

**FOUNDATION OF FAITH!**  
**GOD THE FATHER**  
**PART 3**

We are currently in a series I call Foundation of Faith and this morning we are in part 3 of our study on God the Father. In our previous studies we have looked at the Existence of God the Father and the Attributes of God, specifically we focused on His natural attributes. We covered the fact that God is omniscient or He is all-knowing, He is omnipresent or He is present everywhere, He is omnipotent or He is all powerful, He is eternal or He has no beginning and no end, and He is immutable or He is unchanging.

Again, I believe this is an important subject because if you have the wrong information about God, who He is, then it will affect the way you live out your Christian faith. You see, error has consequences. Norman Geisler had this to say regarding the consequences of error. He wrote,

A brief look at history tells the often-tragic tale of the results of beliefs. Hitler's fascist ideas cost more than twelve million lives during the holocaust. Stalin's Marxist ideas eventually liquidated at least eighteen million. Chairman Mao's Communist ideas eliminated some thirty million. And when one's beliefs involve God, an even more important consequence lies in the balance – the timeless souls of billions. Theological ideas have longer-lasting consequences than mere political ideas – eternal consequences (Mark 8:36).

- Dr. Norman Geisler, Systematic Theology,  
Volume Two, God, Creation, p. 18

I realize that this may not be the popular thing to do, the study of God the Father, but it truly is what is needed. You see, you will become like what or whom you admire the most. Look at people today who try to be like their favorite movie star, or sports star, or television star, or music star, or whatever. You will become like the gods you worship, that is the bottom line. And if we want to be like the true and living God, if we want to have His life manifested through us, then we need to understand who He is. There is nothing else that will bring true satisfaction and for that matter, complete godliness in our lives, then understanding and applying these truths to our lives. The study of God and His attributes are one of the most important things we can do and thus, that is why we are traveling down this road, it is that important!

And so this morning we will be looking at the moral attributes of God and before we look at them, listen to these words from A. W. Tozer. He wrote,

The divine attributes are what we know to be true of God. He does not possess them as qualities; they are how God is as He reveals Himself to His creatures. Love, for instance, is not something God has and which may grow or diminish or cease to be. His love is the way God is, and when He loves He is simply being Himself. And so with the other attributes.

- A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, p. 16

Now keep in mind that the Natural Attributes of God we cannot possess, but we can possess His Moral Attributes. In fact, we are called to manifest these attributes in our lives, they are the fruit of the Spirit, it is the way we are to live out our Christian faith and thus, as we understand who God the Father is, what is His nature, we will see what He desires of us. So let's begin looking at these Moral Attributes of God this morning.

## **2. MORAL ATTRIBUTES OF GOD**

### **A. HOLINESS**

I think we have lost this concept of God today, His holiness. What does "holiness" even mean? It speaks of wholeness, perfection, a freedom from moral evil. Again, listen to what A. W. Tozer wrote regarding holiness,

Until we have seen ourselves as God sees us, we are not likely to be much disturbed over conditions around us as long as they do not get so far out of hand as to threaten our comfortable way of life. We have learned to live with unholiness and have come to look upon it as the natural and expected thing. We are not disappointed that we do not find all truth in our teachers or faithfulness in our politicians or complete honesty in our merchants or full trustworthiness in our friends. That we may continue to exist we make such laws as are necessary to protect us from our fellowmen and let it go at that.

Neither the writer nor the reader of these words is qualified to appreciate the holiness of God. Quite literally a new channel must be cut through the desert of our minds to allow the sweet waters of truth that will heal our great sickness to flow in. We cannot grasp the true meaning of the divine holiness by thinking of someone or something very pure and then raising the concept to the highest degree we are capable of. God's holiness is not simply the best we know infinitely bettered. We know nothing like the divine holiness. It stands apart, unique, unapproachable, incomprehensible and unattainable. The natural man is blind to it. He may fear God's power and admire His wisdom, but His holiness he cannot even imagine.

- A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, pp. 103-104

Tozer nails that one! You see, we truly don't have a concept of our God being holy for if we did, we would not treat Him like we do, we would honor Him as is due his nature. We have this idea that God is our good buddy that we bum around with. Or, as we saw last week, He is wearing sunglasses with a walking cane and He is hip! We make God like us, why? Because then when we are living against His desire for us, we don't feel bad. We have lowered the standards of holiness and our lives reflect that!

