (1Thess.3:13) The following statements reflect Paul's struggles in preaching gospel of Christ and his victory over those struggles. *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"* (2Ti.4:7) This is analogous to a runner in a race. Run in such a way as to get the prize. Our motivation in serving the Lord is for our glorious eternal welcome into heaven, being transformed into the same image from glory to glory and for the eternal prize the crown of righteousness. To God be the praise for His work in sanctifying us in Spirit and in truth.

Jesus lived a sinless life, and He was resurrected from the dead as Firstfruits. The Firstborn from among the dead. (COL1:18) Christ was the first One raised from the dead, becoming the firstfruits of resurrection. "Firstborn" refers to the high, privileged position. Christ as the Cornerstone of Zion. (1Peter 2:6) The firstfruits found in Rev14:1 will be raptured before the tribulation begins. They are 144,000 saints in Christ—called, chosen, faithful. *The LORD will write in the register of the peoples: "This one was born in Zion."* (Psalm 87:6) They are the Firstfruits unto the Lord. (Lev.23:17) Zion refers to God's spiritual kingdom. *We have come "to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem" to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven.* (Heb.12:22) We hope that one day we will follow Christ into rapture, the first resurrection of overcomers will be caught-up to the throne of God as the church of the firstborn, will reign with him heirs of all things in Zion.

At the time the kingdom is established, "a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness" (Isa.35:8). The highway of holiness is that God will remove all obstacles and smooth the way for His people, enabling them to access the blessings of the kingdom. It will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. Many will not be able to enter the Holy city. (Rev.22:15) It is reserved for those who are righteous in God's sight. Christ alone provides the way of holiness, having exchanged His perfect righteousness to His people. *"They will be called the Holy People, the Redeemed of the LORD"* (Isa.62:12) It is the Way of Christ the way of sovereign grace that redeemed of the Lord will walk there in peace and safety. The highway of holiness will be a place of joy: *"They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away"* (Isa.51:10) There will be gladness and shouts of joy when the Zion will see God's glory, experience His presence, and be guided and protected by Him. *But on Mount Zion will be deliverance; it will be holy"* (Obad.1:17) Shouting, Grace, grace to it! They go from strength to strength; till each one appears before God in Zion, God's "holy mountain". (PSA45:7,13-15:48)