

Discovering The Pursuit of Holiness

Level 6 Lesson 1

1 In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth. 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

Genesis 1:1-4 KJV

Here in the creation God defined light and darkness and he separated light from darkness.

While not the 1st usage of the word holy, in Leviticus 20:7 we find the same separation

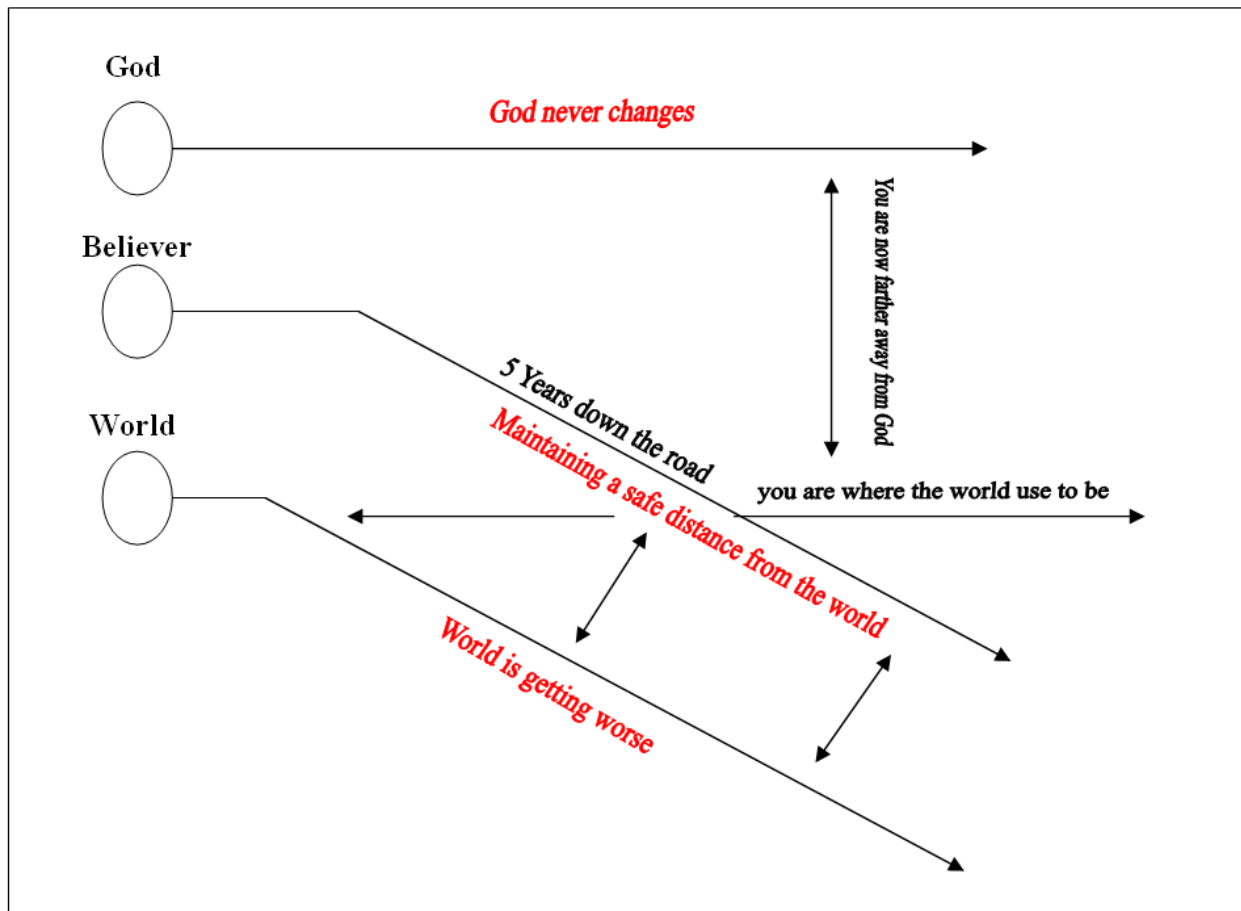
Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 20:7 KJV

Much like defining light and darkness, by defining of HOLY, God also made possible UNHOLY

Another important concept about God is he is unchanging (Malachi 3:6).

So the pursuit of holiness is simply to attempt to through the spirit to take on some of the achievable characteristics of God, not simply to be closer to God than the world. The below diagram illustrates this:



Holiness itself however, is not achievable without the spirit of God.

We can only become holy through divine assistance. Sanctification (separation) begins with the hearing of the gospel and continues through faith, repentance, and water baptism in Jesus' name; but it is accomplished primarily by the infilling and indwelling of the Holy Ghost

Who were chosen and foreknown by God the Father and consecrated (sanctified, made holy) by the Spirit to be obedient to Jesus Christ (the Messiah) and to be sprinkled with [His] blood: May grace (spiritual blessing) and peace be given you in increasing abundance [that spiritual peace to be [a]realized in and through Christ, [b]freedom from fears, agitating passions, and moral conflicts].

