



Sunday May 05, 2018
The Holiness of God Series
Part 5 : In The Beauty Of Holiness

Quick Review (Don't have to mention all points)

In Part-1: Holy God - we introduced the holy nature of God,
We discussed about : The Revelation Of A Holy God
We said that God wants His Nature Reproduced In Us
We defined Holiness - What it is. God's absolute purity and sinlessness.
We also mentioned that Holiness is God's Glory And Beauty
We saw briefly that God is immeasurably holy - glorious in holiness. And then in closing we discussed about The Holiness And Goodness of God.

In Part-2 : Holy, Holy, Holy

We talked about God as the The Holy One, who is Thrice Holy.
Everything about Him is holy: His name is Holy, He speaks in holiness, His angels around him are holy, holiness adorns His house.
And so God states that He Must Be Regarded As Holy. We must not dishonor or profane His name.
In closing we saw that it is the Atonement Makes Us Holy. It is the Blood of Jesus, His Righteousness given to us that gives us Access Into His Holiness.

One of our goals in this series is for us to receive a revelation of the holiness of God so that we live out of that - knowing the God we worship is a holy God.

Part-3 His Holiness In Me

We talked about "Jehovah M'Kaddesh - The Lord Your Sanctifier".
His People - Called To Holiness
Holiness is a call to become like Him and to belong completely to Him.
It is a call to share His nature and a call to belong.
We saw that God Himself has made provision for us to be holy, by breaking the power of sin and making us a new creation that is holy (sanctified).

Sanctification - The Process of Holiness

- #1) Sanctification of our mind and body
- #2) Sanctification of our desires, our affections, our passions
- #3) Sanctification of our dreams, hopes and aspirations
- #4) Sanctification of our time, talents and money
- #5) Sanctification of our family, home and possessions

The Rewards of Personal Holiness

- #1) Holiness - key to being part of Him
- #2) Holiness - key to possessing our possessions
- #3) Holiness - profitable in all things



- #4) Holiness - key to being a vessel of honor
- #5) Holiness - key to walking in spiritual authority
- #6) Holiness - key to Christlikeness

Part-4 Perfecting Holiness

We perfect holiness as we let God work in us by the power of His Spirit and His Word, and by Him bringing loving correction into our lives.

We respond by consecration - making choices that are aligned to His work in our lives.

We pursue godliness - holiness from inside out.

Guard against the destroyers of holiness: #1, Hypocrisy, #2, Worldliness, #3, Strife, #4, Giving priority to natural desires

TODAY : Part -5 In The Beauty Of Holiness

Holiness - The Beauty Of The Lord

As we had observed in chapter 1, that holiness is the glory and beauty of God. In Scripture we see several metaphors of various attributes of God in human terms: The **hand of the Lord** is a metaphor for God's omnipotence, strength and power. The **eyes of the Lord** is metaphor for God's omniscience, His all knowing. The **ear of the Lord** referring to His hearing our prayer. The **face of the Lord** referring to His presence and also to His disposition towards a certain matter. The **feet of the Lord** or His footstool is a metaphor of God's dwelling place, the place of His dominion. The **mind of the Lord** is a metaphor for God's thoughts, God's wisdom on a certain matter. Similarly, we discovered that the **beauty of the Lord** is called holiness.

Holiness is God revealing and expressing His beauty, His glory, His splendor, His grandeur, His magnificence, His perfections, His excellence.

Hence God's holiness is His beauty, His attractiveness. It is intended to draw us to Him.

Now there are several insights in Scripture that are related or associated with the beauty of holiness, which we will consider in this closing chapter.

Holiness - God's Beauty Seen Through Us

Psalm 90:16-17

16 Let Your work appear to Your servants, And Your glory (Hebrew 'hadar' = magnificence, glory, honor, splendor, excellency, ornament) **to their children.**

17 And let the beauty (Hebrew 'noam' = delight, splendor, grace, beauty, pleasantness) **of the LORD our God be upon us, And establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands.**

We find two Hebrew words used in connection with the beauty of the Lord.



The Hebrew word 'hadar' meaning magnificence, glory, honor, splendor, excellency, ornament or someone or something. The Hebrew word 'noam' referring to the delight, splendor, grace, beauty, pleasantness of someone or something. While 'hadar' emphasizes the glory possessed by someone, 'noam' emphasizes its effect on those who see that glory. The glory bringing delight and pleasantness to the beholder. Both these are used with reference to the beauty of God.

In Psalm 90:16-17 Moses is praying that God's beauty be seen upon His people.

We know holiness is God's beauty expressed.

Holiness in our lives will cause God's beauty and glory to be expressed through us.

Worship In the Beauty of Holiness

1 Chronicles 16:29

Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty (Hebrew 'hadar' = magnificence, glory, honor, splendor, excellency, ornament) **of holiness!**

Psalm 29:2 Give unto the LORD the glory due to His name; Worship the LORD in the beauty (Hebrew 'hadar' = magnificence, glory, honor, splendor, excellency, ornament) **of holiness.**

Psalm 96:9 Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty (Hebrew 'hadar' = magnificence, glory, honor, splendor, excellency, ornament) **of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth.**

True worship takes place in holiness, in the beauty of His holiness.

God is most holy. He is clothed in holiness. Everything about Him and around Him is holy. So the worship of the Most Holy One can only take place in holiness. Anything offered up to Him outside of holiness will not be acceptable to Him.

The righteousness we have and the holiness we have is what He has worked in us and bestowed upon us. We stand in this, and this alone as we offer to Him our worship.

