

“BE HOLY FOR I AM HOLY” SAYS THE LORD

(Doubtless Bay Baptist Church – 13/9/98 –EKB)

Readings: *Lev 19:2, Lev 11:44, Lev 20:26, 1Pet 1:16.*

After Jehovah the LORD, had brought Israel out of Egypt, through the Red Sea to Sinai, He said to them, “**Make Me a holy place so that I can dwell among you.**” *Ex 25:8.*

And while they were preparing to cross Jordan and possess their promised land of Canaan, Joshua said to them, “**Sanctify yourselves for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.**” *Josh 3:5.*

Before the Lord can dwell can **dwell in our midst and do wonders among us**, we need to be a holy people.

“**Holy**” or “**sanctified**” means to be :

- a. **set apart from sin**, evil and the world’s way.
- b. **full of the life of God.**

John Wesley said, “Holiness is **the life of God in the soul.**”

Holiness is the sum total of all God is. He is HOLY.

God says, “I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh.....” *Ac 2:16-21, Joel 2:28-32.*

But God will not pour out His Spirit upon sin and evil.

Holiness is an essential to meet with God and see Him move in power in our midst.

Example: Pensacola Revival at Brownsville Assembly of God where the message is: “pray, get rid of sin, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and tell others about Jesus.”

Heb 12:14, Mat 5:8, Ps 24:3-6, 1Thes 4:3-7, 2Cor 6:17-7:1, 1Cor 6:9-11, Is 35:3-10, Is 6:1-8, Ps 51:10,11.

So far we have explained **what holiness is, and why it is necessary.**

Now, How can we be holy?

Steps to holiness.

1. “**Be born again, converted**”. *1Pet 1:23, Jn 3:3,5.* This is the point at which we move from living for self to living for Christ. We confess, turn from our sins and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.
2. **Baptism in water.** *Rom 6:3,4, Mat 28:19.* This is a separation from the Kingdom of darkness and the old life of sin, through identifying with the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Here we enter into the Kingdom of God in a very powerful way.
3. **Baptism with the Holy Spirit.** *Ac 1:5,8, Ac 2:1-4.* This is a separation from trying to live the Christian life in our own strength, to living it in God’s power and fulness.

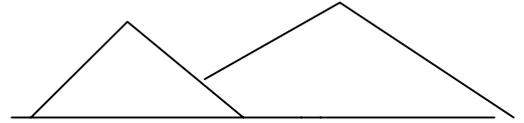
4. **Ongoing daily cleansing and fulness by the powerful working of God's Word and His Holy Spirit.** *Eph 5:25b-27, Ezk 36:25-27, Jn 8:31-36, Rom 6:1-14, 2Cor 7:1, 1Jn 1:9, Ps 119:9,11, Rom 8:2.*

In the first reference, *Eph 5:25b-27*, this is called, "the washing of water by the Word," so that we might be a holy people unto God. We all have to overcome, and get rid of, many sinful bondages, habits, traits, to be holy people

These are in the four categories of the "mountains, valleys, crooked places, and rough places" of *Lk 3:5,6*.

Pride category

Mountains and hills, *Lk 3:5*, judging others, *Mat 7:1,2*, (see No 137), critical thoughts, (see no 143, Pastors' Notes), despising others, *Lk 18:9-14*, unforgiveness, *Mat 18:21-35, Lk 11:2-4*, hate, *1Jn 3:15*, bitterness, holding offence, (see No 48, No 165), arrogance, resentment, *Jam 4:11,12*. Forgiveness is releasing another from our judgment and handing the problem over to God. It is not a white-wash of another's sin. Use your own examples at all times.



Fear category

Valleys, *Lk 3:5*, terror, panic, anxiety, *Mat 6:25-34*, worry, fear, *Is 43:1-3, Is 41:10, Mat 10:31, 2Tim 1:7*, being afraid, uneasiness, concern, fear of man, insecurity, fear of rejection, hurt, loss, ridicule, *Heb 13:5,6, Is 44:8, Ac 18:9,10*.



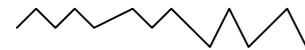
Untruth category.

Crooked places, *Lk 3:5*, wrong belief or unbelief, *Mat 22:29*, doubt, *Jam 1:6*, lies, *Eph 4:25*, false witness, pretence, religious tradition before God's Word, *Mk 7:13, Rev 21:8, Eph 4:15, Jn 8:31,32*.



Unrighteousness or broken relationship category.

Rough places, *Lk 3:5*, envy, strife, division, *1Cor3:3*, anger, *Mat 5:22*, violence, rage, *Eph 4:31*, fornication, adultery, homosexuality, *1Cor 6:9-11*, stealing, *Eph 4:28*, extortion, *1Cor 6:10*, drunkenness, pornography, idolatry, *1Cor 6:9*, sorcery, spells, witchcraft, *Rev 21:8*, curses, *Rom 12:14*.



Steps to freedom and holiness.

1. Acknowledge your sin, *Pro 28:13, 1Jn 1:9*.
2. Refuse it, choose against it, *Pro 8:13*,
3. Cry out to God for mercy and forgiveness, *Rom 10:13*,
4. Believe and thank God that He has already set you free, through Christ at the Cross. *Rom 6:2,6,11,14, Rom 8:2, Ezk 36:25-27, Mk 11:24, Jn 14:13,14, 1Jn 5:14,15*.