

God's Holiness

God's Holiness
Sermon Notes:

God's Holiness

Devotional - Day 1

Day 1 - God's Holiness

Silence and Stillness before God (2 minutes) – prepare your heart and mind to hear from God

Scripture: Exodus 15:11

Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You glorious in holiness...?

Devotional:

Holiness can mean purity, set apart or unreachable; but even those words don't describe it well enough. We might say God is morally excellent, but that isn't adequate either. As humanity trying to describe God as Holy, we will never get the "right" word. Mostly because our definitions will compare His holiness to something else...when nothing else is Holy as He is Holy. Tozer says that we mean rectitude; we mean honor; we mean truth and righteousness; we mean all of these --- uncreated and eternal. (*Attributes of God Vol 1* p 159) I think that is why the praise choruses can only state Who God is and praise Him for that. Remember the tune to "Holy, You are Holy; King of kings, Lord of lords, You are Holy...I worship You" found in the song "Worthy, You are Worthy" by Jon Meon? Hum or sing that now and let God overwhelm you with His holiness.

Unchangeable as He is, God is "the All-Holy, the Holy One; He is holiness itself, beyond the power of thought to grasp or of word to express, beyond the power of all praise." (p 160) Who is like our God? Yet He loves us and inhabits our praises. Dwell on that for a while and you too will be silenced into awe.

Question to Consider

Why is it hard for us to understand holiness?

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Prayer

O Lord God, we know nothing like your divine holiness. You stand apart and incomprehensible and we cannot even imagine You in Your holiness. Yet you grant us the Spirit of the Holy One. Your Spirit flows through truth and illuminates our heart. Thank you for Your Spirit of Truth. Thank You for Your Holiness. Thank You for leading our hearts to You. Amen.

Conclude with Silence (2 minutes)

Afternoon/Evening Question to Consider

Which people or circumstances in your life have led you to see God as Holy?

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Devotional - Day 2

Day 2 - God's Holiness

Silence and Stillness before God (2 minutes) – prepare your heart and mind to hear from God

Scripture: Isaiah 6:3 And one cried to another, and said, Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory.

Devotional

One word is used almost exclusively of God the Holy One in the Hebrew Bible. It is rarely used of anything or person except God the Holy One. The King James Bible refers to it in the abstract – “the holy” rather than “the Holy One.” And yet the Jewish Bible says “the knowledge of the Holy One.” Also in the Jewish it is “the All-Holy”. These translators encountered exactly the same word more than forty times and translated it “the Holy One.” So obviously this is God! And yet there is enough vagueness about it that that the King James translators felt free to make it abstract and call it “the holy”. (Attributes Vol 1 pp. 162-3)

Because we are created beings, we can't appreciate God's holiness in its full extent. It is as if our minds need His holiness to even contemplate who He is as Holy. God's word can get us close to grasping holiness through suggestion, association and cross reference of Scripture, yet it is still inadequate. But still, God wants us to know Him and in that, His Holiness. What a mighty God we serve!

Question to Consider

What does this word for “holy” that describes God mean for us in our relationship to God?

Prayer

Thank you Lord that you ARE the Holy One. Through You we gain everything! We wonder in Your world-filling Mystery and are filled with fear in Your presence. Our hearts leap with You as our Father. You are

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King of Kings and Lord of Lords! We kneel in adoration of Your place as High and Lofty One. Thank You for inhabiting eternity. Amen.

Conclude with Silence (2 minutes)

Afternoon/Evening Question to Consider

How can we appreciate God in His incomprehensible holiness and still serve Him in a fallen world?

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Devotional - Day 3

Day 3 - God's Holiness

Silence and Stillness before God (2 minutes) – prepare your heart and mind to hear from God

Scripture: Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Devotional:

God speaks of Himself often as fire. What is this devouring fire? It is not hell, but the presence of God. Do you not know that fire can dwell with fire? You can put the iron into the fire and the iron can learn to live with the fire by absorbing the fire and beginning to glow in incandescent brightness in the fire. (*Attributes of God Vol 1* p. 166) So we will dwell in the fire of God in His Holiness. God dwells there. We can shine there.

What is that fire? It is the presence of God. That is His Holiness. That is the passion in which we can know God and share God. Even a passing glimpse and feel of a fire portrays what we can absorb of His holiness. But drawing closer and closer is His desire for us. The warmth and illumination can be experienced and shared.