When we have a true concept of God's holiness, that He is perfect, there is no darkness in Him at all, then when we do sin we should be convicted in our hearts and repent. We should not be comfortable living in sin! In fact, the word "holy" denotes that which is "sanctified" or "set part" for God!

Think about it like this. If your parents were drinkers, they lied, they stole, they lived a life of debauchery or wickedness, then your standard for good would be slightly better than their behavior and thus, if you lived a little better than they lived, you would see yourself as holy, in a sense.

That is what many have done today by lowering the standards of God's holiness. Again we see A. W. Tozer nail this as he wrote, "Perverted notions about God soon rot the religion in which they appear. The long career of Israel demonstrates this clearly enough, and the history of the Church confirms it. So necessary to the Church is a lofty concept of God that when that concept in any measure declines, the Church with her worship and her moral standards declines along with it. The first step down for any church is taken when it surrenders its high opinion of God."

What is your concept of the holiness of God? We tend to develop a standard of holiness and we then live up to that standard. Let me say this, and please do not forget this. ***GOD IS THE STANDARD!*** Yes, that is very simple but it is true and if we understand that and see His holiness as above anything we can imagine, we will recognize how far short we fall from reaching that standard. Now, in saying that, and we will get into this more in a minute, it doesn't negate the fact that God wants us to be holy as He is holy. He wants us to be holy and He has given us the power to do that by His Spirit if we are willing to surrender to Him! Now before we deal with our holiness or what God desires of us, let's look at His holiness, what the Scriptures tell us about God because this attribute of God overshadows every other attribute of God, for without God being holy, every other attribute is meaningless.

We are told in Exodus 3:5, as God appears before Moses, **“Then He said, ‘Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.’”** This is the first time the word “holy” is used in the Bible and it is speaking of this area being holy, not that it was such a special area, but this is where God was and because of His presence being there, it was holy. And what I want you to notice is the reverence, the worship that is due our Lord, as Moses is told to take his shoes off to show that God is to be honored for He is holy!

In Exodus 15:11 we are told, **“Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?”** There is no one or nothing that is like our God, we need to understand that, have that perspective. He alone is holy, He alone is the standard and no one compares to Him, no one or nothing!

And the Old Testament is filled with Scriptures related to the holiness of God, like Psalm 22:3, 30:4, 99:9, Isaiah 43:15, 55:5-9, 57:15 and many more. Thus, the main idea behind the holiness of God is separation. That God is separate from sin. God is perfect in nature. And thus, because God is holy, because He is separate from sin, His perfection demands justice for sin. That is why Jesus died on the cross of Calvary for us, to satisfy the holy demands of God. And thus, since we are a new creation in Christ we are called to live holy lives!

Now before I share some Scriptures dealing with what God desires us to be like, let me give you Webster's 1928 Dictionary Definition for the word "holiness." It goes like this,

HOLINESS, n. [from holy.] The state of being holy; purity or integrity of moral character; freedom from sin; sanctity. Applied to the Supreme Being, holiness denotes perfect purity or integrity of moral character, one of his essential attributes.

Who is like thee, glorious in holiness? Exo 15.

1. Applied to human beings, holiness is purity of heart or dispositions; sanctified affections; piety; moral goodness, but not perfect.

We see piety and holiness ridiculed as morose singularities.

2. Sacredness; the state of any thing hallowed, or consecrated to God or to his worship; applied to churches or temples.

3. That which is separated to the service of God.

Israel was holiness unto the Lord. Jer 2.

Now listen to how the Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language defines this word, "holiness" and this is from 1962. It puts this word like this,

1. The quality or state of being holy.

You may be wondering what the big deal is, but did you notice what is missing here? All that is said is that this is a state of being holy, but whose holiness, whose standards. What the 1928 Webster's Dictionary wrote was perfect, that God is holy, that God is perfect and man is not because of sin. Now we have taken God out of the picture and thus, the standard for holiness is man's standards, which again falls far short of what God's standard is, perfection! Thus, man tends to live out his life doing what he wants and because he has lost the concept of what true holiness is all about, because he has lost his concept of what God is about, he lives out his life thinking he is doing fine and he is not! I want you to notice, as we go through these Scriptures, what God desires of us.

