

“Holy, Holy, Holy”
(I Peter 1:1-16)

A cheap view of the holiness of God will cheapen everything we call godliness. In the Old Testament, Israel’s vitality, fertility, and identity – its prosperity and very existence depended upon its attitude and posture to the holiness of Yahweh. In the New Testament, the church’s vitality, fertility, and identity – its prosperity and very existence also depends upon its abiding in and abandoning to the Holy One within.

The holiness of God, without question, is meant to be embodied. God’s people are to be full and forever participants in expressing His holy character. Although our Holy God is in a category unto Himself (Ex 15:11), we are being graciously invited and led into that category (Ex 15:13,17; I Pet 1:16). To be holy is to be “set apart” for the uncommon purposes and pleasure of God. The power of His holiness is a force for separation, for distinction. The Holy One turns us away from evil, from the unholy... for righteousness, for the holy character of God.

Perhaps the two most powerful words in this holy transformation of God’s children are “Mine” and “humility.” At some point, it is imperative that we hear God claim us as His own, as His holy “property”. We must not forget, even for an instant, “Whose” we are! As His born again ones, we are sanctified, set apart unto Himself (Lev 20:26; Is 43:1; I Cor 6:19-20). This is what distinguishes us. As a “temple” of His Holy Spirit Who is in us, our bodies are temporary, but holy, “mobile homes”, fully capable of glorifying God in our body in any circumstance.

The only response necessary to the release of His holy character, the only “route” to “being holy as He is Holy”, is humility. Holiness will abide – be at home – in two places: 1) In the High and Lofty One Himself, and, 2) in the humble and lowly (Is 57:15). The heart that will go low in humility is the heart that God will go lowly to meet in order to share His Holiness with! Where God sees humility His Holiness rushes to... “heal... lead... restore... comfort... bring peace.” (Is 57:18-19) When we are ready to “pour contempt upon all our pride” (particularly spiritual pride, the most heinous of all pride!), His Holiness “revives the spirit of the lowly” (Is 57:15). When, in humility, we bow the whole person before the objective reality of our Holy, Holy, Holy God, His Holiness does the work only He is capable of doing. Humility is ever ready to take the posture of undeserved favor – “not I” – and that of absolute need – “but Christ”.

Now we are ready to pray the prayer of union with our Holy, Holy, Holy God... “not my will, but Yours be done!”



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A prayer for our times:

"Father, we know all too well if we lose sight of You and what You are capable of (even for a few moments), how easy it is to lose heart in this world. For this reason, we bow the knees of our hearts before You. You - our Forever Father - the Alpha and Omega from whom all families and all fathers are derived.

We pray You would grace to us, all Your saints, Your glorious and inner strength that enables us to know by experience the power of Your Spirit at work in and through our daily loves. We want to be deeply rooted and firmly grounded in your fearless and deathless Love, able to grasp the staggering reality of the constancy of Your love in and for and through us. We want to know personally its limitless breadth, to celebrate its forever length, to plumb its unfathomable depths, to rise to its immeasurable heights. Our desire is to be so alive and so at home in Your non-dimensional love that we come to be fully flooded by the Fullness of Your Life. Teach us what is unteachable unless you are the Teacher. Express through us what is inexpressible unless You express it.

We believe You are capable of such things. So by the ableness of which You alone are able, grace to us things we do not yet know how to ask from You. Only by Your power can such things be. So may it be so in us according to your Word and Your work. And above all, may it be done so for Your glory in Your Church through Your Son Jesus Christ the Lord." (See Ephesians 3:14-21)

Calendar

APRIL

10-12 Binghamton, NY (607-341-6062)

14 Alachua Study

28 Ocala Study


MAY


17-20 Anderson, SC (864-226-1789)

Praise & Prayer

 That we are "His"

 Salvation that invites us into the Holiness of our Father

 To bow the knee of our hearts in humility before our Holy, Holy, Holy God

 To live in the prayer of union, "not my will, but Yours be done"