Question to Consider:

How does the “iron in the fire” glow illustrate the work of the Holy Spirit in a person's life?

Prayer:

Thank You Lord God that You are a consuming fire. Consume anything that is not of You in our lives. Make us walk righteously, speak uprightly, and shut our eyes from seeing evil. Your Holiness is hotter and brighter than we can ever comprehend. Your Holiness is our desire. Thank you Jesus for Your blazing Light in our lives. Thank You Holy Spirit for working in and through us this day. Amen.

Conclude with Silence (2 minutes)

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Afternoon/Evening Question to Consider:

How is the Trinity (God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit) related to the attributes of fire? Consider its use, abilities and essence.

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Devotional - Day 4

Day 4 - God's Holiness

Silence and Stillness before God (2 minutes) – prepare your heart and mind to hear from God

Scripture: Psalm 22:3 Yet You are enthroned as the Holy One; You are the One Israel praises.

Devotional:

There is another word for “holy” that is not used of God very often. It is not a “high” word; it is used often of created things. It is something that is “holy by contact or association” with something holy. We hear of holy ground or holy people or holy works. It’s not the same awe-filled word that He uses when He says “the holy” or “the Holy One”. (*Attributes of God Vol 1* pp 163)

We desire to be holy because we want to be associated with God. We like being His child when we share in His greatness. We are only holy by being and staying in contact with Him. This takes time. Time in prayer, time in the Word, time learning about Him through others who know Him.

Don't sell yourself short and settle for less. Take the time and effort necessary to be associated with the Lord. Sometimes it may hurt as we are reminded of how we haven't measured up. But not as those without hope, no - as a child knowing the true love of their Father who points out shortcomings to show us the way to wholeness. Take the time to get to know the Holy One and to seek the holiness our Creator has and to praise Him for it.

Question to Consider:

Do you think we are guilty of being too “familiar” with God? How then can we draw near to God in intimate relationship?

Prayer:

Dear Precious Jesus. You are Holy and the Holy One. We praise You for Your holiness. Thank You for allowing us created beings to be with

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You: to learn from You and to be changed by You. Associate us with your holiness and draw us closer to you in your divine whiteness. We want to be more like You and be used by You. Thank You for Your love that makes that possible. Amen.

Conclude with Silence (2 minutes)

Afternoon/Evening Question to Consider

Do you remember your conversion as a revolutionary, radical, wondrous, terrible, glorious thing? Do you forget that God is *the Holy One* of Israel?

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Devotional - Day 5

Day 5 - God's Holiness

Silence and Stillness before God (2 minutes) – prepare your heart and mind to hear from God

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:15-16 But just as He who called you is Holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: “Be holy, because I am Holy.”

Devotional:

In the New Testament, there is a Greek word about God being holy. The definition of that word is “Awful (full of awe) Thing.” Now think of that. The Awful Thing -- that’s one meaning of the word holy -- the Holy One! (*Attributes of God Vol 1* p. 163)

Think of Him who is Awe-full. Respect Him, revere Him and humble yourself before Him because He is that great! Greater than a sunrise or anything you think is amazing. He is holy!

If you can grasp that neatly and not be changed, it is a wonder if you have really seen God. We need the overwhelming and reckless encounters; the long retreats of adoration to know Him. Let God be God...GOD, THE Holy.

Listen to this song, or just read the lyrics about our God and His holiness:

Holy, Holy, Holy

by Audrey Assad

Holy, holy, holy
Lord, God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee
Holy, holy, holy
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons blessed Trinity
Holy, holy, holy
Though the darkness hide Thee

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Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee
Perfect in power, in love, and purity
Holy, holy, holy
Lord, God Almighty
All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea
Holy, holy, holy
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons blessed Trinity

Songwriters: John B. Dykes / Reginald Heber / George S. Schuler

Holy, Holy, Holy lyrics © Warner/Chappell Music, Inc, Universal Music Publishing Group

Question to Consider

How can we see God as the Holy One and still draw near? How can we see Him as He is and still desire Him?

Prayer

Holy and Awesome God, You are amazing! We bask in awe of You and Your Holiness. You are the Holy One! Thank You for Your Word. Thank You for the ability to see You as holy and to imitate You in holiness. Thank You for who You are. We bless You and praise You and Magnify Your Holy Name. Amen.

Conclude with Silence (2 minutes)

Afternoon/Evening Question to Consider

How does the holiness of God relate to our daily Christian walk? What does being holy say about our daily priorities?