But first, let me give you one example of someone who has the wrong concept of God and His holiness and what it lead her to write. Helen Schucman, who is the author of "A Course in Miracles", wrote this in regards to our holiness,

"The Atonement does not MAKE holy. You were CREATED holy. It merely brings UNholiness TO holiness, or what you MADE, to what you ARE. The bringing together of truth and illusion, OF THE EGO AND GOD, is the Holy Spirit's only function. Keep not your making from your Father, for hiding it has cost you knowledge of Him, and of yourselves. The knowledge is safe, but wherein is YOUR safety, APART from it? The making of time, to TAKE THE PLACE of timelessness, lay in the decision to BE NOT as you WERE. Thus, truth was made past, and the present was dedicated to illusion. And the past, too, was changed, and INTERPOSED between what ALWAYS was, and NOW. The past that YOU remember NEVER was, and represents only the denial of what ALWAYS was."



Now have we forgotten that we were created holy? Absolutely not, you see, ever since Adam sinned, man was born in sin, he was born with a sin nature and thus, he is not holy. Let me share with you what it is like when a person encounters the living God. In Isaiah 6:1-7, **“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!’ And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: ‘Woe is me, for I am undone! Because 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.’ Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: ‘Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged.’”**

Just a little background to help set the stage for what had taken place here in Isaiah chapter 6. First of all King Uzziah died in 740 BC, the same year that Isaiah received his commission by God. And king Uzziah was a powerful, well-liked king in the Southern Kingdom of Judah. During his reign of 52 years he brought the nation to the point of military might, economic security, and they had abundant, fertile land. He invented military weapons, had strong military leaders, took much territory from their enemies, even having them pay a tribute tax to Judah. Things were going very well, and that may have been the problem for Isaiah and the rest of the nation.

Isaiah grew up under the leadership of this great man, and he, like the nation, may have looked to this man, instead of the Lord for security. Thus, when Uzziah died, the throne was empty. What would they do? In this seemingly hopeless situation, Isaiah was able to see the Lord, that He was still on the throne, exalted, in majesty and in control. What or who are we looking to for security that is blocking our view of seeing God? It is not till those things are removed that we can see God in a proper perspective - sitting on His throne!

We then see these Seraphim, one of God's created angelic beings, not the same as Cherubim. The Cherubim are around the throne of God, while the Seraphim are above the throne of God. Their name, Seraphim means, "the burning ones".

And notice what they are crying out, not, "Love, love, love" but "**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts.**" Many today want to focus on God's love, which is rich and deep but they place God's love above all His other attributes or they just focus on God's love and ignore everything else. The problem is you can't pick and choose what you like and what you dislike. Yes God's love is rich and deep. His grace is abounding. He is rich in mercy. And you can go on-and-on, speaking of God's multifaceted attributes. But if you could just pick one, out of all the others, His holiness would have to stand out.

“**Holy**” in the Greek is HAGIOS, which speaks of being set apart. We, as Christians, are to be set apart for God. But in respect to God, it speaks of his perfection, that there is no darkness, no sin in Him at all. In I John 1:5 we see John sum this up for us when he says, “**This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.**” Thus, because God is holy and can’t look upon sin, we see His love for us, “**For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**” John 3:16.

Now as we see this scene in heaven, the throne in heaven was filled with smoke, representing the presence of God, the *SHEKINAH* glory. And as these Seraphim shouted out the holiness of God, the whole place shook and vibrated. This was not just an unemotional, monotone proclamation, they sung out what they saw, the holiness of God with passion in their voices!

Now here’s where I want to focus on. As Isaiah gets a vision of God, he sees himself as destroyed, cut off, doomed to die! Why? Because any time sinful man has an encounter with a holy God, there is only despair. You can never be good enough, do enough good works to make yourself pure before God. And maybe that was Isaiah’s problem. In chapters 1 through 5 of Isaiah he is speaking of the sins of the people, how they have fallen away from God. And as Isaiah placed his spiritual condition next to the people of Judah, he felt pretty good about himself. He was clean in his own eyes until he came before a holy God, and then he saw himself just as he needed to see himself -

**UNCLEAN!** Not only is the nation in this condition, but so too is Isaiah.

Now just recognizing this condition would be depressing. But God does not leave us there. The problem is many refuse to recognize their condition, and if you do, there will be no healing for you. Jesus said in Matthew 5:3-5, “**Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.**” You must see the reality of sin in your life, that you are poor in spirit. You must mourn and repent over your sin, you must turn to God. And as you do God will transform you into a new creation in Christ. The joy is not found in the sin, but in our Savior!

