

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Over the past 45 years I've met many people who pray to be "filled with the Holy Spirit." (Not many Baptists!) People want the wisdom, the power, the joy, the peace – the "stuff" that supposedly comes with the filling. Why, then, do we seem to experience so little of all this? I'm not so sure we want Him as "Holy" Spirit. Perhaps we want Him as "Happy" Spirit! We say we want the "fruit of the Spirit". Why, then, is that in such short supply? Could it be we want it in order to be "successful" but not "sacrificial"? We ask the Holy Spirit to help us, but what if the way of the Spirit is to help Himself to us... for HIS HOLY PURPOSES!

Holiness is a big deal in the Bible (in both the Old and New Testaments). The very call of God to man is a holy invitation to partake of His holy nature. To radiate His holy character for His holy purposes. God's holiness is the totality of His attributes, the fullness of His perfections by which He exists above and beyond all else. (Is 40:25; 43:10-13; 46:5; 57:15) As Holy, Holy, Holy God, there is no other like Him. He is in a category unto Himself (Ex 15:11), yet He invites us into that category (Ex 15:13). "Holy" may be the most Divine descriptor of God in the Old Testament. In the New Testament, nothing about God changed... except His dwelling place on earth. Therein, the locus of God and His holiness on earth is a Person, a human person... Jesus Christ.

When we trust in Jesus Christ as Savior, His Holy Spirit takes up residence in our human spirits (Acts 2; Ga 3:2; Eph 1:13-14; 2:18; 5:18), recreating us as "saints", "holy ones" (I Pet 1:15,15; 2:9). We become "sanctified", "holified" (Heb 10:10). This is an accomplished reality for everyone born from above. This is the new creation condition of everyone who receives the Holy Spirit (I Cor 1:2). Holiness is now a livable condition for every son and daughter of God because of Who lives in us. Holiness, for all of its heavenly otherness, is very "earthy". For all of its eternity, it is very daily. For all of its uncommonness, it is for the common lives in which we live.

Holiness stands at the very beginning of the Christian life (I Cor 1:30-31). "By His doing..." – only God can "holify" a thing! "In Christ Jesus..." – the crucified, living Christ is our sanctification! Out of Him alone we initially receive and continually derive all we need to function as His holy ones. "So that..." – so that, if you are boasting of any self-acquired, self-generated, self-attained holiness – STOP IT! You may boast, but only of the Doer, the Sanctifier, the Source of all holiness. There are no self-exalting saints. We may boast, but only of our holy, holy, holy God!



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Greetings

After 37 years, this will be our last "hard copy" mailing of our monthly newsletter. Without rehashing all the reasons, let's just say "it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us" to transition fully to an online, digital format. This will be nothing new for many of you, a slight change for some, but a major shift for others. Send us your email address or go to our message site- www.stevepettitmessages.com - and you will continue receiving it monthly as usual. If you do not have those options, let us know, include your regular mailing address, and we will mail you a first class, paper copy each month.

We want to thank all of you for your faithful support and consistent encouragement for our newsletters these many years. They've been an essential part of our ministry as a number of you use them for small group studies, Sunday School classes, and edifying "pass alongs" to your friends and family. They will still be available for the same purposes, just in a slightly different composition.

2026 looks to be another interesting year for OIC in terms of meetings, conferences, retreats, counseling with pastors and the like. We value your participation with us in every facet of our ministry in ways that our words cannot fully express. May every day in the coming season find you full of the joyful hope that comes to every child of God who dares to believe Who is always with us... no matter what we are in!

Calendar

DECEMBER

2	Ocala Study
9	Alachua Study
21	First Baptist Alachua

JANUARY

30-31	Tyler, TX (903-530-8335)
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Praise & Prayer

 To and for a Holy, Holy, Holy God

 For His gracious invitation to share in His holiness

✝ For the Holy Spirit to fill us full of His Holy Self

✝ For upcoming opportunities in the coming calendar year