

Holiness: A Heart Driven Response to God

Fuel Your Faith 4

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What does it mean to you to “be holy?”

How is the word “holy” generally regarded by those in today’s culture? I think it might be easy to say most people have a negative impression of the word. Some might think of it as describing something out of reach. Others use it to speak of people who view themselves as “holier than thou,” and come across in a self-righteous, condescending way.

Maybe, at its best, those in our world might view a “holy” person as someone who “keeps all the rules.” And even that can be used in a disparaging way.

So, what does it mean to be “holy?”

Today, on Fuel Your Faith, we’ll spend a few moments examining a familiar text in 1 Peter and then talk about how all of this connects to the subject we’ve been discussing all week regarding obedience motivated by love.

Most of our listeners have probably read this text many times. Peter has just opened this great epistle with a message of hope and assurance. Christians have been given an inheritance ... it has been reserved in heaven for you. And even though we must go through trials and earthly uncertainties right now, we rest in the protection God provides, endure the refining process difficulty brings, and count on *receiving the goal of our faith, the salvation of our souls*, 1.9. The first 12 verses of 1 Peter serve as the sure footing that undergirds the day-to-day response and activity of the Christian life.

Now, let’s look at the text, keeping the reality we just discussed in mind.

- 1.13 - *with your minds ready for action, be sober-minded and set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*
 - Each day we begin with the end in mind ... the receiving of the reward ... our salvation ... that is *the grace* Peter is referring to. We get the prize when our Lord returns.
 - So, we approach our spiritual life with all sobrieties ... and trust that no matter what the day brings ... God will get us through.
- 1.14-16 - *as obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires of your former ignorance. But as the one who called you is holy, you also are to be holy in all your conduct; for it is written, “Be holy, because I am holy.”*
 - So, there it is ... “be holy.”
 - To be holy is to say “I belong to you. I’m set apart for you.”
 - It is where we come before God and say, “Lord I am wholly yours. I belong to you.” “You have given me salvation.” “You have given me a new life filled with hope.”

- It is where we lead our life each day with the realization that because of God's working in our life ... we joyfully and without hesitation give every aspect of our life to Him.
- Holiness is where we say to God, "Use me." "Imperfect as I am, use me."
- This is so much more motivating than approaching holiness with the typical fear of failure and performance driven motivations.
 - We may have missed it if we've associated holiness with our own actions.
 - We do not do things to "become holy." Rather we are and have been made holy by God for the purpose of reflecting light.
- So, Holiness is a whole person response combining our thoughts *and* actions.
 - There is a joyful and reasonable expectation behind our holy life ... it is the eager anticipation of being at home with our God ... forever.
 - Everything we do looks forward to this.
- The call to be holy is not something unattainable ... it is actually the exact opposite of self-promotion or condescension. It is rather, humility in action ... where I have surrendered all and offered myself in a heart driven response to God.
- God has set you apart ... he has transferred you into the kingdom ... and now you live inside your new identity ... with tremendous opportunities every day to live in obedience ... albeit imperfect ... but obedience nonetheless ... where we continually commit ourselves to be shaped and molded by Him.

So, as you take on this day, pause for a few moments and imagine the possibilities. You have been set apart ... you have been made holy by God ... for a purpose. What a joy and privilege that is! What opportunities can you seize to bring Him glory? Who is someone you reflect the light of Jesus on today?

You see, when we think from the perspective of faith ... leaving fear behind ... God's love overflows into our hearts and we in turn love others in the very same way.

What are some things you will allow God to use you for today?

Thank you for listening to Fuel Your Faith. Join us tomorrow as once again we talk about love being the motivation for all we do for the Lord.