

Be Holy

Because I Am Holy

Understanding The Bible

What Does This Mean?

And

Is It Possible?

EDITION ONE

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## Be Holy Because I Am Holy

Just what does it mean when the Bible tells us we must be holy because God is holy! We see this in the following passages, The first two are from the old testament, and the third is from the new testament.

*Lev\_11:44 I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy. Do not make yourselves unclean by any creature that moves along the ground.*

*Lev\_11:45 I am the LORD, who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy.*

*1Pe\_1:16 for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."*

It has always been God's intention that His people should be holy. This is not a new testament idea, but it was always God's plan.

We can see from these scriptures that being holy is not just a nice thought, but it is something that our God expects from us. But you may ask, "How can we be holy?" Surely that something only God can be, isn't it?" That is a very good question and one I will try to answer in this booklet.

I think the first thing to understand, is that God will not ask us to be something that it is impossible for us to be.

*Mar\_10:27 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."*

*Luk\_18:27 Jesus replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."*

We can see from these scriptures there is nothing impossible for God to accomplish. What may seem like a "mountain too far" for us is not a problem to God. Just consider this. Since God created everything we can see. The enormity

of the universe to the microscopical things. Why would it not be possible for Him to provide a way for us to be “Holy”? Remember, this is not of our power and doing. It is all from God.

So if God expects us to be holy, then there must be a way for us to be holy.

## **Definition Of The Word Holy**

So, just what is the definition of the word holy. A Greek-American bible scholar and author named Spiros Zodhiates (March 13, 1922–October 10, 2009). His description of the Greek word hagios, and translated into English as holy is this.

Hagios = set apart ones, separated ones, sanctified ones, holy ones) is literally a holy one and properly means different, set apart, distinct, holy. It describes one who is set apart for or by God and can be brought near or into God's holy presence. "Its fundamental idea is separation, consecration, devotion to the service of Deity, sharing in God's purity and abstaining from earth's defilement."

So depending on the context, hagios, or holy, refers to whoever or whatever is set apart (sanctified) for a special purpose. To be holy is to be set aside, by God, for a special purpose. We are to be different and distinct from those who are not holy.

Therefore, we can say a true Christian has been called out, sanctified, separated and made holy for God's purpose.

I believe Christians must be seen to be living by their convictions, they must set an example to others by the way they live and interact with the world. Being holy is not all about how we dress, act or the way we speak. It is not in isolating ourselves from the rest of the world. To be holy is all about our inward nature.

We need the same nature as God. God is a God of love. He wants us to display the same attributes He has. Consider the following passages of scripture in the book of Galatians. The fruit of the Spirit is the nature of God. This is how we are to live.

*Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,*

*Gal 5:23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

*Gal 5:24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.*

*Gal 5:25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*

*Gal 5:26 Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.*

This is how those who have been sanctified should live. It is never said to be easy but this is what we must strive for. If we stumble on the way we can be certain Jesus will help us up again.

To love our fellow man regardless of his nationality, religion or colour is the greatest thing we can do. Read the following scriptures and understand the importance of love.

*Rom\_13:10 Love does no harm to a neighbour. Therefore love is the fulfilment of the law.*

*1Co\_13:4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.*

*1Jn\_3:16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.*

Jesus Christ laid down His own life for all mankind. In 1Jn 3:16 we see that we must also be prepared to do the same thing for others.

## **The Term Holy**

Being a Christian is not just believing that God exists, going to church once a week, singing a hymn or two and listening to a message from the pulpit. Christianity is far more than a system of beliefs, laws and a list of dos and do nots. Rather, it means that we need to be united with Jesus through the indwelling and guidance of the Holy Spirit. True holiness is “God living in us”.

*Gal 2:19 For I, through the law, died to the law, that I might live to God.*

*Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me. That life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me.*

He dwells in us, and we dwell in Him. Therefore, we can say that in Christ, we are already “Holy”. Set apart or dedicated to God. We belong to God.

## **Incredible Implications**

When we consider these thoughts, we can see that God wants more than just mere morality from us.

God’s call on us to be holy is a radical, all-encompassing claim on our lives, loves, loyalties and actions. Jesus Christ requires nothing less than death to our fallen, egocentric selves in order that we might live in and for him.

*Mar 8:34 He called the multitude to himself with his disciples, and said to them, "Whoever wants to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

*Mar 8:35 For whoever wants to save his life will lose it; and whoever will lose his life for my sake and the sake of the Good News will save it.*

*Mar 8:36 For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world, and forfeit his life?*

*Mar 8:37 For what will a man give in exchange for his life?*

*Mar 8:38 For whoever will be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man also will be ashamed of him, when he comes in his Father's glory, with the holy angels."*

We know that when our Lord was here the first time He lived a perfect and sinless life and this is how we should try to live, even though we realize it is impossible for us to be that pure and good.

But just how important is it for us to "be holy"? The answer is found in Hebrews 12:14.

*Heb 12:14 Follow after peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no man will see the Lord,*

I think we can see from that verse just how important it is for us to be "sanctified" or "holy". Without being sanctified, or holy, we will never see the Lord. Jesus has already provided the way for us to "be holy"

*Heb\_10:14 For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.*

And our reward is being made perfect forever and being made holy.

*Heb 2:11 For both he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified*

*are all from one, for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brothers,*

This is an amazing passage of scripture. Jesus is not ashamed to call us brothers.

That is a family I want to belong to.

## **Conclusion**

It may sound like an impossible task to be holy, but as usual our amazing God has done it for us

If we are filled with the holy Spirit, if the holy spirit dwells within us, then how can we be anything else but holy?? And we know that the Holy Spirit dwells within Christians and we can see this from the following verses,

*Rom 8:6 For the mind of the flesh is death, but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace;*

*Rom 8:7 because the mind of the flesh is hostile towards God; for it is not subject to God's law, neither indeed can it be.*

*Rom 8:8 Those who are in the flesh can't please God.*

*Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if it is so that the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if any man doesn't have the Spirit of Christ, he is not his.*

We are assured in other passages that we have the gift of the Holy Spirit and thanks to Him we can be holy. Not "holier than thou" but belonging to Jesus.

We all need to change our lives, not to earn salvation, because Jesus has already paid the full price for our salvation. Thanks to Him, we can say that we are holy if we live for Jesus and He lives in us.

It is our faith in Jesus Christ that makes us holy, and this faith is a gift from God.

SET YOURSELVES APART FOR ME. BE HOLY, BECAUSE I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD