



Yes, we all know that God is a “holy” God. Yet, do we really grasp and truly understand what that means? We sometimes can get so used to hearing and

saying something that we lose the true context of what we may be hearing or saying.

We need to first start off with the definition of the word “holy as it is found in the Old Testament and the New Testament. In the Old Testament it is a Hebrew word, “*kadosh*” which means to set apart as being sacred, to consecrate or dedicate; to be set apart from **everything else**. In the New Testament it is from the Greek word, “*hagios*” which means a most holy and sacred thing. As we can see, these are basically similar in the definitions.

However, we must also understand that when a word is used in succession in the Hebrew language it doesn’t just mean that it doubles or, if used three times, that it triples the value of that word or phrase. In the Hebrew context, it is literally expressing that word or phrase is being express to the “third power.” In mathematical terms it would be or look like 10^3 . What that literally means is that when we hear the heavenly hosts declare, “*Holy, holy, holy,*” it is implying that it is as if they were expressing this thought or word **1000 times**.

The phrase “*Holy, holy, holy,*” appears twice in the Bible - once in the Old Testament and once in the New Testament.

➤ In Isaiah 6:2,3 it reads, “*Above it stood the seraphim: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*”

➤ In Revelation 4:8 it reads, “*And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.*”

In both accounts we see that this phrase is spoken, or literally sung, by “heavenly creatures.” Both times, we read, that this action of worship occurs as part of a “vision,” or we can say that it was an actual spiritual experience, of a man who was “transported” literally before the throne of God. First by the prophet Isaiah and then by the Apostle John.

Could it be that they were both witnessing the continuous worship of the most high God? Could the “seraphim” and the “four beasts” be the same beings? Could it be that this shows us that there really is no “time,” as we know it, in the spirit realm? These scriptures take place at least 700 years apart from each other in our natural, physical realm. Yet, these men are seeing the same thing. Hmmm.....

The holiness of God is the most difficult of all God’s attributes to explain. We must realize that this attribute is not, in any way shared, inherently by “sinful man.” We were all created in God’s image. When we are born-again, we can share many of His attributes such as His love, mercy, faithfulness, etc. However, some of God’s attributes, such as His omnipresence (God is everywhere), His omniscience (God is all knowing), His omnipotence (God is all powerful) and His holiness, will never be shared by any of His created beings.

We only become “holy,” or have a semblance of holiness, when we enter into relationship with our God through Jesus Christ. It is an “imputed” holiness. We are only “credited” with being totally “holy” because God, the Father, now chooses to look at each of us as new creatures. This only comes through our acceptance and belief in who Jesus is and what He has done for us through the cross and His resurrection. God chooses to look at us now as being “holy” even though, in truth, we are all very far from true holiness!!!

Throughout Scripture, “holiness” is one of the defining characteristics of God. In Psalm 99:9, we are exhorted to, “*Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.*” 1Samuel 2:2, Hannah declares, “*There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.*”

The repetition of declaring that God is “Holy, Holy, Holy,” declares to such a great extent that **God is the only one who is absolutely perfect** in all that He is. Holy is who God is. It expresses His character and all that He is. As God told Moses in Exodus when He revealed Himself, He said, “I AM that I AM.” Using this name that God calls Himself, we can then say that God is the one who declares, “I AM - HOLY, HOLY, HOLY.”

We must never forget that the One who we worship is truly, Holy, Holy, Holy!!! Therefore, we must recognize where we stand concerning our own “holiness” when we approach God. We must see that when Isaiah, saw God’s holiness, he immediately fell down before His God. He recognized how far he really was from being holy before God. He declared that he was a man of “unclean lips” which meant that his heart was unclean and that He was not prepared to meet with His God.

The angel then took a coal and placed it on Isaiah’s lips which prepared Isaiah to be the prophet to the people that God had called him to be. God asked who would go forth and tell His word to the people. Isaiah immediately declared, “*Here am I, send me.*”

We see something different, however, when the Apostle John encounters the living God. In the beginning of the Revelation 4 we see that John was invited to enter into the throne room. He did not need to be afraid of being in the presence of His God. We must understand that God did not change. However, John had changed. He had a relationship with Jesus and was “born again.” He was now a “son of God.” He was able to come boldly to the throne of grace. He was able to come before His God and not be afraid.

Yes, I am sure, John was astounded at what was happening. However, through Jesus, he had a right to be where he was, in the presence of his God. It was not because of anything on his own but rather it was only because of the blood of Jesus that covered his sinful body. John now had on the “robe of righteousness.” That is the same robe that each of us who knows Jesus as their own personal Savior and Lord, is now wearing.