You see, with our recognition of sin, God brings to us the cleansing. Here, the Seraphim take a “**live coal**” from the brazen altar or the altar of sacrifice, and touches Isaiah’s lips, cleansing him. The sacrifice of Christ on the cross of Calvary, when applied to our life, cleanses us. But do you see how Isaiah had a correct perspective of God, His holiness and that gave him a correct perspective of himself – ***UNCLEAN!***

Thus, as Christians our lives should be separated unto God. We should be different than the world, the way we live, the way we talk, the things we do and-so-on. They should reflect the nature of God, the holiness of God. Peter tells us in I Peter 1:13-16, “**Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’**”

I want to spend a few minutes looking at these verses because they are important. Let's start with that phrase, "**gird up the lions**", it is not one we use today. To put it into our vernacular we might say, "It's time to roll up your sleeves." You see, back then men wore long robes, which were fine for walking in but were a hindrance when you tried to run or do battle. It would be like wearing a long dress and trying to run a race. It would be very easy to fall, to stumble as you trip over it.

Peter's point is this. God wants us to live a life that is ready. You are not going to place yourself in a situation that will cause you to stumble, to fall. Prepare your minds so the enemy doesn't trip you up! This is a conscious act of our will to obey God, to follow His commands, to live a life that is holy, honoring Him, not because the Law makes us, but out of our deep love for Him!

Now in these verses we see five points that Peter is making:

**A. PREPARE YOUR MIND FOR ACTION:** Paul, in Romans 12:1-2 tell us, "**I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**" You see, as you let your guard down you give Satan an opportunity to trip you up! Don't let him, but allow the Word of God to transform your life – be prepared!

**B. BE SOBER OR SELF-CONTROLLED:** The idea here is not to allow the outward circumstances to control your life but to allow the Spirit of God to control you! Peter is speaking of mental and spiritual drunkenness or excess – don’t let that control your life. Paul, in Ephesians 5:15-21 tells us, **“See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.”** Thus, be continually being filled by the Spirit of God and you won’t fulfill the lusts of the flesh!

**C. SET YOUR HOPE FULLY ON THE LORD:** People place their hope in all kinds of things because without hope we lose the will to live. The only problem is, if you place your hope in something that is hopeless, like the Chicago Cubs winning the World Series, or for that matter that they win more games than they lose, you are going to be discouraged, disappointed, you will lose hope eventually. Thus, we need to place our hope in the Lord because He alone has given to us eternal life and that eternal life is only found in Him and it is a guarantee. We have a place reserved for us in heaven by God that no one can take away! And one day we will see Him face-to-face! It is as Paul said in Romans 5:5, **“Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”** Thus, holy living demands determination - set your hope fully upon Jesus!

**D. DON'T CONFORM YOURSELVES TO THE FORMER LUSTS:** Paul, in Ephesians 2:1-3 tells us, **“And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”** You see, we are a new creation in Christ and no longer are we controlled by the flesh but by the spirit. Thus, what God is doing on the inside of our lives is then manifested outwardly, how we conduct ourselves. We no longer meander through life without direction, but God is guiding us and we live accordingly.

**E. BE HOLY BECAUSE GOD IS HOLY:** The word **“holy”** speaks of being set apart, and we are to be set apart for God. Again, the idea is that we are God's children, born again by the power of God and thus, we need to live accordingly. Paul, in Ephesians 1:3-4 tells us, **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.”** You see, that is the standard that God has set and He is calling us to live that way, to be holy. “But I can't do that?” Yes, that is partially true and we will deal with that in a minute.

Before we get to that, listen to what Paul says to the Thessalonians regarding this issue of sanctification or that process that God is using to purge the garbage from our lives and to make us more like Him. We are told in I Thessalonians 4:1-12, **“Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God; for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus. For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness. Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit. But concerning brotherly love you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another; and indeed you do so toward all the brethren who are in all Macedonia. But we urge you, brethren, that you increase more and more; that you also aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you, that you may walk properly toward those who are outside, and that you may lack nothing.”** God’s will is for our sanctification, that we would be holy as He is holy. But how can we do that? Yes, the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak! Listen to what Peter tells us next because he is going to show us what we need to do to accomplish this in the next few verses.