1 Peter 1:2 AMP

In this covenant, the laws of God are not written on tables of stone. This does not mean, however, that God has no laws; for God has always had laws even in the Garden of Eden.

4 And the Lord had respect and regard for Abel and for his offering, 5 But for [a]Cain and his offering He had no respect or regard. So Cain was exceedingly angry and indignant, and he looked sad and depressed. 6 And the Lord said to Cain, Why are you angry? And why do you look sad and depressed and dejected? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin crouches at your door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.

Genesis 4:4-7 AMP

What is the implication here in Genesis 4? __CAIN KNEW WHAT TO DO EVEN THOUGH IT WASNT WRITTEN__

What it does mean is that today God chooses to write His laws on our hearts through faith by the Holy Ghost (Jeremiah 31:33, Hebrews 10:15-17).

15 And also the Holy Spirit adds His testimony to us [in confirmation of this]. For having said, 16 This is the agreement (testament, covenant) that I will set up and conclude with them after those days, says the Lord: I will imprint My laws upon their hearts, and I will inscribe them on their minds (on their inmost thoughts and understanding), 17 He then goes on to say, And their sins and their lawbreaking I will remember no more.

Because of this we understand, all Holy Ghost filled people who allow themselves to be led by that Spirit have the laws of God written upon their hearts. This means we can be led by a conscience, and by the impressions and convictions of the Holy Ghost.

Hebrews 10:15-17 AMP

Because of the infilling of the Holy Ghost, we have a fundamental basis of holiness resident in us.

This does not however mean that we do not need to be **taught**, teaching brings to light things we may not think about

We are born again as babes in Christ, but in order to grow we need to be fed in the word.

1 However, brethren, I could not talk to you as to spiritual [men], but as to nonspiritual [men of the flesh, in whom the carnal nature predominates], as to mere infants [in the new life] in Christ [[a]unable to talk yet!] 2 I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not yet strong enough [to be ready for it]; but even yet you are not strong enough [to be ready for it],

1 Corinthians 3:1-2 AMP

Four Reasons Why We Need Holiness

A. To experience **God's best**

1. **God wants what is best for us and He knows what is best for us.**
2. Galatians 5:19-21 in the Message Bible.
¹⁹ It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness;
²⁰ trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits;
²¹ the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on. This isn't the first time I have warned you, you know. If you use your freedom this way, you will not inherit God's kingdom.
3. This is what our lives end up looking like when we go our own way, selfishly pursuing what we want. It is obvious we don't know what is best.

B. To **identify** with God

1. **It is a way to identify with God.** He is Holy. We are to show forth His attributes; to become more like Him.
2. If we're devoted to Him, why don't we want to identify with Him?. If we are ashamed of Him, He will be ashamed of us.
3. (Like marrying someone and then never wanting anyone to meet them or be a family because we don't want to be like them) It won't work.

C. To bring **glory** to God

1. **Holiness brings God glory.** It keeps us from striving to exalt ourselves and getting caught in a system that is detrimental to us.
2. It is contrary to the world's system and proves it's only by Him that good things come about.
3. He brings things to fruition in unorthodox ways, as far as this world is concerned, and it gives glory only to Him.

D. To **remind** us of God

1. **It keeps landmarks and guidelines in our lives to remind us of our purpose and what is priority.**
2. They are guardrails to keep us from derailing. (Joseph, Moses) **E.g. of bowling's guardrails**
3. Flesh will constantly war against the spirit and if we do not have guidelines to keep us focused and pointed in the right direction, we will very likely get off course.

Hebrews 12:14 (KJV) *"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:"*

1 Peter 1:15-16 (NIV) *¹⁵ But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶ for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."*

Holiness: The Sacred Place with God

OT:6944 קֹדֶשׁ **qodesh** (ko'-desh); from OT:6942; a sacred place or thing; rarely abstract, sanctity:

Definition and Origin of Holiness:

- קֹדֶשׁ or holy, holiness not only infers the sacredness of God or sanctity of being, but it also infers being in a sacred place.
- We often understand it only in a negative sense or separation (apartness).
- But holiness also imparts the sense of a “**withdrawal back into a sacred place**” (this is the same Hebrew word for holy).
- We are to attempt to **withdraw back into the original state that man had with God**.
- When a New Testament writer refers to holiness, he frequently goes back to the original. (e.g. of 1 Tim. 2:13—“For Adam was formed first, then Eve.”)
- Both the Apostles Peter and Paul went back to the original creation. By doing so, they substantiated the need of our withdrawing and desiring to attain **the very first position man had with God**.
- From our chart we understand that just because society in its morals and conduct has changed does not mean God has!
- Holiness is also a way for us to restore relationship with God in purity.

This brings new light to James 4:8-10

*8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. **Cleanse your hands**, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. 9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. 10 **Humble yourselves** in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*
James 4:8-10 KJV

In response to God cleansing the inward – we cleanse our hands – *the outward*
We humble ourselves by walking in his ways and not the ways of this world.

With this understanding look at the following scripture:

*29 Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. **[In the beauty of being in a sacred place emphasis mine]***
1 Chronicles 16:29 KJV