We must realize that there is absolutely no one else in the entire Bible that is declared to be Holy, Holy, Holy, other than our God. He is the only one who was, is and ever will be

holy within Himself. The Bible encourages all believers to “*be ye holy as He is holy.*” However, in and through our own selves we could never achieve that.

The only reason we are looked upon as being “holy” in the eyes of God is because of Jesus who has made us a totally new species of being. Only through the power of the Holy Spirit who comes and dwells within us, can we now begin our journey on that road of “holiness.”

We could never be able to achieve that goal in all of its fullness on our own. That is why, it is only through the blood of Jesus that God now chooses to no longer look at us for who we really are. Rather, He chooses to now see us clothed with the “robes of righteousness” and washed with the blood that Jesus shed on the cross. We receive everlasting salvation through His glorious resurrection unto the Father, on our behalf.

In Hebrews 12:14 it tells us, “*Without holiness no one will see the Lord.*” This means that, in our selves, we would never be able to truly know and have a true relationship with our God. It would continually be as in the Old Testament – yes, God may come “upon” people so that His work would be accomplished. However, He would never be able to come and dwell **within** the individual. That is why Jesus came and did what He did.

This is nothing new for us. However, we sometimes forget this. We tend to begin to think, and unfortunately, we are taught unknowingly by some of our leaders, that we are now in charge. We are taught that it is we who have all the power. God must now do whatever we tell Him to do.

WHAT!!! Excuse me, but God is, and always will be, the one and only true God – not you or I. Yes, God gives us His power and authority and we must always remember that. It is nothing in and of ourselves. God’s power and authority has been given to every believer. It is given so that it can be used to bring forth and establish God’s purposes, not our own agendas. This is so that more people will be able to come to know Him and accept Jesus as their personal Savior and Lord.

If we look in the New Testament, we see that there were many believers that did the wonderful works of God. However, if we really look, we see that they very rarely did anything for themselves. They did the works of the Kingdom unto others. These “works” were accomplished so that others would see and experience the love that God had for them and hopefully, turn towards and receive Jesus as their way to the Father’s heart.

Isn’t that what Jesus did? He never really did anything for Himself. It was all about others and helping others in their time of need. Why? It was so that they could see the love of the Father, as well as Jesus and the Holy Spirit, for each one of them. Hmm.....

I know this may sound a little strange but we must realize that God’s power and authority within our own life was not given to us just for ourselves. It was not given to us just so that we can be healed of everything. I know that thought may be contrary to what many of you may believe. Yes, I do believe in healing. And I do believe that God can heal us.

However, the power of God is first and foremost to be used to help and to be seen by others – namely the non-believer. It is for the purpose of God being glorified and to be looked upon as their source, not you or I. It is so that others may believe and hopefully receive Jesus as their own personal Savior and Lord.

We know that the apostle Paul was a mighty man of God and did wonderful things in bringing the Good News of Jesus to the world. Yet, he had a “thorn in the flesh.” What that “thorn” was has been discussed since the time it was first read in Paul’s letter. The fact of the matter was that Paul had something that God did not take away but instead it was used by God to remind Paul of the hurts that others had and that they needed the Good News of salvation through Jesus, first and foremost in their lives.

To be “holy” means that we are, first of all, now His child and we are set apart for His honorable use. It is all about our God, not us. However, the pursuit of holiness does not end when we come to Jesus. In fact, it just begins. There is a “positional holiness” that we inherit when we became “born again,” but then there is a “practical” holiness which we must actively pursue after we accept Jesus and until we meet Him face to face.

This is the most important lesson that we can learn as believers in Jesus. God's ultimate desire for His people is that **we are to be holy, as He is holy**. (Leviticus 11:44,45; Leviticus 19:2; 1Peter 1:15,16) This means that we must be conformed into the image of God now through Jesus. We must come to the realization that turning towards God's holiness is the will of God for our lives.

God's holiness involved giving His life, through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus, so that others may have eternal life and be able to be looked upon by Him as His children. That is the same type of holiness that we must be living in. We must desire others, first and foremost. The salvation of our neighbors, our friends, our co-workers and even strangers is our utmost calling – even before anything we may need. True spiritual success is allowing the holiness of God to be seen in and through us.

“Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.” Yes, this is so very, very true. This threefold refrain continues to invite the true worshiper to respond in humility, awe, and dedication to the God of all gods. As scripture demonstrates, encountering God's holiness changes hearts, shapes destinies, and proclaims that God is exalted above all and everything else.

This is who our God is. He calls those who believe in Him to be holy, as well. We can never be as holy as our God. Yet, He still calls us to *“be holy **AS** He is holy!!!”* Will we hear and obey? Will we honor and glorify our God? He is the one and only true and living God who was, and who is, and who always will be.

Our God is truly Holy, Holy, Holy!!!