

Hallowed Be Thy Name

LESSON 3: "HOLY ... HOLY ... HOLY"

In times of exasperation, I let slip "Oh God" or "God dang it". Immediately, I get convicted that using God's name in a slang reference is not "hallowing his name". This part of The Lord's Prayer is a request for us to hallow or to keep holy his name. It takes the form of a commitment, an attitude we are to have as we approach our Father who reigns in heaven in full sovereignty, power and glory. It is not to be taken lightly.

1. Look up the word "hallowed" or "holy" in a dictionary. What do you learn? Why is that so important to God that Jesus would make this the first part of his model prayer?

2. Hallowing the name of God is likened to surrendering to his majesty and power. Read Psalm 148. What strikes you when you read these ancient verses?

3. In the Bible the name of a person describes their character. Example: Abram became Abraham which means father of nations. Jesus renamed Simon, son of Jonah, to Peter which means rock. Each of these name changes happened after faith had marked them as belonging to God. Read 1 Peter 1:3-9, 13-16. What does this tell you about our role as "children" of God?

4. If "Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever" (J.I. Packer), how are we doing? Is our life a reflection of God's holiness? Reflect on the various aspects of your life: where you spend your treasure, what occupies most of your time, your heart attitude towards others. Is your life reflecting the "holiness" of your heavenly Father?

5. What does 2 Corinthians 3:16-18 say about our holiness? Who does the transforming?

6. The book of Psalms records what the name of the Lord meant to the ancient Hebrews. Psalm 20:7, 102:15, 105:3, 113:3, 148:13 are just a few of these. What do they say about the “name of the Lord”?

7. What does Philippians 2:5-11 say about Jesus?

APPLICATION: How have you felt the power of your heavenly Father transform you? Write out a prayer of praise to your Father and ask him to give you a glimpse of his holiness.

PRAYER: Holy Father, Abba, Daddy, at times we look at you as we would a beloved Santa Claus. Give us eyes to see your holiness, give us hearts to bow to your power and majesty knowing that you love each of us with an everlasting love that surpasses knowledge. Lead us by the hand to be transformed to your image in ever increasing glory. It is by your love and the name of Jesus we are transformed. Amen.