*Questions came from *The Attributes of God Volume One—Study Guide*.



Week #6: God's Holiness

GOAL:

Many times in Scripture people declare that God is holy, but there are more than just these statements regarding God's holiness; there are also countless ways God reveals His holiness to us. Every revelation of God, every disclosure of God, every manifestation of God is a revelation of His moral perfection. When you study any of God's revelations of Himself, you will see His moral perfection. There is no human standard by which we are able to measure God's divine holiness. God's absolute holiness is not humanly comprehensible.

God is without sin. There is no evil in God's motives, thoughts, or actions. Because of God's character, He is against all sin. God truly loves the sinner, but He despises sin. Only faith in Jesus Christ can bridge the gap between Holy God and sinful man. Jesus Christ, having lived a perfect life, died to pay our sin debt in full and has provided a way for each of us to have a relationship with the righteous Holy God. The heavenly Father accepted Jesus' payment for sin and invites all people to become His children.

If we understand God is holy, our worship will no longer be halfhearted. We will no longer just go through the motions. Our praises will be meaningful. We will no longer complain about the tempo of our worship or the song selection. We will be in awe of God and bring sincere honor and glory to Him.

If we understand God is holy, our prayers of repentance will be more frequent. We will be mindful of our sins and not treat them as a casual acceptance of moral and ethical failure. We must no longer dismiss our sins without repentance. We must guard our Christian witness. We must confess our sins, feel brokenness over sin, and ask for repentance from sin. If we understand God is holy, we will be more passionate in our obedience. We will no longer be resistant to serving. We will guard our

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hearts from bitterness. We will serve joyfully and passionately for the things of God.

How often do we reflect on the holiness of God? Even as Holy God, His desire is to have a relationship with us in spite of our unworthiness. How cool is that?

LOVING GOD:

- * Memory Verse: **2 Corinthians 5:21** “For He has made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”
- * 2 minutes of silence
- * Devotional: choose one of the 5 devotionals for this week on the Holiness of God to read aloud to the group.
- * Question to Consider: this will come from the devotional as well
- * 2 minutes of silence

BUILDING COMMUNITY:

- * Growing Connected Questions
 - What words or images come to mind when you think of God's holiness?
 - What stood out to you from this past week's message?

MAKING DISCIPLES:

- * Bible Study Scriptures:
Read the following Scriptures out loud in the group: **Isaiah 6:1-5; I Samuel 2:2; Psalm 96:7-9; I Peter 1:13-23**
- * Questions:
 - Read **Isaiah 6:1-5**. How is the Lord described in these verses? How does Isaiah describe himself? What brings him to this conclusion about himself?
 - Read **I Samuel 2:2** and **Psalm 96:7-9**. What should be our response to God's holiness?
 - Read **I Peter 1:13-23**. In verse 16, Peter quotes something God repeatedly says in Leviticus (see Leviticus 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7), “Be holy, because I am holy.” What is God calling us to? How can we live holy lives in a sinful world? What things, activities, or

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relationships in your life are hindering you from reflecting God's holiness?

- In **I Peter 1:22**, Peter states that our souls are purified by obedience to the truth. What are the things he lists that we are to be obeying and living out in holiness?

* Application questions:

- How does my understanding of God being holy affect my relationship with Him?
- If I truly understand and believe this about God, how will it affect the way I live?
- What is God saying to me? What am I going to do about it?

* Daily Devotionals:

- Read the daily devotions for Week #6 "The Holiness of God."

*Going Deeper (The following are added optional resources for you to help you grow in your understanding of this week's attribute(s) of God):

- 1 - If you want to take the challenge, get a copy of A. W. Tozer's *The Knowledge of the Holy*, and read chapter 21.
- 2 - Read **Isaiah 6** to see God's leading in Isaiah's life. Isaiah was a righteous man. Isaiah saw the Holiness of God, which led Isaiah to understand his own sinfulness. This led Isaiah to then understand the sinfulness of his people. This also led him to understand that he was unworthy to stand in the presence of God. Once Isaiah understood these things, God removed Isaiah's guilt, which led to His atoning for Isaiah's sin.
- 3 – Video from Bible Project <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9vn5UvsHvM>
- 4 – Book – The Holiness of God by R. C. Sproul
- 5 – Book – The Pursuit of Holiness by Jerry Bridges

Prayer Requests