Worship - The Adoration Of His Beauty

2 Chronicles 20:21

And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty (from 'hadar' = magnificence, glory, splendor, excellency, ornament) of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever."

Psalm 27:4



One thing I have desired of the LORD, That will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD All the days of my life, To behold the beauty (Hebrew 'noam' = delight, splendor, grace, beauty, pleasantness) of the LORD, And to inquire in His temple.

Worship is my adoration, my admiration, my being enthralled by His beauty and His beauty alone. It is the response of my heart that adores His splendor, grace, pleasantness, excellencies, honor and glory. In worship we try to express what we think and feel about God who is so full of the beauty of holiness.

Worship - Reverence or Revelry?

When we come before God, we know there is the time and place for celebration, for exuberant shouts of praise, exaltation and jubilation. Yet we must never forget that we are doing this before and unto the Most Holy God. The celebration is to be birthed out of a heart of reverence of our most holy God. The exuberant dancing and singing must not be done as a mere excitement and gratification of our own sensual need for revelry.

Humility - Key To Dwelling With The Holy

Isaiah 57:15

For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite (crushed, broken) and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

God dwells in the high and holy place - a place inaccessible and unreachable to ordinary people. And yet God Himself states that those who are of a broken and humble spirit will dwell with Him in the high and holy place.

We know from other places in Scripture that God resists the proud, but He gives more grace to the humble (James 4:6-8). And in humility and submission, if we draw near to Him, He will draw near to us. And not only that, as we humbles ourselves, submit to Him (an expression of humility), and are broken before Him, He lifts us up to dwell with Him in the high and holy place - a place of immunity and security - a place that is inaccessible and unreachable to man and the devil. To be broken is when we let what breaks His heart, break our hearts. Our hearts a soft, gentle, touched by the feelings and pain of people - as opposed to be hard, indifferent, callous, uncaring, unaffected by the pain and suffering of others.

Living in brokenness and humility is key to dwelling in the high and holy place with the High and Exalted One Himself! (Note: This means that while we know who we are in Christ and walk in full confidence and faith in the power, authority and dominion we have in Christ, we also maintain a heart of humility and brokenness before God. An interesting duo, confidence and brokenness. Authority and humility.)



Volunteers Clothed With The Beauties of Holiness

Psalm 110:1-3

1 The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

2 The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!

3 Your people shall be volunteers In the day of Your power; In the beauties (Hebrew 'hadar' = magnificence, glory, splendor, excellency, ornament) of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth.

This passage speaking about the millennial reign of the Lord Jesus is referenced in a few other places: by the Lord Jesus in Matthew 22:44, by Peter in his first sermon in Acts 2:35, by the writer of Hebrews in Hebrews 1:13. This is also alluded to in 1 Corinthians 15:24-28.

As the Lord Jesus reigns out of Zion subduing all enemies, verse 3 describes God's people. They will be "volunteers" - people who spontaneously offer themselves willingly. They will be up early with the rising sun ("from the womb of the morning"). They will be young, energetic, full of strength ("You have the dew of Your youth"). Another interesting characteristic of God's people is they will be clothed "in the beauties of holiness". Interesting, an army of volunteers, ready for action, full of strength and clothed in holiness.

The Church is Zion spiritually (Hebrews 12:22-23, 1 Peter 2:5-6) and experiences a spiritual fulfillment beforehand, of those things that will be literally fulfilled in natural Zion. The Lord reigns and extends His Kingdom on the earth today through the Church. This passage then tells us what kind of "volunteers" we His people should be as we serve together for the extension of His Kingdom here on earth. A people clothed in the beauties of holiness. An army of people who are ready, willing, up early "from the womb of the morning", offering up our strength and energy "the dew of our youth", and clothed in the magnificence, glory, excellence and beauties of His holiness given to us!

As His people, as we serve in His Kingdom, we give Him all we have, the best we have, we offer it willingly and we walk clothed in holiness!

Every One Who Has This Hope, Walks Holy

1 John 3:2-3

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.

3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

The Bible teaches us that for us who genuinely look forward to Christ's return, we who have the blessed hope and are looking forward to His glorious return, we purify ourselves and live holy even as He who called us, and whom we look to meet, is Himself holy.



Just as in the natural, if we are expecting an important visitor coming over to our home, we clean everything up, and ready ourselves in the most presentable manner, wearing and looking our best. In a similar, but far greater manner, spiritually we stay ready, clothed with holiness, waiting for His return.

Holiness then is an expression of our anticipation, expectation and genuine faith in Christ's soon return - any time, any moment, any day. Holiness is our state of readiness for His return; our readiness to meet with Him face to face.

Prayer & Ministry Time



LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Sunday May 06, 2018
The Holiness of God Series
Part 5 : In The Beauty Of Holiness

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at apcwo.org/sermons . Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture passages: *Psalm 90:16-17; 2 Chronicles 20:21; Psalm 27:4; Isaiah 57:15; 1 John 3:2-3*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Discuss these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

1, Discuss holiness as God's beauty seen through us. Discuss what effect this could have on people around us, both positive and negative?

2, Discuss worship as the adoration of His beauty. What does the heart feel? How is this expressed?

3, Discuss brokenness and humility as key traits to dwelling with God in the high and holy place.



4, *As we conclude this series on "The Holiness of God" what are some of your key learnings/insights from this series?*

Pray for each other for a greater revelation of God's holiness.

If time permits, each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, *families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, *a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*

Close by thanking God together.