In I Peter 1:17-19 Peter tells us, **“And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”**

Folks, we can call upon the Lord, our Father and ask Him to help us to live a life that is pleasing to Him and He will give us the power to do that. You see, He has called us to be holy and our response is that we are to walk accordingly!

Now Peter does give us a warning, he tells us that God shows no partiality towards us, He doesn't have a favorite, a “teachers' pet” you might say. He doesn't say, “I'll excuse Stevie boy because I really like him!” You see, that would be inconsistent with His character, His nature. He will chasten us because we are His children and when we go astray He loves us so much that He will do whatever it takes to bring us back. We are told in Proverbs 9:10, **“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”**

When Solomon and Peter speak of fear they are speaking of a reverential fear and if need be, a fear of knowing that our God is a consuming fire! We will all appear before the Judgment seat of Christ or the Bema Seat of Christ, not for judgment as Christians, but for rewards. Paul, in II Corinthians 5:9-10 tells us, **“Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”**

And in I Corinthians 3:11-15 we are told, **“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”**

In other words, the Bema Seat of Christ or this Judgment Seat is where rewards will be handed out for faithful service, not for salvation because Christ saves us, but we will be rewarded as we serve the King of kings and Lord of lords! Yes, in this life God is still molding and shaping us and He will chasten us when needed because He is working on us down here to fit in up there! It is as John tells us in I John 3:2, **“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”** We long for that day!

Now it all boils down to this, as Paul said in I Thessalonians 2:10-12, **“You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children, that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory.”** May we walk accordingly! You see, it cost God His Son; it cost Jesus His sacrifice so that we may be saved, redeemed from eternal separation from God. We can’t buy this, it is a gift and thus, as we receive it, may we honor the Lord by the way we live out our faith! May we be holy as He is holy!

You see, God did not call us to be mediocre; He did not call us to be average, He did not call us to be middle-of-the-road or second rate, but He has called us to be holy as He is holy. I know, I keep saying that, but it is that important. Now please understand that we will never be holy as God is holy, His holiness is perfect! I like the way that A. W. Tozer put it in regards to this issue of God’s holiness and our holiness. He wrote,

God is holy and He has made holiness the moral condition necessary to the health of His universe. Sin’s temporary presence in the world only accents this. Whatever is holy is healthy; evil is a moral sickness that must end ultimately in death. The formation of the language itself suggest this, the English word ***holy*** deriving from the Anglo-Saxon ***halig, hal***, meaning, “well, whole.”

Since God's first concern for His universe is its moral health, that is, its holiness, whatever is contrary to this is necessarily under His eternal displeasure. To preserve His creation God must destroy whatever would destroy it. When He arises to put down iniquity and save the world from irreparable moral collapse, He is said to be angry. Every wrathful judgment in the history of the world has been a holy act of preservation. The holiness of God, the wrath of God, and the health of the creation are inseparably united. God's wrath is His utter intolerance of whatever degrades and destroys. He hates iniquity as a mother hates the polio that take the life of her child.

God is holy with absolute holiness that knows no degrees, and this He cannot impart to His creatures. But there is a relative and contingent holiness which He shares with angels and seraphim in heaven and with redeemed men on earth as their preparation for heaven. This holiness God can and does impart to His children. He shares it with them by imputation and impartation, and because He has made it available to them through the blood of the Lamb, He requires it of them. To Israel first and later to His Church God spoke, saying, "Be ye holy, for I am holy." He did not say "Be ye as holy as I am holy," for that would be to demand of us absolute holiness, something that belongs to God alone. Before the uncreated fire of God's holiness angels veil their faces. Yea, the heavens are not clean, and the stars are not pure in His sight. No honest man can say "I am holy," but neither is any honest man willing to ignore the solemn words of the inspired writer, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."

Caught in this dilemma, what are we Christians to do? We must like Moses cover ourselves with faith and humility while we steal a quick look at the God whom no man can see and live. The broken and the contrite heart He will not despise. We must hide our unholiness in the wounds of Christ as Moses hid himself in the cleft of the rock while the glory of God passed by. We must take refuge from God in God. Above all we must believe that God sees us perfect in His Son while He disciplines and chastens and purges us that we may be partakers of His holiness.

By faith and obedience, by constant meditation on the holiness of God, by loving righteousness and hating iniquity, by a growing acquaintance with the Spirit of holiness, we can acclimate ourselves to the fellowship of the saints on earth and prepare ourselves for the eternal companionship of God and the saints above. Thus, as they say when humble believers meet, we will have a heaven to go to heaven in.

- A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, pp. 106-107

I think that is important for us to understand. We will never be holy as God is holy, but we are to be holy, we are not to lower the standards to make us look better. God will give us the power to live lives that are pleasing to Him. You see, our lives are to shine for Him, bring Him the glory that is due His name. It is as D. L. Moody said, "A holy life will make the deepest impression. Lighthouses blow no horns, they just shine." We don't have to toot our whistles or blow our horns to let people know we are holy or set apart for God. All we must do is live out our faith and people will see us shine just as the lighthouse shines brightly and leading boats to safety, we will lead people to Jesus, our and their safety!

I realize that we just covered one attribute of God this morning, His holiness. And in reality, we only scratched the surface. But if you get this wrong, then your concept of God is going to be wrong and the way you live out your faith will also be wrong. My prayer is that you have a better understanding of the holiness of God and that will cause you to fear Him, reverence Him as He should be!

I want to close with one more thought, it focuses on heaven and what it is like, at least partly what it is like. In Revelation 4:8-11 we are told, **“The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: ‘Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!’ Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ‘You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.’”**

Did you notice what Heaven is like? Heaven is a place of worship, the worship of the true and living God. In Psalm 29:1-2 we are told, **“Give unto the LORD, O you mighty ones, Give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”** And here in Revelation we see these angelic beings worship the Lord by saying **“Holy, holy, holy”** which speaks of the triune God. You see, these creatures are totally overwhelmed by the beauty of His holiness and their worshiping Him, their action, represents it. They not only declare the holiness of God in their worship of Him but His power.

In Jeremiah 51:15 we are told, **“He has made the earth by His power; He has established the world by His wisdom, And stretched out the heaven by His understanding.”** And they sing of His eternal existence, as Psalm 90:2 tells us, **“Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”** That is our God and He deserves our worship and thus, Heaven is filled with the worship of Him!

And I believe that the twenty-four elders with the gold crowns on their heads are a representation of the Church. In Revelation 5:9-10 we are told, **“And they sang a new song, saying: ‘You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.’”** That is the song of the redeemed that is being sung and thus, this must be the Church because angelic beings can’t be redeemed!

Also, we live in a society that is frustrated, depressed; they just can’t seem to get any *SATISFACTION* with life, but why? Before I answer that, listen to how verse 11 is translated in the King James Version, I think it is a better translation of this verse. We are told, **“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”** You see, people can’t find satisfaction in their life even though their life is filled with all kinds of things, because they are not doing what they have been created for, to bring pleasure to God!

Folks, I can't imagine not coming to worship the Lord, I would be here every night if I could, but that is not the only way we worship the Lord. We worship the Lord in all that we do! And thus, if you want true satisfaction in your life, if you want peace like a river flowing from your life, if you want true fulfillment in your life, you need to submit your life to the King of kings and Lord of lords!

What a glorious place heaven is. And don't forget that John is just giving to us a glimpse of what it is like. It is far more glorious than we could ever imagine. But don't miss out on the focus, it is the worship of God. I truly believe that the reason so many people are not satisfied is because they are not doing those things that they were created for, as I have said. Bring Him pleasure; serve Him, that is what God desires of your life. You can fight it all you want but it will be like running into a brick wall. You will have a void in your life.

God is looking for people who will worship Him in spirit and in truth! You see, you will never be satisfied until you do what you were created for – ***TO WORSHIP GOD!*** And folks, we might as well enjoy it now, for in heaven it is what flows unto Him! In I Chronicles 16:29 we are told, **“Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!”** May we be known as a people who do these things, who love to worship the Lord not only when we gather here but throughout our life, in all we do! Our God is holy, there is no darkness in Him at all and He desires us to live holy lives, which will bring honor and glory to Him! ***THE HOLINESS OF GOD!***